



Australian Government

Department of Families,
Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

Disability Support Pension

Helping People to Work

Disability Support Pension (DSP) is a payment for people who:

- have a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment of 20 points or more under the Impairment Tables; and
- because of that impairment, are unable to work for at least 15 hours a week at or above the minimum wage, without support.

The work capacity of people on DSP can vary. Some DSP recipients are not able to work at all, while others are able to work for a few hours a week. People on DSP may be able to be retrained for work in a different field and others who have work may need extra support to keep their jobs.

Working, even for a few hours a week, can provide opportunities and reduce barriers for people with disability.

There is a range of Government programs available to support people with disability prepare for, find, and maintain employment.

Disability Employment Services

Disability Employment Services can help people prepare for, and find a job. Services are free and available to eligible jobseekers with disability. They can provide help with education, training, building confidence, rehabilitation and job search to suit an individual's needs.

To use Disability Employment Services people need to have a Job Capacity Assessment completed if they have not already had one. This provides a comprehensive assessment of a person's barriers to participation in work, and the assistance they need to improve their current and future work capacity. Disability Employment Services can then work out the best service for the person.

For people volunteering for employment assistance this Job Capacity Assessment will not be used to review their eligibility for DSP. For more information you can contact Centrelink on **13 2717**, visit a Centrelink Customer Service Centre or go to the Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations website at www.deewr.gov.au

Australian Disability Enterprises

Australian Disability Enterprises employ and support people with disability, often in specialist working environments called supported employment. These are suited to people who have higher support needs and require a higher level of ongoing support. Where possible, people in supported employment will be provided with the skills and support needed to help them move to open employment. For more information visit www.australiandisabilityenterprises.com.au or visit a Centrelink Customer Service Centre.

Supported Wage Scheme

Most people with disability who work are in open employment at full rates of pay. However some may be unable to find or keep a job at full wage rates. The Supported Wage Scheme allows employers to pay less than the minimum wage by matching a person's productivity with a fair wage. Eligible people with disability can access a reliable process of productivity based wage assessment to determine fair pay for fair work.

Job in Jeopardy Assistance

Disability Employment Services can assist people who may be at risk of losing their job as a result of illness, injury or disability. Under this program people may receive personalised support and advice to help them maintain their employment. Some assistance that may be provided could include:

- job redesign
- workplace assessments
- workplace modifications
- specialised equipment to help them do the job.

To be eligible for Job in Jeopardy assistance, people must have been employed for at least 8 hours a week on average over the last 13 weeks and not receiving assistance from another Disability Employment Services provider.

JobAccess

JobAccess is a free confidential Government service providing advice and workplace solutions for people with disability and their employers. It includes a comprehensive, easy to use web site and a free telephone information and advice service.

JobAccess provides advice on every stage of the employment process—preparing to look for work, how to look for jobs and support in the workplace.

JobAccess Advisors are available on **1800 464 800**.
For more information visit www.jobaccess.gov.au

More information

For more information about working while in receipt of DSP including programs and support available to help find and maintain work and advice about the possible impact on pension payments contact Centrelink at:

- www.centrelink.gov.au
- call **13 2717**
- visit a local Centrelink Customer Service Centre.