

Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables Questionnaire

Response: 006

Anonymous

11a Select the key theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the most important to you
Neurodiversity
11b Select the theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the second most important to you
Mental health
11c Select the theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the third most important to you
Medical evidence requirements
12a (i) The removal of the term 'permanent condition' provides greater clarity that a condition must persist for two years as part of the DSP eligibility criteria
Agree
12a (ii) The proposed changes more clearly describe the requirements of diagnosis, treatment and stabilisation of conditions for DSP assessment
Agree
12b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes to the FDTs requirement
<p>Important to take into consideration that diagnosis for adults living with neurodiversity is a lengthy and expensive process that is not always accessible for everyone.</p> <p>By the time I realised I am on the spectrum, I was already in complete autistic burnout. Accessing services is difficult enough with a functioning brain, let alone when you are in long term physical, emotional and neurological distress.</p> <p>Add to this long wait times to even consult a specialist who treats adult ASD, and centrelink incapacity to include lived experience and circumstance in their evaluation processes, and I feel at serious risk of severe emotional and financial hardship, and exacerbated symptoms of already uncontrolled neuro-burnout. I am honestly scared I won't be able to pay my rent, and my sons and I will have to live in my car.</p> <p>Also, please work with differently abled communities to improve the functionality of the mobile portal, it is unclear, clunky, difficult to navigate and actually feels designed to deter, disrupt and misguide users</p>
13a (i) The inclusion of additional defined terms provides greater clarity around terminology used in the Instrument
Agree
13a (ii) Simplification in Part 2 of the Instrument improves the guidance and readability of the section
Agree
13a (iii) The proposed changes to Table introductions and descriptors has made it easier to understand the requirements of Tables
Agree
13a (iv) The additional guidance in appropriate Tables provides greater clarity when considering functional impairment. For example an additional guidance point to all Tables on fluctuating and episodic conditions
Strongly agree
13a (v) The updating of references to relevant assistive technology provides clearer guidance and modernises the Tables
Agree
13a (vi) The broader range of examples in the Tables illustrates how a person's functional impairment may impact their ability to work
Agree

14a The proposed changes recognise and capture the functional impacts relating to alcohol, drug and other substance misuse in appropriate Tables
Agree
15a The addition of guidance recognises the impacts of ongoing side effects from prescribed medication and treatment
Agree
16a (i) Proposed changes better represent the functional impact of pain
Agree
16a (ii) Additional examples of pain related conditions that result in functional impairment provide more clarity around the types of conditions that may be assessed against a Table
Strongly agree
16b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about pain.
I don't have capacity to go and read all the changes but I hope that it includes pain related to neurodiversity (sensory impairment, results of stimming) and mental health related physical pain stemming from anxiety and depression
17a Additional examples of chronic illnesses that result in functional impairment provide greater clarity around the types of conditions that may be assessed against a Table
Agree
18a Additional examples of renal conditions that result in functional impairment provide more clarity around the types of conditions that may be assessed against a Table
Agree
19a (i) Additional examples of fatigue related conditions that result in functional impairment provide greater clarity around the types of conditions that may be assessed against a Table
Agree
19a (ii) The inclusion of a personal care descriptor captures the functional impacts of fatigue on a person's ability to undertake personal care activities
Strongly agree
19a (iii) Proposed changes better represent the functional impact of fatigue related conditions
Agree
20a Additional examples of cancer and subsequent conditions that result in functional impairment provide more clarity around these types of conditions that may be assessed against a Table
Agree
21a (i) Additional examples of specific pieces of evidence that may be used to support a claim assists individuals to identify the accepted range of medical evidence that can be provided
Agree
21a (ii) Additional examples of professionals assists individuals identify the range of appropriate practitioners who are able to provide medical evidence in support of their claims
Agree
21b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes to medical evidentiary requirements.
I hope these are extensive, broad, and include anecdotal evidence from counsellors and other allied health professionals who are easier to access than specialist services
22a (i) Addition of descriptors better capture shoulder function in Table 2 - Upper Limb Function
Agree
22a (ii) The addition of descriptors for the loss of function of a dominant limb under Table 2 – Upper Limb Function better recognises functional impacts of losing a dominant upper limb
Agree

22a (iii) Additional examples of specific skin conditions that result in functional impairment provide more clarity around the types of conditions that may be assessed against a Table
Agree
23a The proposed changes better capture the functional impacts of balance, dizziness and a person's ability to stand
Agree
24a The proposed change will better support individuals by providing a broader range of medical professionals allowed to provide corroborating evidence in support of a diagnosis of a mental health condition for assessment under Table 5 – Mental Health Function
Agree
25a The proposed changes improve alignment with other recognised mental health assessment tools (including the World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule –WHODAS, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – DSM, World Health Organization International Classification of Diseases - ICD)
Agree
26a (i) Proposed changes better reflect conditions on the spectrum of neurodiversity
Agree
26a (ii) The addition of a new social skills descriptors in the table relating to brain function recognise difficulties a neurodivergent person may experience in social situations
Agree
26b Regarding the proposed change on Table 6 – Brain Function to better recognise social skills difficulties, would you prefer to:
keep the current list of descriptors and require a person to meet only one descriptor for the relevant impairment rating to be assigned
27a The proposed changes better recognise the need for culturally appropriate assessments
Agree
28 In accordance with the Privacy Collection Notice, please select one of the following.
I would like my submission to be published anonymously