



Disability Support Pension (DSP) medical eligibility and evidence requirements

Information for organisations helping people with disability

To support a claim for DSP, a person with disability needs to give us medical evidence. Their evidence needs to cover each condition that significantly affects their ability to work.



You can encourage your client to book a consultation with their treating doctor to discuss the medical evidence available to them.



Disability Support Pension Medical Evidence Checklist for treating health professionals form (SA478) can help their doctor know how to support their patient's DSP claim. Go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/sa478 to access the form.

Does your client have a terminal illness or is manifestly eligible for DSP?

Terminal Illness

Your client may get DSP if they have a terminal illness. Their treating doctor can complete the streamlined *Verification of Terminal Illness* form.

It is available online, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/sa495

This applies if the average life expectancy for a person with the same condition is less than 2 years.

Manifest eligibility

- Your client may get DSP if they have a condition that meets the **manifest medical rules**. We base this on the medical evidence provided, without further assessment.
- Examples of conditions that meet the manifest medical rules include if they are permanently blind, require nursing home level care or have an intellectual disability with an IQ of less than 70.

Go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/dspmedicalrules for more information.

- Medical evidence should show the diagnosis and how your client's condition affects them. In most cases, we also need information about treatment and prognosis.
- We may also need **specialist medical evidence** for certain conditions. Their treating doctor can help with this medical evidence.

Go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/dspmedicalevidence for more information.

Medical evidence must show the condition is diagnosed, reasonably treated and stabilised

If your client's condition doesn't meet the terminal or manifest medical rules for DSP, they must meet the general medical rules.

Medical evidence must show the condition is:

Diagnosed

For most conditions, a General Practitioner can make the diagnosis. For some conditions, a specialist must have made the diagnosis.

Reasonably treated

To be considered reasonable, treatments must be of a low risk nature and where substantial improvement can be expected. Treatments should be available and accessible to a person at a reasonable cost.

Medical evidence should show outcomes of past treatment, current treatment and any plans for further treatment.

Stabilised

Evidence must show the condition is unlikely to result in significant functional improvement, even if there is ongoing treatment.

Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/dsp for more information.

Medical evidence must show the functional impact of the conditions

If your client's treating doctor can confirm their patient's conditions are diagnosed, reasonably treated and stabilised, we can assess their claim.

Their medical evidence will be assessed by our allied health professionals using the **Impairment Tables**.

Medical evidence should show the impact on your client's day to day functional capacity. For example, what your client can and cannot do due to their condition.

Our allied health professionals review the medical evidence and may contact your client's treating health professionals if important information is missing.

Non-medical rules

Your client needs to meet both non-medical and medical rules to get DSP. Non-medical rules such as age, residence and income and assets.

Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/dsp for more information.

For more information



There's information for health professionals on our website, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpdsp



Your client can read about DSP and medical eligibility rules online, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/dsp



They can also use our DSP pre-claim guide online, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/dspclaimguide

This guide can help your client understand the rules for DSP and decide whether to make a claim.