

Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables Questionnaire

Response: 105

Anonymous

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

Operational improvements

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

Neurodiversity

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

Other

11c (ii) Other: What theme to the Impairment Tables, not listed above, is the third most important to you

Relevance of the table to real life

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

Agree

12b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes to the FDTs requirement

Removal of 'permanent' does not help to add clarity that a condition may persist for more than 2 years, BUT it does shift the focus correctly, to the fact that permanent or not, the impact of the condition must be expected to persist for more than 2 years. This is a good thing.

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

Unsure

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

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

Disagree

14b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about the impacts from alcohol, drug and other substance misuse.

While Alcohol and drugs are listed in the introductions of the relevant tables, specific examples could have been put under criteria in the table to better demonstrate best practice for users of the tables and be representative of real world examples and experiences.

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

Unsure

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

There could be more reference to this throughout the table (rather than mostly in skin and altered state tables)

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.

Good to see common condition such as diabetes given better representation on the tables. Not sure why chronic fatigue is given such a focus though when there are other conditions like stroke that are more common but still poorly represented on 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

Disagree

18b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about renal conditions.

While some improvements have been made there is no reference to dialysis in the table which is a shame.

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

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

20b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about cancer.

People with breast cancer often have nerve and scar tissue issues impacting upper limb however cancer has not been mentioned here, though it is a commonly used table.

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.

Not sure why mental health table has been singled out as 'interviews with person and those providing car or support'. Surely this is true for all tables.

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

Disagree

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.

Table 2 seems harsh in that a shoulder problem would not even get 5 points if only 2 of the 4 criteria are met. Public would expect a problem like that at least attract a 5 point rating.

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)

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

Strongly 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

26c Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about neurodiversity.

I think it is a huge improvement to include a criteria that better represents common ASD experience. Previous table was difficult to use.

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