

Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables Questionnaire

Response: 162

Anonymous

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

Fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised (FDTs) requirement

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

Chronic Illness

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

Pain

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

Consideration needs to be given that some people never get their conditions fully treated and stabilised due to the healthcare system not working properly. Not all conditions are covered by Medicare, and even some that are require co payments that people cannot afford - do they choose treatment? Or housing? Or food? Or running a vehicle? Some simply do not have enough qualified staff to offer the treatment and the waiting times are excessive, some are not treated due to the Covid 19 situation and lockdowns. The pain and disabilities exist through all this.

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

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

Agree

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.

I think the functional impairment tables are unrealistic in that they do not necessarily reflect the true working nature of many occupations and the demands on staff. Every employer now wants staff that can multitask and are expected to be able to move physically and mentally from one task to another very quickly.

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

Disagree

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

Different people react to treatment and medication in different ways. People with severe side affects are not represented properly.

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

Disagree

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

A legitimate condition causing extreme pain in some people Lipoedema , is not even recognised with a Medicare number in Australia. There are other conditions too that are not recognised, and people are suffering and dying because of lack of funds, care, treatment and recognition.

For many years people have had Drs ignore the real pain suffered - because they were not taught about it in medical school.

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

Disagree

17b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about chronic illness.

The examples need to be increased.

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

Unsure

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

More conditions need to be included. Better descriptions. I think these were decided by someone who has not experienced fatigue - or perhaps a very small data pool. Some people may manage only a brief shower, then need to rest for more than an hour. Dressing the same.

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.

The cost of seeing the appropriate professionals in order to compile the medical evidence is prohibitive to many people. Therefore many people who may be eligible simply live in increasing poverty and ill health. These barriers need to be removed.
Costs reduced.
The process needs to be simplified if the true spirit of caring for the weaker in our society is to be realised.

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

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:

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

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

26b. So much still to be recognised and treated. New descriptor, but not have to meet 2.

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