

# Disability Support Pension claims



## REJECTION REASONS EXPLAINED

### 1 — 20 What does a “20 points Impairment Table rating requirement” mean

To get Disability Support Pension (DSP), the following must be met:

- your condition will last more than 2 years
- your condition is fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised
- your condition is assigned an **impairment rating** of 20 points or more
- you've participated in a Program of Support if required
- you can't work for at least 15 hours a week in the next 2 years.

To assign an impairment rating we use the Impairment Tables that are part of social security law for DSP. The Tables are available on the Department of Social Services website.

#### IMPAIRMENT RATING

The Impairment Tables are used to:

- assess how your condition affects your ability to perform tasks, like lifting, sitting, walking, or concentrating
- assign a points rating to show how your condition affects your ability to work.

To get DSP, unless your condition is manifest, your impairment rating must be at least 20 points. The points can either be:

- on a single Impairment Table
- across 2 or more Impairment Tables.

Your medical evidence helps us understand your level of impairment as well as which of the 15 Impairment Tables applies to your condition.

#### Permanent condition/s

We can only assign a rating if the condition causing the impairment:

- has been fully diagnosed, fully treated and fully stabilised (FDTS)
- is likely to persist for more than 2 years.

#### Impairment rating scale

The 15 Tables use the same rating scale shown below<sup>1</sup>.

Impact level	Points assigned
No functional impact	0 points
Mild functional impact	5 points
Moderate functional impact	10 points
Severe functional impact	20 points
Extreme functional impact	30 points

This is in accordance with a consistent, generic scale that has been adapted from the World Health Organisation International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (WHO ICF).

#### Two or more conditions

You may have more than one condition. We'll assess whether each condition is FDTS before assigning a rating. For example, one condition might be FDTS and rated 10 points. Another condition that isn't FDTS can't be given a rating. This means the overall rating is not 20 points and you won't be eligible for DSP.



## Program of Support

A Program of Support helps you to prepare for, find and keep a job.

If you get a 20 point impairment rating across 2 or more Tables, you'll need to have completed a Program of Support before you claimed DSP.

If your impairment rating is less than 20 points, you should think about starting a Program of Support. This can help if you claim DSP again and we give you a 20 point impairment rating across 2 or more Tables. You can read more about Program of Support on our website.

## Ability to work

You must also be assessed to be unable to work at least 15 hours per week for at least the next 2 years. If you're assessed as being able to work these hours, you can't get DSP.

## Your options if we rejected your DSP claim

### 1. IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND OR AGREE WITH THE DECISION YOU CAN CONTACT US

We'll explain the decision. We may be able to resolve your concerns without a formal review.

You can apply for a formal review of the decision. This review is free.

You have up to 13 weeks from the rejection date to decide if you want a formal review. You can still apply after this time. However, if we change the decision, you may only get paid from the date you ask for the review.

Go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/reviewsandappeals](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/reviewsandappeals) for more information.

If you don't agree with the outcome of the formal review, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). The AAT is an independent body which can review a range of decisions made by Services Australia. The AAT can only review a decision that we have reviewed.

For more information about applying to the AAT, please go to [aat.gov.au](https://aat.gov.au)

### 2. GET MORE INFORMATION

You can give us more information or medical evidence. If you need help to do this, talk to your nominee or a person you trust.

Your medical evidence should include detailed information about diagnosis, treatments and prognosis for each disability or medical condition you have.

Use the Claim for Disability Support Pension Medical Evidence Checklist (SA473) to check you have the right medical evidence. Go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/forms](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/forms)

You can send the information or medical evidence to us from your mobile device or computer. Go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/centrelinkuploaddocs](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/centrelinkuploaddocs)

If you can't upload online, you can mail copies to:

Centrelink  
Reply Paid 7800  
CANBERRA ACT 2610

### 3. CONSIDER COMPLETING A PROGRAM OF SUPPORT

A Program of Support may help if you claim DSP again and we:

- assess that your condition is fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised
- assign a 20 point impairment rating across 2 or more tables for your conditions.

You can read more about Program of Support and how we assess your claim on our website.

### 4. CHECK IF YOU CAN GET ANOTHER PAYMENT

You may be able to get other income support payments, if you can't get DSP. Use our Payment and Services Finder on our website to see what payments and services you may be able to get. Go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/paymentfinder](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/paymentfinder)

For more information go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/dsp](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/dsp)

**Disclaimer:** this information is accurate as at July 2021.