



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services



# A guide to the Disability Support Pension Impairment Tables



Easy Read version

## How to use this guide



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) wrote this guide.

When you read the word 'we', it means DSS.



We wrote this guide in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**  
Not bold

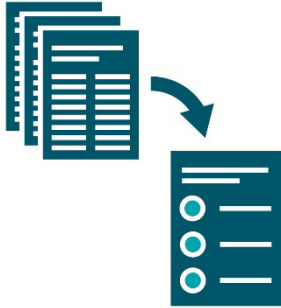
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **21**.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can ask for help to read this guide.

A friend, family member or support person might be able to help you.

## What's in this guide?

What is the Disability Support Pension?	5
Who can get the DSP?	6
Applying for the DSP	8
What are the Impairment Tables?	12
What does each Impairment Table look at?	15
Word list	21

# What is the Disability Support Pension?

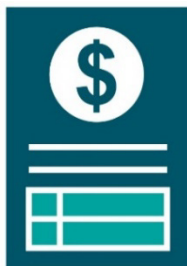
The Australian Government provides different types of supports for:



- people with disability



- their families and carers.



The **Disability Support Pension (DSP)** is one of them.



The DSP is a payment.



The DSP is for people with a disability that affects how much they can work.

## Who can get the DSP?



You can get the DSP if you meet all of the payment rules.

You need to meet both the:



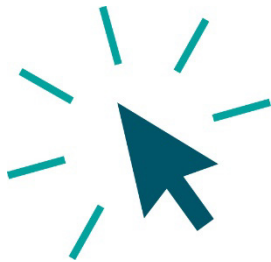
- non-medical rules



- medical rules.



We manage the rules for the DSP.



You can visit our website to find more information about the DSP.

[www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au)



In the search bar, include the words:

- 'Disability Support Pension'
- or
- 'DSP'.



You can also visit the Services Australia website to find more information about these rules.

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/dsp](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/dsp)

## Applying for the DSP



You need to contact Services Australia if you want to apply for the DSP.



You can visit their website to find out how to contact them.

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/contact-us)



You can apply for the DSP if your disability stops you from working at least **15 hours a week** over the next **2 years**.





Before you apply for the DSP, you need to make sure you have **proof**.

Proof shows that something is true.

You will need proof from:



- a doctor who knows about your medical history

or

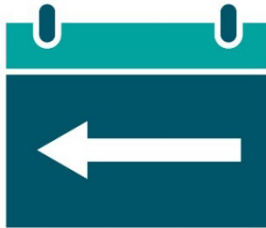


- medical information you already have.



When you apply for the DSP, you need to give Services Australia this proof.

You need to tell Services Australia about treatment you:



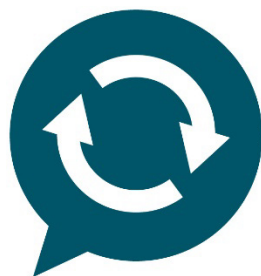
- have already had



- are having now



- plan to have in the next 2 years.



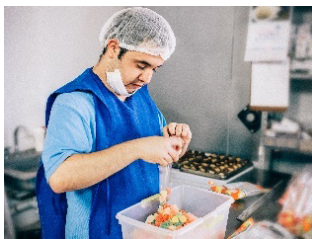
You must tell Services Australia if anything might change in the next **2 years**, including:

- your disability
- how much you can work.

Once you apply, Services Australia will look at how your disability affects:



- your day-to-day life



- what work you can do.



To work out if you can get the DSP, Services Australia will use:

- information about your disability
- a tool called the Impairment Tables.



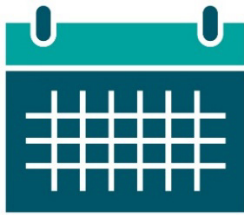
We talk about the Impairment Tables more on the following pages.

## What are the Impairment Tables?



There are 15 Impairment Tables.

In this guide, we call them the Tables.



The Tables look at how your disability affects your day-to-day life.

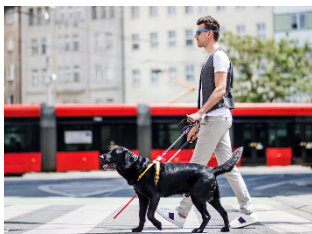
This can include:



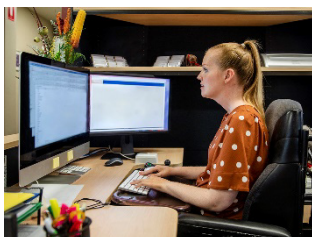
- when you have a shower



- when you cook a meal



- when you move around the community



- what work you can do.



The Tables also look at what help you need to take part in daily life.



You might need another person to support you.



You might need an aid or piece of equipment.  
For example, a hearing aid or walking stick.



Each Table rates how much your disability affects that part of your life.

If you get **0** points it means your disability:



- only affects a small part of your life
- or
- does not affect that part of your life at all.



If you get **30** points, it means your disability really affects that part of your life.



You need **20** points or more to get the DSP.



You might get **20** points on 1 table.



Or you might get **20** points from different tables.



Services Australia will tell you what happens next depending on how you get **20** points.

## What does each Impairment Table look at?



Table 1 looks at how your disability affects you when you move around.

This includes when you:



- walk
- carry heavy things
- do housework.

1



Table 2 looks at how your disability affects your:

- arms
- hands.

2



Table 3 looks at how your disability affects your:

- legs
- feet.

3



Table 4 looks at how your disability affects your:

- spine
- back
- neck.

4



Table 5 looks at how your disability affects your mental health.

This includes how you:



- think
- feel
- manage your feelings.

5



Table 6 looks at how drugs or alcohol affect your day-to-day life.

6





Table 7 looks at how your disability affects your brain.

7



This includes how well you can:

- remember
- concentrate
- make decisions.



Table 8 looks at how your disability affects how you communicate with other people.

8

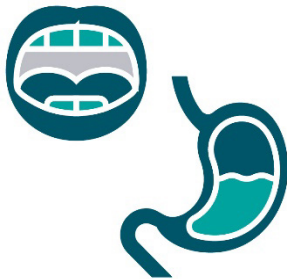
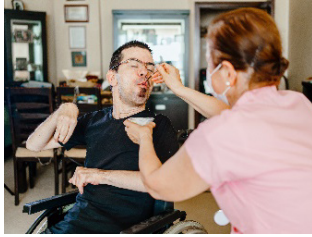


Table 9 looks at how your disability affects how well you can:

9

- learn new things
- solve problems.

Table 10 looks at how your disability affects:

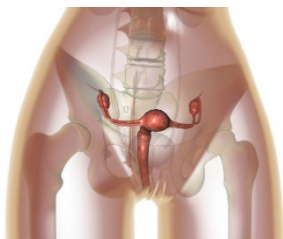


- how you digest food
- parts of your body you use to digest food, such as your:
  - mouth
  - stomach



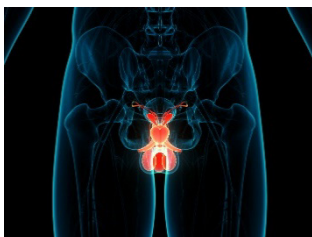
- parts of your body for making babies.

10



If you are female, this means your:

- uterus
- ovaries.



If you are male, this means your testicles.

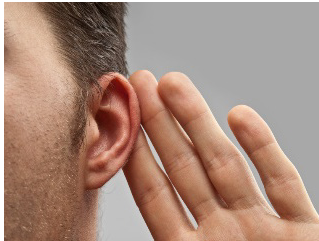


Table 11 looks at how your disability affects your:

- ears
- hearing.

11



Table 12 looks at how your disability affects:

- your eyes
- how well you can see.

12



Table 13 looks at how your disability affects how you go to the toilet.

This includes how you:

- wee
- poo.

13



Table 14 looks at how your disability affects your skin.

14

Table 15 looks at how your disability affects:



- how awake or alert you are
- how fast your body can react.



For example, you might have **epilepsy**.

Epilepsy is a health condition that affects how well your brain works.



It can cause you to:

- suddenly lose control of your body
- pass out.



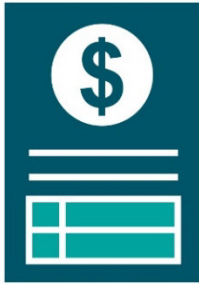
You might also get **migraines**.

A migraine is a very bad headache.

It can also make you feel sick in other parts of your body.

## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this guide mean.



### **Disability Support Pension (DSP)**

The DSP is a payment for people with a disability that affects how much they can work.



### **Epilepsy**

Epilepsy is a health condition that affects how well your brain works.

It can cause you to:

- suddenly lose control of your body
- pass out.



### **Migraine**

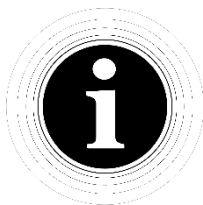
A migraine is a very bad headache.

It can also make you feel sick in other parts of your body.



## Proof

Proof shows that something is true.



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images.

The images may not be reused without permission.

For any enquiries about the images, please visit

[www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com). Quote job number 5656.