Eligibility for Disability Support Pension

You may get Disability Support Pension if you:

- are between 16 years and age pension age
- meet residency requirements
- meet income and assets tests
- have a permanent and diagnosed disability or medical condition, or
- get a Department of Veterans' Affairs special rate disability pension due to total and permanent incapacity

You may need to show you:

- have done a Program of Support, and
- can't work, or retrain to work, for at least 15 hours a week in the next 2 years

To get Disability Support Pension you need to provide current medical evidence.

Use the Claim for Disability Support Pension Medical Evidence Checklist (SA473) to help you work out the medical evidence you need to submit with your claim.

Forms can be access from www.humanservices.gov.au

Manifest medical eligibility

We may assess you as meeting manifest eligibility rules if you:

- are permanently blind
- have a terminal illness with a life expectancy of less than 2 years
- have an intellectual disability with an IQ of less than 70, or
- need nursing home level care

Fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised

Fully diagnosed

To decide if your disability or condition is fully diagnosed we assess if:

- a qualified medical professional examined you
- you have medical evidence about your disability or medical condition

Fully treated

To decide if your disability or condition is fully treated we assess if:

- you've had a medical professional treat you for the disability or medical condition
- treatment will continue or you have a plan for the next 2 years

Fully stabilised

To decide if your disability or condition is fully stabilised we assess if:

- treatment will help you work at least 15 hours a week in the next 2 years, or
- there are medical or other reasons why you can't get treatment

Eligibility for Disability Support Pension

Types of medical evidence

You can give us medical evidence such as:

- medical history records or reports
- specialist medical reports
- psychologist reports including IQ testing
- special school reports
- other reports such as physiotherapy or audiology reports
- medical imaging reports – not x-rays
- physical examination reports
- compensation and rehabilitation reports
- hospital or outpatient records including details of operations

Disabilities or conditions that may need specialist evidence

Conditions	Evidence
Mental health conditions	We need evidence that a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist supports the diagnosis.
Intellectual disability	We need evidence from a psychologist who will assess intellectual function and adaptive behaviour. This report should include your IQ score or ability to undergo testing. A report from your special school may have this evidence.
Ear conditions affecting hearing or balance	We need evidence that an audiologist or an ear, nose and throat specialist supports the diagnosis.
Eye conditions affecting vision	We need evidence that an ophthalmologist or ophthalmic surgeon supports the diagnosis.

Program of Support

You may need to take part in a Program of Support for at least 18 months in the 3 years before you claim Disability Support Pension

Programs of Support include:

- Disability Employment Services
- jobactive
- Community Development Programme, and
- Australian Disability Enterprises

These providers work with you to help you prepare for, find and keep a job. This may include help with looking for jobs, studying, work experience or rehabilitation.

Participation in a Program of Support

To show you've actively participated in a Program of Support you must comply with the program and show either of the following:

- you participated in the program for at least 18 months (78 weeks) in the 3 years before claiming
- if the length of the program was less than 18 months, you completed the program, or
- your condition stopped you from improving your ability to prepare for, find and keep a job by continuing to participate in the program

Use this form to confirm active participation in a program of support to assist us in assessing eligibility for a Disability Support Pension claim. (SA437)

This form should be completed by the provider who delivered the program of support to the participant.