Inclusion Australia

Getting the Disability Support Pension

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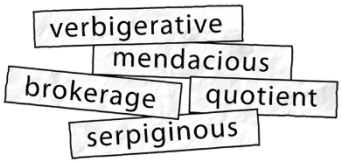
About this document

This Easy Read document is about getting the Disability Support Pension.

It is a good idea to read this document with support.

Hard words are in **bold**.



We explain what they mean.

For more information about getting the Disability Support Pension go to:

https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/how-to-claim-disability-support-pension

What is the Disability Support Pension?

The Disability Support Pension or **DSP** is a Centrelink payment for people with disability who

- Cannot work

  or

- Need support to work.

The DSP can help you pay for things you need like:

- Food

- Rent

- Bills.

Who can get the DSP?

Centrelink says you can get the DSP if you meet the

- **Medical rules**

  and

- **Non-medical rules.**

The medical rules say if you have a **diagnosis** of intellectual disability you can get the DSP.

This means you have an IQ test report that says your IQ score is 70 or less.

If you do not have an intellectual disability diagnosis Centrelink may ask you more questions to check if you can get the DSP.

To learn more about the medical rules:

https://www.dss.gov.au/system/files/resources/guide-disability-support-pension-impairment-tables-easy-read_0.pdf

You must also meet the non-medical rules to get the DSP.

The non-medical rules say you must be:

- Between 16 and 67 years old

  and

- Live in Australia

and

- Be an **Australian citizen** or **permanent resident.**

Being an Australian citizen means you were born in Australia or became Australian by law.

Being a permanent resident means you are allowed to live in Australia by law.

You must also pass Centrelink's **income and assets test.**

Income is money you earn from working.

Assets are things you own.

Like a house or money in your bank.

The income and assets test checks you do not

- earn too much money from work
- own too much.

For more information about the income and assets test:

https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/income-and-assets-test-for-pensions

What information do I need to get the DSP?

To get the DSP you will need to give Centrelink **supporting evidence.**

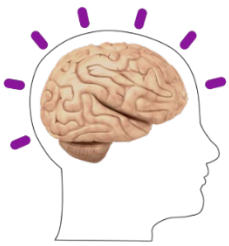
Your supporting evidence can be things like:

- Your IQ test report
- Information on how your disability affects your life.

You can get supporting evidence from:

- Your doctor
- Your school or special school
- Your **psychologist**.

  A psychologist is a doctor who studies the mind.



You may also need to tell Centrelink:

- Your bank account details

- Where you live

- How much money your parents make if you are under 21

- How much money your partner makes if you have a partner

- Your **Tax File Number** if you have one

  A Tax File Number is a special number the Government gives you to keep track of money for work.

How do I get the DSP?

The easiest way to apply for the DSP is online through Centrelink on your **MyGov** account.

MyGov is a website where you can keep track of your Government services like Centrelink and Medicare.

If you do not have a MyGov account you will need to set one up first:

https://my.gov.au/en/create-account/

If you cannot get the DSP using MyGov you can fill in a paper form instead.

To get a paper form you can:

- Go in to a Centrelink office

or

- Download it from the Centrelink website and print it yourself.

centrelink

To find a Centrelink office near you:

https://findus.servicesaustralia.gov.au/

To download a copy of the form go to:

https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/claiming-disability-support-pension-form

It is a good idea to ask for support to apply for the DSP.

This could be a family member or friend or a support worker.

Advocates also support people to get the DSP.

To find an advocate go to:

https://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/legal/advocacy

Make sure you have all your supporting evidence ready when you apply.

To find out more about what supporting evidence you need go to:

https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/supporting-documents-for-disability-support-pension?context=22276

What happens next?

It can take a long time for Centrelink to tell you if you can get the DSP.

Centrelink will tell you by sending you:

- A letter in the mail

or

- A message to your MyGov account.

Centrelink may ask you for more supporting evidence to help them decide if you can get the DSP.

You can ask someone you trust for help to get more supporting evidence.

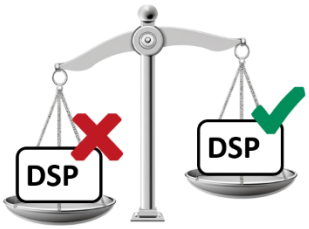
Not everyone with a disability can get the DSP.

If you cannot get the DSP Centrelink will let you know by:

- Calling you

  and

- Sending you a letter.



Centrelink will tell you why they decided you cannot get the DSP.

If you do not agree with Centrelink's decision you can ask for a **review.**

This means Centrelink will check your supporting evidence again and make a new decision.

For more information about reviews:

https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/explanations-and-formal-reviews?context=64107