

Disability Support Pension Toolkit



www.rightsinaction.org.au

[1800 887 688](tel:1800887688)



What is this toolkit?

This toolkit is to help you:

- Understand what the Disability Support Pension is
- Understand who qualifies for the Disability Support Pension

Who is this toolkit for?

This toolkit is for:

- People with disabilities
- Parents, caregivers or support providers of people with disabilities



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What is the Disability Support Pension?

The Disability Support Pension (DSP) is an income support payment from Centrelink for a person who is unable to work due to long-term illness, injury, or disability.



Am I Eligible?

Medical and non-medical rules

- ☐ You are between 16 and 67 years of age
- ☐ You are an Australian resident
- ☐ Your medical conditions have been diagnosed
- ☐ Your medical conditions are being reasonably treated and stabilised
- ☐ You have an impairment rating of 20 points or more*
- ☐ You are unable to work 15 or more hours per week
- ☐ You may need to participate in a Program of Support

****Unless you meet the Manifest Grant criteria (pg. 11)***



Applying for the Disability Support Pension

5 Step Process

1

Understand if you are eligible
(**medical and non-medical rules**)

2

Complete and sign a **Consent to Disclose Medical Information** form
(SA472)

3

Complete the **Claim for Disability Support Pension** form (SA466)

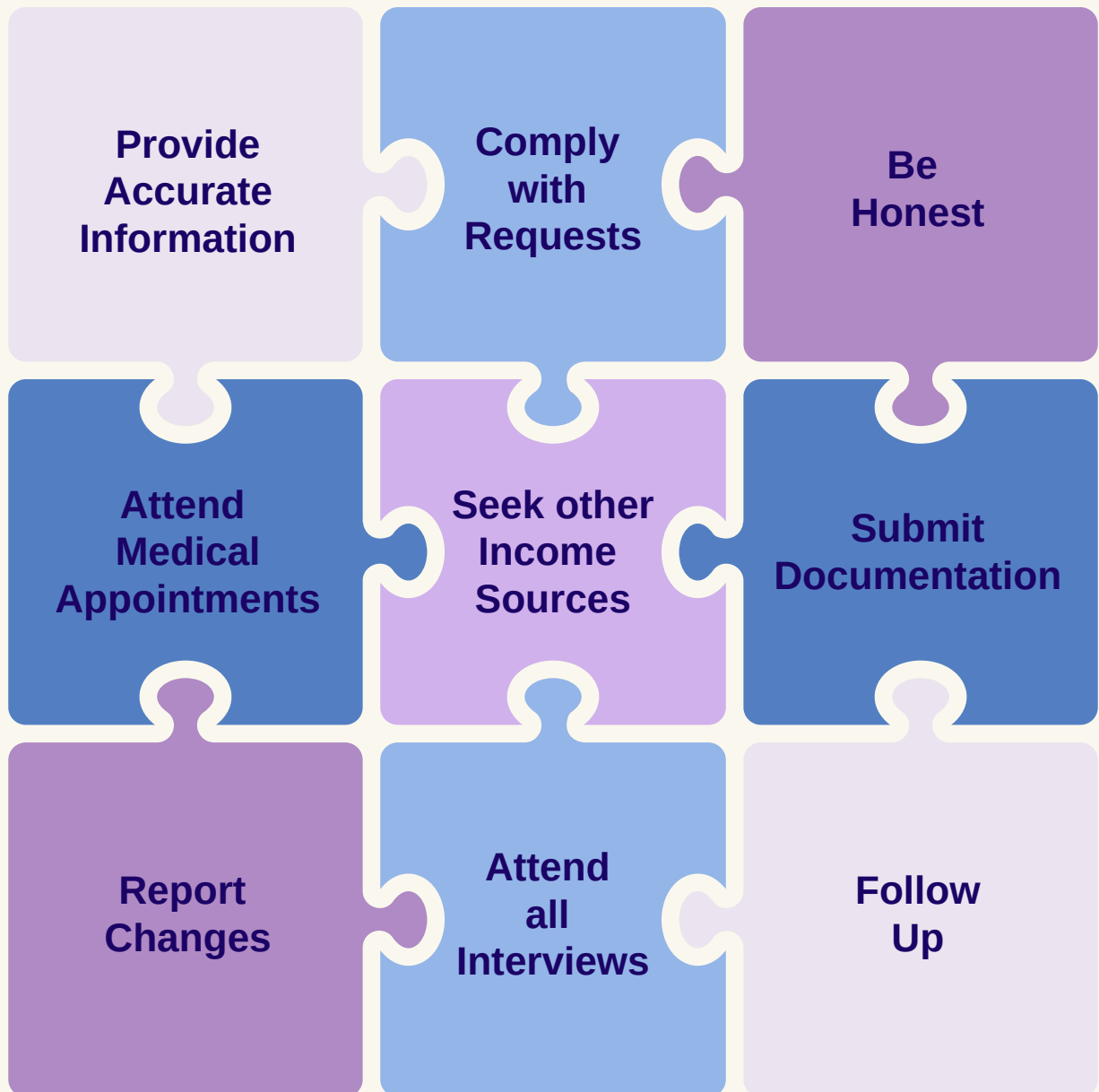
4

Gather **supporting documents** and **medical evidence**
(Doctors and specialist reports)

5

Submit your claim
through Services Australia

Your Roles and Responsibilities



What is a Program of Support?

A **Program of Support (POS)** helps people with disabilities get ready for work, find jobs, and keep them. Often, this program is needed before someone can apply for the **Disability Support Pension (DSP)** from Centrelink.



What is a Program of Support?

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

You usually need to participate in a **Program of Support** for at least 18 months within three years to claim DSP.

EXEMPTIONS

You may be exempt from participation if you have a severe impairment rated at 20 points or more on a single Impairment Table.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

The program may involve job preparation, job search assistance, work experience, training, and injury management

PROVIDERS

Program of Support is available through Disability Employment Services, Workforce Australia, Parents Next, and other approved providers.



What is a Manifest Grant?

A Manifest Grant from Centrelink indicates eligibility for the Disability Support Pension (DSP) without a full assessment.

You may qualify if you are:

- **Permanently blind**
- **In need of nursing home level care**
- **Terminally ill with a life expectancy under two years**
- **Have an intellectual disability with an IQ under 70**
- **Have category 4 HIV/AIDS**
- **Receiving a Department of Veterans' Affairs TPI pension**

If you qualify, Centrelink usually processes applications in 1 to 2 months.

**Your doctor needs to provide medical reports
DVA TPI pension applicants only need a certified decision letter.**

**Nursing home residents must show proof of residency.
Having supporting medical evidence is very important for your application to succeed.**

What to expect after submitting application

1

Centrelink will review your application and determine your eligibility.

2

Centrelink may require you to undergo an assessment. This could be a Job Capacity Assessment or a Disability Medical Assessment, or both.

3

Centrelink might request additional information from you.

4

Centrelink might communicate with your doctors regarding your health conditions.



What if my application is rejected?



Other payments you may be eligible for

If your Disability Support Pension application is rejected, you may be eligible for one of the following payments:

- **Jobseeker**
- **Youth Allowance**
- **Youth Disability Supplement**
- **Carer Payment or Carer Allowance**
- **Aged Care Pension**



Useful Links and Resources



**TOWNSVILLE
COMMUNITY
LAW**

Can assist in appealing decisions by the Department of Human Services and may represent you in the Administrative Review Tribunal or Federal Court.

**Ground Floor
271 - 279 Sturt Street
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
(07) 4721 5511**



**Basic Rights
Queensland Inc.**

Provide free information, advocacy and legal services on Social Security (Centrelink and Employment Services)

Freecall: 1800 358 511



Useful Links and Resources



Monday to Friday,
8.30am to 4.30pm.

Legal Information

Line:

1300 65 11 88

Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Information

Line:

1300 65 01 43



132 717

Monday to Friday,
8am to 5pm.



Useful Links and Resources

Administrative Review Tribunal

1800 228 333



Email:

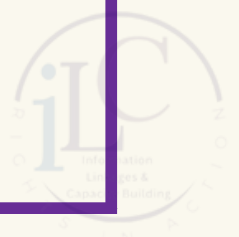
reviews@art.gov.au

Monday to Friday
8:30am-5:00pm



Key Terms

Administrative Review Tribunal (ART)	The Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) provides independent reviews of decisions made by Australian Government agencies, departments, and ministers.
Disability Medical Assessment	A Disability Medical Assessment (DMA) helps us decide if you meet the medical rules for Disability Support Pension. You'll need to bring some paperwork to your assessment. You can also bring someone for support.
Impairment	Your impairment is how your disability or medical condition affects your ability to do everyday activities.
Internal review	The processes which need to be followed to review decisions.



Key Terms

<p>Job Capacity Assessment</p>	<p>This assessment helps to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How your condition affects your ability to work • Any help you may need to get a job • If you're medically eligible for DSP. <p>A qualified health professional does the assessment.</p>
<p>Reasonably Treated</p>	<p>To assess if your condition is reasonably treated, the Department of Social Services first check what type of treatment you've had. This is treatment from your doctor or health professional.</p>
<p>Stabilised</p>	<p>A condition is fully stabilised when, even with reasonable treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition won't significantly improve • You won't be able to work at least 15 hours per week in the next 2 years

References

Disability Support Pension - Services Australia

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/disability-support-pension>

Disability Support Pension – Queensland Law Handbook Online

<https://queenslandlawhandbook.org.au/the-queensland-law-handbook/contracts-money-and-property/social-security-payments/disability-support-pension/>

Upcoming Toolkits

- Inclusive Education
- QCAT Guardianship and Financial Administration
- NDIS Access
- NDIS Appeals
- Child Protection
- Human Rights Complaints
- Navigating Provider Disputes
- Mental Health Treatment Authority



