



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Disability Support Pension

2014 Budget measure: Compulsory participation requirements for recipients under 35

DSP is an income support payment for people with a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment who are unable to fully support themselves through paid work.

The Australian Government supports DSP for those who need it, while recognising many people with disability want to work, and benefit from the independence, purpose, dignity and sense of achievement work brings.

What was announced in the 2014-15 Budget?

The 2014-15 Budget measures focus on supporting young people on DSP under 35 to gain and retain employment, where they have capacity.

Compulsory work-focused activities

From 1 July 2014, DSP recipients under 35 who have work capacity of eight hours per week or more will have a compulsory work-focused activity added to their DSP participation plan.

This might include activities such as:

- active participation with an Employment Service Provider
- education or training that promotes work readiness

- job search, work experience, or rehabilitation activities to overcome individual barriers.

DSP recipients who do not complete their compulsory activities may have their payment suspended or cancelled.

What has changed?

Since 1 July 2012, DSP recipients under 35 with an assessed work capacity of at least eight hours per week, completed a DSP participation plan and attended regular interviews with the Department of Human Services.

DSP recipients who did not attend an interview or sign their DSP participation plan, were at risk of having their DSP suspended or cancelled.

Activities in the DSP participation plan were **not** compulsory. From 1 July 2014 DSP recipients will need to include a compulsory activity.

What are the exemptions?

People under 35 who were granted DSP on manifest grounds, or are assessed as having a work capacity of less than eight hours per week, are excluded from this compulsory participation requirement.

The following DSP recipients are also exempt from this measure:

- people who have a dependent child under age six
- women who are pregnant (in the last six weeks of pregnancy and the first six weeks after birth of the child)
- people who have an accident or unexpected illness and provide a current medical certificate noting they are unable to work eight or more hours a week
- people working under the Supported Wage System and in Australian Disability Enterprises.

When will compulsory activities start for DSP recipients?

DSP recipients will be advised of the requirement to add a compulsory activity at their next scheduled DSP participation interview with the Department of Human Services.

At the interview DSP recipients will:

- develop and agree to a new individualised participation plan that includes a compulsory activity. This activity will support people to prepare for, find and maintain employment
- receive information on employment related programs, rehabilitation and community services
- receive advice on what happens if they do not undertake the compulsory activity
- plans can continue to include other voluntary activities to assist the DSP recipient meet their goals.

Key facts

- From 1 July 2014 DSP recipients under 35 with a work capacity of at least eight hours will have a compulsory work-focused activity to complete.
- DSP recipients with participation requirements will develop a new DSP participation plan, which includes a compulsory activity.
- Suspensions and cancellations may apply if compulsory activities are not undertaken.
- Suspension and cancellation also apply if DSP recipients do not attend regular interviews with the Department of Human Services or sign their DSP participation plan.

Assistance

DSP recipients can call the Department of Human Services on 132 717 for more information. Calls can be made from 8.00am-5.00pm Monday to Friday, for the cost of a local call. Calls made from mobile phones may incur additional costs.

Budget information

Visit the [DSS website](http://dss.gov.au) (dss.gov.au) for more information on Department of Social Services' Budget measures.

Visit the [2014 Budget website](http://budget.gov.au) (budget.gov.au) for information on other budget measures.