

Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables Questionnaire

Response: 104

Anonymous

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

Musculoskeletal and skin functions

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

Pain

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

Assessments need to be based on medical evidence provided not by a "clerk" with no medical training

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

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

Strongly agree

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

There is a need to address the impact of a person's disability and medication on their ability to work in real terms, not by numbers

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

Strongly agree

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

While chronic pain medication allows people some functional life, it is not recognised that these medications impact a person's ability to work. These medications are often an only choice not a preference.

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

16b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about pain.

Chronic pain resulting from a disability need a more empathetic and compassionate approach. Nerve damage is a disabling condition.

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

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.

Chronic pain is strongly related to fatigue and needs to be recognised as a consequence of the disability. Fatigue strongly impacts the ability to work and perform everyday tasks.

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.

Medical evidence needs to be accepted by “clerks” without medical experience. Despite repeated requests to be examined by your medical personnel this was not organised and medical expert reports were dismissed by non medical workers

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

Strongly 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

Strongly 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.

Hemiplegic conditions need to be fully recognised as disabling. When one quarter of your body is paralysed it should be considered “disabled”. When accompanied by chronic pain from nerve damage it should be taken into consideration when deeming ability to work. These decisions should be considered by medical professionals. When medical evidence is provided it should be accepted by “clerks”. It should not be the responsibility of a non medical worker to decide if a person is “disabled enough”. Medical evidence from specialists should be accepted. When there is no current cure for a medical condition it should be accepted as permanent. Brachial plexus palsy is recognised as a permanent, incurable condition. It is not the decision of a non medical worker to decide if a condition is permanently disabling. People applying for the disability pension should be treated with the same respect government workers demand, not everyone is trying to “cheat” the system. Some people are merely trying to request assistance.

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:

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

Agree

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

I would like my submission to be published anonymously