

SOCIAL AND OCCUPATIONAL FUNCTIONING ASSESSMENT SURVEY - FAQs

These frequently asked questions (FAQ) have been taken from an online education session held with service providers on 28 August 2025 regarding the implementation of the Social and Occupational Functional Assessment Survey (SOFAS) tool within Murray PHN commissioned primary mental health services.

1. When are services and clinicians expected to start using the SOFAS?

Murray PHN expects services begin using the SOFAS immediately.

2. How often does the SOFAS tool need to be administered?

The SOFAS needs to be administered on every occasion of service and becomes a method of tracking social and occupational functioning at every point through an episode of care. It can also assist in escalating the level of care that the individual receives from your service, if you see a decline in social and occupational functioning. The tool is also useful in clinical supervision for clinicians reflecting on the type of intervention that is being implemented.

3. The tool is a clinician rated measure. Have you seen the tool applied in a more collaborative way with the client, such as advising this is tool is being requested by the commissioning body e.g. what do you think of it? Where do you think you are at?

The tool was designed and clinically evaluated as a clinician-rated tool and therefore wouldn't be recommended being used outside of the intended purpose to support a clinician's assessment. Murray PHN expects most clinicians will have the skills to determine whether to have that conversation with individuals, if that is what they choose to do.

4. Is the SOFAS tool to be used in all primary mental health contracts for people aged 12 and above, except for children's psychological therapy services (PTS)?

Yes. Additionally, primary mental health services provided by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations are not in scope.

5. Is the SOFAS tool to be used in all primary mental health contracts such as PTS in RAC (psychological therapy services in residential aged care)?

Yes. Though it is acknowledged that social and occupational functioning will look different in that context. Therefore, use of the tool in that setting will require clinicians familiar with the cohort and social and occupational environment. The tool is to be used in conjunction with the K5 in PTS in RAC services.

6. Is it possible when running SOFAS Reports in FIXUS to run it at a service/agency level?

Not currently, the reports' function in FIXUS is currently limited to reporting at the clinician level. Murray PHN will investigate additional functionality and communicate any changes.

7. The only way to enter the SOFAS score is to open the Assessments Tab, could a SOFAS scoring field be displayed on the Service Contact page in FIXUS?

No. Service Contact fields in FIXUS are currently fixed.

8. Are clinicians able to filter reports by individual clients in FIXUS?

No. Currently there is no functionality to filter reports by individual client. All clients SOFAS assessments will be displayed within each clinician's profile in FIXUS.

Murray PHN will investigate whether additional functionality within FIXUS can be developed to filter SOFAS reports on an individual client level.