



## Government Benefits

# Disability Support Pension

Aon Hewitt Financial Education Series

The Disability Support Pension is a payment for people who have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment that prevents them from working.

To qualify for a disability support pension, you must:

- Be aged at least 16, but less than Age Pension age on the day the claim is made; and
- Meet residence requirements; and
- Have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment; and either:
  - You are participating in the Supported Wage System; or
  - As a result of that impairment must be unable to work (or be retrained for work) 15 hours or more per week in the next two years; and
  - Have been assessed as having a severe impairment or as having actively participated in a program of support.

If you are claiming the disability support pension, you need to provide a report from your doctor or specialist on your impairment and work capacity. You may also need to attend a disability medical examination.

When assessing your eligibility to receive the Disability Support Pension, Centrelink uses Asset and Income tests to determine your level of entitlement. When Centrelink applies these tests, they will use whichever test that produces the lower payment. If you are permanently blind you are not subject to the Assets or Income test, but may need to provide your income and asset details to Centrelink if you are applying for rent assistance.

If you are eligible for the Disability Support Pension, you will receive a fortnightly payment and other benefits including the Pensioner Concession Card.

To claim the pension, forms should be obtained from any Centrelink Office and should be lodged as soon as possible. Claims should be made shortly before eligibility as payments cannot be made for any period prior to the date of claim. You may also register an 'intent to claim' for the Disability Support Pension.

For more information including eligibility and level of payments, please visit your local Centrelink office or go to their website at <http://www.humanservices.gov.au>

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