

Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables Questionnaire

Response: 102

Anonymous

11a Select the key theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the most important to you
Chronic Illness
11b Select the theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the second most important to you
Ongoing side effects of treatment
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
Unsure
12a (ii) The proposed changes more clearly describe the requirements of diagnosis, treatment and stabilisation of conditions for DSP assessment
Unsure
12b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes to the FDTs requirement
Severe vulnerability to infection from immune suppression related to autoimmune disorders should be included. Ongoing and prolonged infection from normal day to day illnesses is debilitating and functionally limiting both due to the impact of autoimmune disorders, regular sickness, and the need to limit social contact to avoid sickness.
13a (i) The inclusion of additional defined terms provides greater clarity around terminology used in the Instrument
Unsure
13a (ii) Simplification in Part 2 of the Instrument improves the guidance and readability of the section
Unsure
13a (iii) The proposed changes to Table introductions and descriptors has made it easier to understand the requirements of Tables
Unsure
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
Unsure
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
Unsure
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
Unsure

16a (i) Proposed changes better represent the functional impact of pain

Unsure

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

Unsure

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.

Reoccurring illness is not addressed. This is the case in autoimmune where full-scale illness can reoccur requiring the use of debilitating high-dose steroids.

Prolonged use of high dose steroids have severe side effects - development of new co-morbidities, mental health, and cognitive impacts. It is holistically disabling.

These holistic, repeating and multiple impacts should be accepted under the tables.

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

Strongly disagree

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 disagree

19a (iii) Proposed changes better represent the functional impact of fatigue related conditions

Unsure

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

Autoimmune conditions and the use of high dose steroids are not considered. Autoimmune conditions take extended periods to stabilise and are reoccurring. They happen in young people. Owning a shower stool should not be a requirement of meeting the moderate or severe fatigue table. Whether people have access to these or not, fatigued during and after personal care activities can still be moderate or severe. Not everyone has a carer. Access to these things should not be a requirement to demonstrate severe functional impact in the tables. Some days I can't sit up for a cup of tea, but I will shower alone without help because I am young and stable on my feet but need to rest for extended times before and after. The inclusion of aids here as a requirement is exclusionary and harmful.

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

Unsure

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

Unsure

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

Unsure

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
Unsure
23a The proposed changes better capture the functional impacts of balance, dizziness and a person’s ability to stand
Unsure
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
Strongly 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)
Unsure
26a (i) Proposed changes better reflect conditions on the spectrum of neurodiversity
Unsure
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