

Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables Questionnaire

Response: 093

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
Fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised (FDTs) requirement
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
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
Removing 'fully treated and stabilised' is an important step towards fairness. It still leaves a lot of room for interpretation - eg. if a woman has endometriosis and a treatment available is a hysterectomy but she also wants children, will she still not be seen as reasonably treated? This also becomes problematic when people cannot have certain treatments for religious reasons. Defining the terms more clearly in ways that allow for autonomy is important. Under Reasonable Treatment, 7g could say something like: 'does not infringe on the human rights, or moral autonomy of the person'.
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
Agree
13a (v) The updating of references to relevant assistive technology provides clearer guidance and modernises the Tables
Unsure
13a (vi) The broader range of examples in the Tables illustrates how a person's functional impairment may impact their ability to work
Disagree
13b Please provide any additional comments on the proposed operational improvements.
It is unclear if all of the components of inability in the impairment tables must be met or if only some are required to fit that category.

14a The proposed changes recognise and capture the functional impacts relating to alcohol, drug and other substance misuse in appropriate Tables
Disagree
14b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about the impacts from alcohol, drug and other substance misuse.
This section needs work
15a The addition of guidance recognises the impacts of ongoing side effects from prescribed medication and treatment
Agree
15b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about the ongoing side effects of treatment.
It needs to add that it doesn't just recognise the effects of medication, but it will add weight to the determination
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
Agree
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
Unsure
17b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about chronic illness.
I think more general disorders may be included here as a guide or a non-exhaustive list
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
Unsure
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
Disagree
19a (iii) Proposed changes better represent the functional impact of fatigue related conditions
Agree
19b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about fatigue.
Including post-exertional malaise is very useful.
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
Strongly agree

22a (i) Addition of descriptors better capture shoulder function in Table 2 - Upper Limb Function

Unsure

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

Unsure

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

Disagree

23b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about balance.

This section needs to more clearly describe balance issues and impacts

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

Unsure

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:

add a new social skills descriptor and require a person to meet at least two descriptors for the relevant impairment rating to be assigned

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