



# Proposed changes to the Disability Support Pension (DSP) Impairment Tables

## Questionnaire

The proposed changes to the Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables (the Impairment Tables) are based on feedback received from the first stage of consultations held in 2021. Please note, this questionnaire is designed to be answered in conjunction with reading the Explanation of the proposed changes to the Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables ('Explanation Paper').

- The questionnaire should take you about 20 to 45 minutes to complete.
- The questions will be about the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables.
- There will be a section after each question for you to provide additional comments if you wish.

The questionnaire must be completed online at

[DSP Impairment Tables Questionnaire | engage.dss.gov.au](https://engage.dss.gov.au)

## Privacy

I have read the Privacy statement Notice and consent for my answers to be collected by the Department of Social Services.

[Select yes or no]

Yes; No

## Part 1 – Demographics

**Q1 Name (required)** [Free text]  
(individual)

**Q2 Contact email (required)** [Free text]  
(this will not be published)

**Q3 What is your age range? (required)** [Select one]  
16-24; 25-34; 35-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65+; Prefer not to say; N/A

**Q4 I am responding as: (required)** [select one]

A person with disability  
Advocacy group representative  
Welfare group representative  
Disability peak body representative  
Member of the public  
Health Professional  
Research Centre  
Australian Disability Enterprise  
Other  
Prefer not to say

FOLLOWING Q4

If the following selected – answer Q5 and Q6:

A person with disability  
Member of the public  
Other  
Prefer not to say

**Q5 What state or territory do you live in?** [Select one]

Australian Capital Territory; New South Wales; Northern Territory; Queensland; South Australia; Tasmania; Victoria; Western Australia; Outside Australia; Prefer not to say

**Q6 What geographical classification best describes where you live?**  
[Select all that apply]

Metropolitan area; Regional area; Rural area; Remote area; Outside Australia; Prefer not to say

FOLLOWING Q4

If the following selected – answer Q7 and Q8:

Advocacy group representative  
Welfare group representative  
Disability peak body representative  
Health Professional  
Research Centre  
Australian Disability Enterprise

**Q7 Name of organisation (required)** [Free text]

**Q8 What state or territory do you provide services? (required)**

[Select all that apply]

Australian Capital Territory; New South Wales; Northern Territory; Queensland; South Australia; Tasmania; Victoria; Western Australia; Outside Australia; Prefer not to say

**Q9 What geographical classification best describes where you provide services? (required)** [Select all that apply]

Metropolitan area; Regional area; Rural area; Remote area; Outside Australia; Prefer not to say

**Q10 Did you provide a submission during the first phase of consultations. (required)**

[Select yes or no]

Yes; No

## Part 2 – Issues

The proposed changes to the Impairment Tables have been grouped into themes. This section asks you to select the changes that are most important to you.

### Select the three most important issues to you

**Q11a Select the theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the most important to you (required)** [Select one]

Fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised (FDTs) requirement; Operational improvements; Functional impairments relating to alcohol, drug and other substance misuse; Ongoing side effects of treatment; Pain; Chronic Illness; Renal conditions; Fatigue; Cancer; Medical evidence requirements; Musculoskeletal and skin functions; Balance; Psychologists; Mental health; Neurodiversity; Cultural appropriateness; Other

IF 'OTHER' IS SELECTED

Other: What other Impairment Tables theme, not listed above, is the most important to you. **(required)** [Free text]

**Q11b Select the theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the most important to you (required)** [Select one]

Fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised (FDTs) requirement; Operational improvements; Functional impairments relating to alcohol, drug and other substance misuse; Ongoing side effects of treatment; Pain; Chronic Illness; Renal conditions; Fatigue; Cancer; Medical evidence requirements; Musculoskeletal and skin functions; Balance; Psychologists; Mental health; Neurodiversity; Cultural appropriateness; Other

IF 'OTHER' IS SELECTED

Other: What other Impairment Tables theme, not listed above, is the most important to you. **(required)** [Free text]

**Q11c Select the theme of the proposed changes to the Impairment Tables that is the most important to you (required)** [Select one]

Fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised (FDTs) requirement; Operational improvements; Functional impairments relating to alcohol, drug and other substance misuse; Ongoing side effects of treatment; Pain; Chronic Illness; Renal conditions; Fatigue; Cancer; Medical evidence requirements; Musculoskeletal and skin functions; Balance; Psychologists; Mental health; Neurodiversity; Cultural appropriateness; Other

IF 'OTHER' IS SELECTED

Other: What other Impairment Tables theme, not listed above, is the most important to you. **(required)** [Free text]

## Part 3 – Proposed Changes

Based on the themes, this section of the Questionnaire asks you to choose how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement about the proposed changes. There is also an option for you to provide additional comments on the proposed changes if you wish.

Note, this is not compulsory.

### Fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised (FDTS) requirement

**Q12a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- 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
- The proposed changes more clearly describe the requirements of diagnosis, treatment and stabilisation of conditions for DSP assessment

**Q12b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes to the FDTS requirement** [Optional - Free text]

### Operational improvements

**Q13a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- The inclusion of additional defined terms provides greater clarity around terminology used in the Instrument
- Simplification in Part 2 of the Instrument improves the guidance and readability of the section
- The proposed changes to Table introductions and descriptors has made it easier to understand the requirements of Tables
- 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
- The updating of references to relevant assistive technology provides clearer guidance and modernises the Tables
- The broader range of examples in the Tables illustrates how a person's functional impairment may impacts their ability to work

**Q13b Please provide any additional comments on the proposed operational improvements.** [Optional - Free text]

## Impacts from alcohol, drug and other substance misuse

**Q14a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- The proposed changes recognise and capture the functional impacts relating to alcohol, drug and other substance misuse in appropriate Tables

**Q14b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about the impacts from alcohol, drug and other substance misuse.** [Optional - Free text]

## Ongoing side effects of treatment

**Q15a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

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

**Q15b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about the ongoing side effects of treatment.** [Optional - Free text]

## Pain

**Q16a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- Proposed changes better represent the functional impact of pain
- 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

**Q16b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about pain.**  
[Optional - Free text]

## Chronic Illness

**Q17a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- 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

**Q17b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about chronic illness.** [Optional - Free text]

## Renal conditions

**Q18a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- 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

**Q18b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about renal conditions.** [Optional - Free text]

## Fatigue

**Q19a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- 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
- The inclusion of a personal care descriptor captures the functional impacts of fatigue on a person's ability to undertake personal care activities
- Proposed changes better represent the functional impact of fatigue related conditions

**Q19b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about fatigue.** [Optional - Free text]

## Cancer

**Q20a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- 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

**Q20b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about cancer.**  
[Optional - Free text]

## Medical evidence requirements

**Q21a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- 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
- Additional examples of professionals assists individuals identify the range of appropriate practitioners who are able to provide medical evidence in support of their claims

**Q21b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes to medical evidentiary requirements.** [Optional - Free text]

## Musculoskeletal and skin functions

**Q22a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- Addition of descriptors better capture shoulder function in Table 2 - Upper Limb Function
- 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
- 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

**Q22b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about musculoskeletal and skin functions.** [Optional - Free text]



## Balance

**Q23a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- The proposed changes better capture the functional impacts of balance, dizziness and a person's ability to stand

**Q23b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about balance.**

[Optional - Free text]

## Psychologists

**Q24a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- 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

**Q24b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about psychologists.** [Optional - Free text]

## Mental health

**Q25a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- 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)

**Q25b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about mental health.** [Optional - Free text]

## Neurodiversity

**Q26a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- Proposed changes better reflect conditions on the spectrum of neurodiversity
- 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

**Q26b Regarding the proposed change on Table 6 – Brain Function to better recognise social skills difficulties, would you prefer to:** [Select one]

- keep the current list of descriptors and require a person to meet only one descriptor for the relevant impairment rating to be assigned
- add a new social skills descriptor and require a person to meet at least two descriptors for the relevant impairment rating to be assigned

**Q26c Please provide any additional comments regarding changes about neurodiversity.** [Optional - Free text]

## Cultural appropriateness

**Q27a Select what applies. (required)** [Select one]

Strongly agree; Agree; Unsure; Disagree; Strongly disagree

- The proposed changes better recognise the need for culturally appropriate assessments

**Q27b Please provide any additional comments regarding changes to address cultural appropriateness.** [Optional - Free text]

## Part 4 – Privacy

**Q 28 In accordance with the Privacy Collection Notice, please select one of the following. (required)** [Select one]

- I would like my submission to be published with identifying information (including name or name of organisation as provided in the questionnaire)
- I would like my submission to be published anonymously
- Do not publish my submission