CLARE PEDDIE

SCIENCE REPORTER

BRAIN scientists are now able to compare scans of brain activity to provide a more accurate diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and help decide the best treatment.

Director of cognitive neuroscience at Finders University, Professor Richard Clark, said one of the major problems with ADHD was that conventional diagnosis only took behaviour into account.

The laboratory at Finders helped develop an international database of images of both normal and abnormal brain function. Now they can produce an image of a child’s brain and compare it to a normal, healthy brain, as well as to different types of ADHD. Professor Clark will be part of a public panel discussion on ADHD, part of Science Outside the Square, sponsored by The Advertiser.

He said researchers previously studied groups of children with ADHD and compared them to groups of other kids, but that was missing the point.

“ADHD is really a cluster of different symptoms,” he said.

The event will be held at the Education Development Centre, Milner Street, Hindmarsh on Wednesday April 4, from 7.30pm.

TEST: Professor Richard Clark demonstrates how a brain scan would be performed, on research assistant Marie Conway. Photo: JAMES ELLIOT