



Disability Support Pension claims

IMPAIRMENT RATING – REJECTION REASONS EXPLAINED

for claims lodged from 1 April 2023

What does a “20 points Impairment Table rating requirement” mean?

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

- your condition is likely to persist for more than 2 years
- your condition is diagnosed, reasonably 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.

Condition/s

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

- has been diagnosed, reasonably treated and stabilised
- is likely to persist for more than 2 years.

Rating scale

Impact level	Points assigned
No or minimal 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 diagnosed, reasonably treated and stabilised before assigning a rating. For example, one condition might be diagnosed, reasonably treated and stabilised and rated 10 points. Another condition that isn't diagnosed, reasonably treated and stabilised 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 claim DSP.

If your impairment rating is less than 20 points, you should think about starting a Program of Support. This can help if you claimed DSP again and we give you a 20 point impairment rating across 2 or more Tables. For more information about Program of Support, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/dsp

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.

For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/reviewsandappeals

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

For more information about applying to the ART, go to art.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 that you have.

Use the *Disability Support Pension Medical Evidence Checklist* (SA473) to check you have the right medical evidence. Go to 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

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

Centrelink
Reply Paid 7800
CANBERRA ACT 2610

3 Check if you can get another payment

For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/dsp

Disclaimer: this information is accurate as at August 2024.