

Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables Questionnaire

Response: 036

Anonymous

11a Select the key theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the most important to you

Fatigue

11b Select the theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the second most important to you

Fatigue

11c Select the theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the third most important to you

Chronic Illness

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

Strongly 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

Treatment for CFS/ME (and likely other conditions) can take longer than 2 years, and if there is the potential for treatments to be effective, the treatments will not be effective if a person is forced to work (work usually worsens this condition) or face the stress of living in poverty.

Diagnoses are hard to get. The right referral must be made and appointments paid for. People unable to work need to be supported while they are actively seeking diagnosis.

The limitations on the jobseeker 3 month work leave certificates need to be reconsidered. For people with undiagnosed ME/CFS, Fibromyalgia and other conditions the process of diagnosis and exploring potential medical treatments can take longer than 2 years. These conditions are impossible to recover from if forced to work before able to.

13a (i) The inclusion of additional defined terms provides greater clarity around terminology used in the Instrument

Strongly agree

13a (ii) Simplification in Part 2 of the Instrument improves the guidance and readability of the section

Strongly agree

13a (iii) The proposed changes to Table introductions and descriptors has made it easier to understand the requirements of Tables

Strongly 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

Agree

13a (v) The updating of references to relevant assistive technology provides clearer guidance and modernises the Tables

Strongly agree

13a (vi) The broader range of examples in the Tables illustrates how a person's functional impairment may impact their ability to work

Strongly agree

13b Please provide any additional comments on the proposed operational improvements.

I am in favour of the proposed improvements and I think they are important.

14a The proposed changes recognise and capture the functional impacts relating to alcohol, drug and other substance misuse in appropriate Tables

Unsure

15a The addition of guidance recognises the impacts of ongoing side effects from prescribed medication and treatment

Strongly agree

15b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about the ongoing side effects of treatment.

This is important.

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.

Chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, endometriosis all need to be explicitly mentioned as valid conditions.

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

Strongly 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

Strongly 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

Strongly 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

19b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about fatigue.

PEM (post exertional malaise) sometimes does not kick in straight away. Sometimes people are able to function relatively well for a couple days in a row, but only after rest days, and then they may still feel very sick after.

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

Strongly 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

Strongly agree

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

22b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about musculoskeletal and skin functions.

Severe back pain with an unknown cause needs to be refined. This still interferes with a person's capacity and can not always be remedied with a wheelchair.

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

Unsure

26b Regarding the proposed change on Table 6 – Brain Function to better recognise social skills difficulties, would you prefer to:

Nil

27a The proposed changes better recognise the need for culturally appropriate assessments

Unsure

28 In accordance with the Privacy Collection Notice, please select one of the following.

I would like my submission to be published anonymously