

# Disability Support Pension

Easy Read guide



## How to use this guide



Services Australia wrote this guide. When you see the word 'we', it means Services Australia.



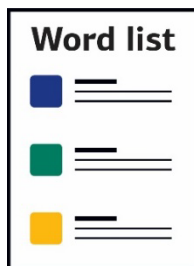
Services Australia includes:

- Medicare
- Centrelink
- Child Support.



We wrote this information in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



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

We explain what these bold words mean.

There's a list of these words on page 20.



You can ask for help to read this guide.

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

## What's in this guide?

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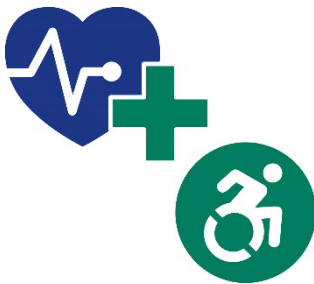
## What is this guide about?



This guide is about the **Disability Support Pension**.

In this guide we call it DSP.

DSP is a payment from the government to help with your day-to-day living costs.



It supports people who can't work because of their:

- medical condition
- disability.

In this guide we say 'condition'.



In this guide, we explain:

- who can get DSP
- how to claim DSP.

## Who is eligible to get DSP?

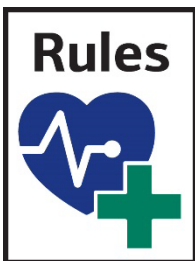


You can get DSP if you meet all our payment rules.

You need to meet both the:



- non-medical rules



- medical rules.

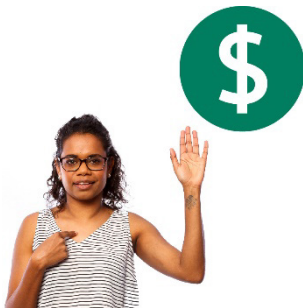


We explain the rules on the following pages.

## What are the non-medical rules?



You will need to meet all of the non-medical rules to get DSP.



1. You must be:

- at least 15 years and 9 months old
- and
- younger than 67 years old.



2. You must be an Australian resident.

This means you might have to have lived in Australia for over 10 years.





3. You must meet our rules about:

- how much money you earn or get – your **income**
- the value of your **assets**.

Your assets are things you own that have value, such as:



- a car
- money you have saved.



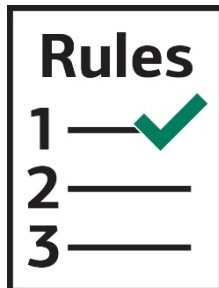
To get DSP you can still:

- earn some income
- have some assets.

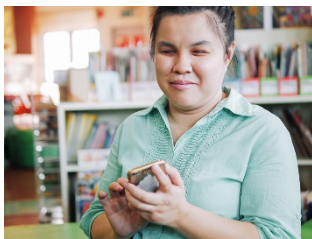


But your income or assets may affect how much DSP you get.

## What are the medical rules?



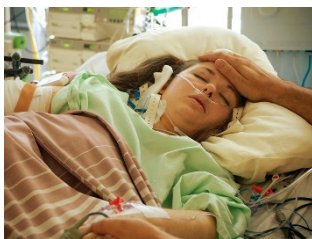
You may get DSP if you meet any of these medical rules.



1. You are blind.



2. You need the care someone would get in a nursing home.



3. You are very sick.

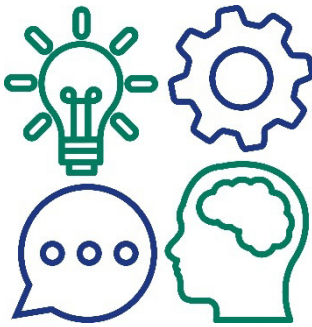
And because of this you might live for less than 2 years.



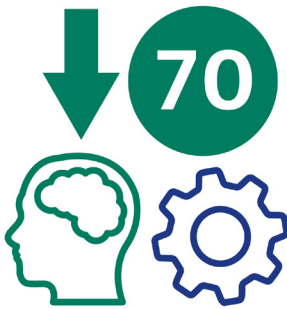


#### 4. You have an **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how you:



- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



And you have an **IQ** below 70.

Your IQ is a number that shows how well you can solve problems.



These are only some of the conditions you must have to meet the medical rules.

You can find out more about the medical rules on our website.

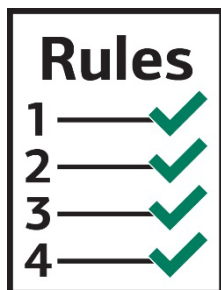
[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/dspmedicalrules](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/dspmedicalrules)



If you don't have any of these conditions, you may still get DSP.

We explain how you may still get DSP in the next section.

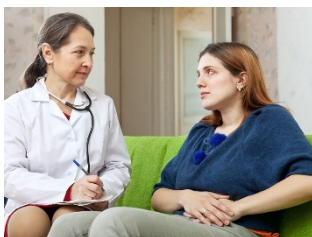
### How else can you meet the medical rules?



You can also meet the medical rules if your condition meets all 4 of the following.



1. Your condition will affect you for more than 2 years.



2. A doctor has told you what your condition is.

They have treated it and it won't change a lot.



3. We check that you have at least 20 points on one or more of the Impairment Tables.



The Impairment Tables is a tool that:

- rates how much your condition affects different parts of your day-to-day life
- helps us decide if you can get DSP.



4. Your condition stops you from working at least 15 hours a week over the next 2 years.



We might ask you to complete a Program of Support before you get DSP.

In this guide we call it POS.

POS helps people with disability:



- get ready for work
- find a job
- keep a job.

## How do you make a claim?

### Before you make a claim



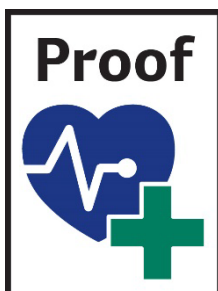
You can use our DSP pre-claim guide to help you decide if you should make a claim.

But our guide will not tell you if you can get DSP.



You can find our guide on our website.

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/before-claiming-disability-support-pension](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/before-claiming-disability-support-pension)



Before you make a claim, you need to make sure you have medical proof to support your claim.

You will need proof from:



- a doctor who knows about your condition

or

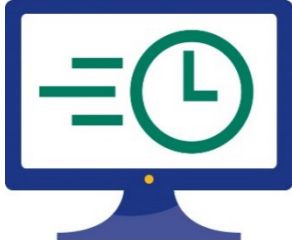


- medical information you already have.



We will look at this proof to decide if you can get DSP.

## When you make a claim



The quickest way to make a claim is online.

You can make a claim with Centrelink through your myGov account.

You can also:



- claim DSP using our paper form



- get your **nominee** to help you claim.



Your nominee is someone you choose to:

- make decisions for you
- do things for you that you can't do on your own.



Or if you need support with your claim, you can contact us.

You can find our contact information on page 19.

## When we look at your claim



2

When you make a claim we might need you to take part in 2 **assessments**.



Assessments help us work out:

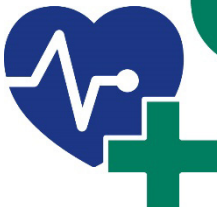
- how your disability affects your life
- what supports you need.

They include a:



?

- Job Capacity Assessment



?

- Disability Medical Assessment.



## Job Capacity Assessment



A Job Capacity Assessment looks at how your condition affects how you work.



The assessment also looks at whether DSP would help you.



You don't have to pay for this assessment.

## Disability Medical Assessment



We might also ask you to have a Disability Medical Assessment.

This assessment helps us decide if your health means you can get DSP.



We will choose a doctor for your assessment.



This doctor will not be your usual doctor.

But they might contact your usual doctor if they need more information about you.



You don't have to pay for this assessment.

## Results of your claim



We will let you know if you can get DSP.



If you can get DSP, we will tell you:

- when your payment starts
- how much you will get.



Not everyone can get DSP.

If you can't get DSP, you might be able to get another payment.

## For more information

For more information about this guide, please contact us.



For more information in English, you can visit our website.

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



If you speak a language other than English, you can find information in your language on our website.

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



You can also call us.

**132 717**



If you need to talk to us in a language other than English you can call us.

**131 202**



You can visit a service centre.

You can find your local service centre on our website.

[findus.servicesaustralia.gov.au](http://findus.servicesaustralia.gov.au)

## Word list

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



### **Assessments**

Assessments help us work out:

- how your disability affects your life
- what supports you need.



### **Assets**

Your assets are things you own that have value, such as:

- a car
- money you have saved.



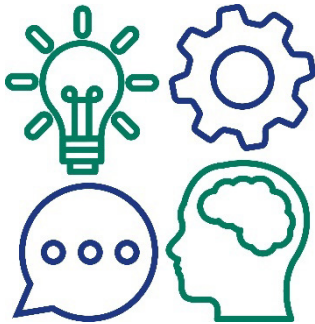
### **Disability Support Pension (DSP)**

DSP is a payment from the government to help with your day-to-day living costs.



## Income

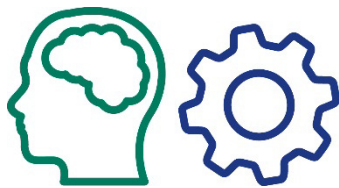
Your income is the money you get or earn from working.



## Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how you:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



## IQ

Your IQ is a number that shows how well you can solve problems.



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