



The Disability Support Pension

Our review of the Impairment Tables

We want to know what you think

Easy Read version



REVIEW

How to use this paper



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (the department) wrote this paper. When you see the word 'we', it means the department.



We wrote this paper in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold
Bold

We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 22.



This Easy Read paper is a summary of another paper. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find more information on the DSS Engage website at www.engage.dss.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this paper.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this paper?

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What is the Disability Support Pension?

The Australian Government provides different types of supports for:



- people with disability



- their families and carers.



The **Disability Support Pension (DSP)** is one of them.



The DSP is a payment.



The DSP is for people with a disability that affects how much they can work.



The DSP is for people who can only work 15 hours a week for at least the next 2 years because of their disability.



More than 750,000 Australian people with disability get a DSP.

Applying for a DSP



To apply for a DSP, your doctor must tell us about your disability.

You need to tell us about treatment you:



- have already had



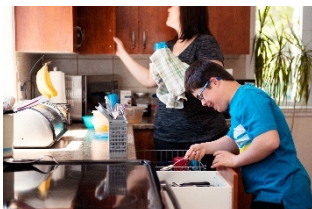
- plan to have in the next 2 years.



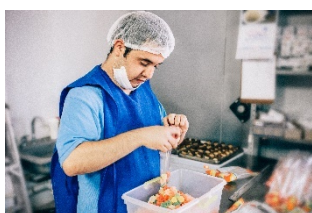
You must tell us if anything might change in the next 2 years, including:

- your disability
- how much you can work.

Once you apply, we look at how your disability affects:



- your day-to-day life



- what work you can do.



We use this information to work out if you can get a DSP.



We use a tool called the Impairment Tables.



We talk about the Impairment Tables more on the following pages.

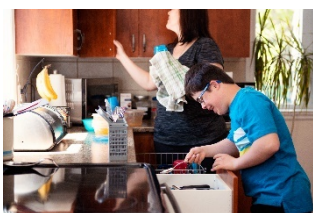
What are the Impairment Tables?



There are 15 Impairment Tables.

In this paper, we call them the Tables.

The Tables look at how your disability affects:



- your day-to-day life



- what work you can do.



Each Table rates how much your disability affects that part of your life.



A score of 0 means your disability does not affect that part of your life.



A score of 30 means your disability really affects that part of your life.



You need a score of 20 points or more to get a DSP.



You might score 20 points on 1 table.



Or you might score 20 points from different tables.

What does each Table look at?



Table 1 looks at how your disability affects you when you move around.

This includes when you:



- walk
- carry heavy things
- do housework.



Table 2 looks at how your disability affects your:

- arms
- hands.



Table 3 looks at how your disability affects your:

- legs
- feet.



Table 4 looks at how your disability affects your:

- spine
- back
- neck.



Table 5 looks at how your disability affects your mental health.

This includes how you:

- think
- feel
- manage your feelings.



Table 6 looks at how drugs or alcohol have affected your day-to-day life.



Table 7 looks at how your disability affects your brain.

This includes how well you can:

- remember
- concentrate
- make decisions.



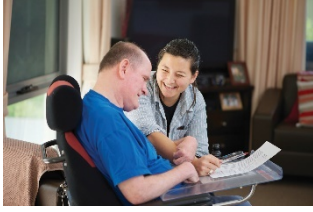


Table 8 looks at how your disability affects how you communicate with other people.

Table 9 looks at how your disability affects how well you can:

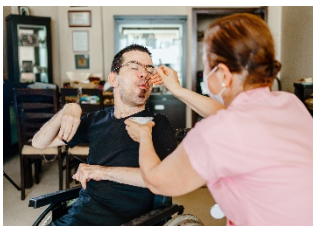


- learn new things



- solve problems.

Table 10 looks at how your disability affects:



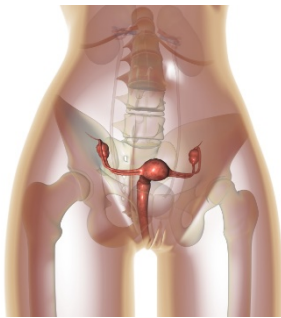
- how you digest food



- parts of your body you use to digest food, such as your:
 - mouth
 - stomach

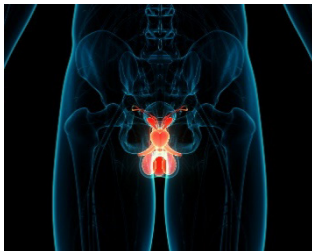


- parts of your body for making babies.



If you are female, this means your:

- uterus
- ovaries.



If you are male, this means your testicles.



Table 11 looks at how your disability affects your:

- ears
- hearing.



Table 12 looks at how your disability affects your:

- eyes
- how well you can see.

Table 13 looks at how your disability affects how you go to the toilet.



This includes how you:

- wee
- poo.

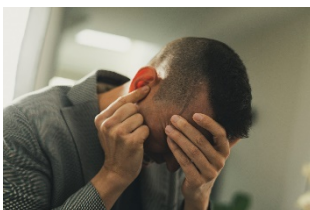


Table 14 looks at how your disability affects your skin.

Table 15 looks at if your disability causes things like:



- **epilepsy**

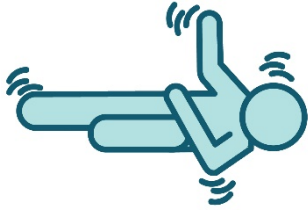


- **migraines.**



Epilepsy is a health condition that affects how well your brain works.

It can cause you to:



- suddenly lose control of your body



- pass out.



A migraine is a very bad headache.

It can also make you feel sick in other parts of your body.

What do we want to find out?



We started using the Tables in 2012.



Along the way, we've changed how the DSP works.



Supports and treatment have also changed.



We want to check if the Tables:

- still work well
- need to change.



Some people have already told us what they think.



But we want to give everyone a chance to tell us what they think.

What have people already told us?



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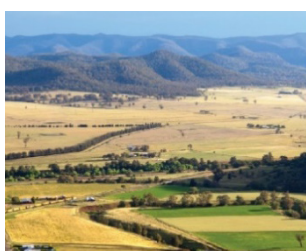
People told us it can cost a lot of money to collect information about your disability.



People told us we need to make it easier for people to apply for the DSP.



People told us it's hard for people who live in **rural and remote areas** to collect information about their disability.



Rural and remote areas are places far away from cities or towns.

Tables



People also told us there might be things missing from the Tables.

How to tell us what you think



We want to know what you think about the Tables.

You can tell us what you think by:



- sending us an email –
DisabilityandCarerPayments@dss.gov.au



- writing to us –
Disability Support Pension Projects Section
Carer and Disability Payments Branch
Department of Social Services
GPO Box 9820
Canberra
ACT 2601



- taking part in our online survey on the
DSS Engage website at
www.engage.dss.gov.au.



Please tell us what you think before 31 July 2021.

What questions are in the online survey?

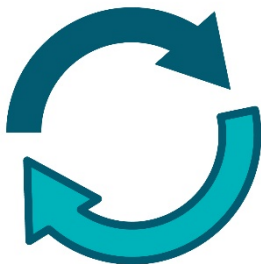
There are 7 questions in our online survey:



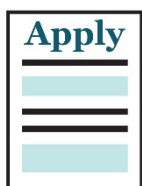
1. What parts of the Tables work well?



2. What parts of the Tables need to work better?



3. Do any of the tables need to change?



4. What would make it easier for a person with disability to apply for the DSP?



5. Are there any disabilities that are not covered by the Tables?



6. Are there any other problems with the Tables?



7. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?



You can use this information to help you answer the questions on the online survey.

Word list



Disability Support Pension (DSP)

The DSP is a payment for people with a disability that affects how much they can work.



Epilepsy

Epilepsy is a health condition that affects how well your brain works.



It can cause you to:

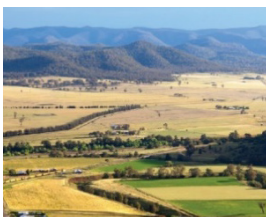
- suddenly lose control of your body
- pass out.



Migraine

A migraine is a very bad headache.

It can also make you feel sick in other parts of your body.



Rural and remote areas

Rural and remote areas are places far away from cities or towns.



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