

## **Disability Support Pension Medical Eligibility Project**

In November 2024, Cancer Council Australia participated in a consultation for the Department of Social Services' Disability Support Pension (DSP) Medical Eligibility Project. The DSP Medical Eligibility Project consultation began in August 2024 and aimed to explore aspects of the medical requirements for DSP eligibility. The consultation involved a virtual interview, with additional written information subsequently provided.

Cancer Council's consultation included points on the following areas:

- The terminology used to describe comorbid conditions.
- Co-morbidity assessment tools used for cancer and other conditions.
- The high prevalence of comorbidity of cancer and mental ill-health.
- The need for a person-centred approach for measuring an individual's functional impact as a result of cancer.
- The difficulties of measuring information or statistics regarding patients' refusal or deferral of treatment for cancer at a population level.
- The need for high quality, comprehensive national data on the stage of cancer at diagnosis, the treatments applied to cancers and the frequency of recurrence and remission rates after treatment to supplement this data.
- The development of functional impairments in people affected by cancer is multifactorial, with shared risk factors, social factors, comorbidities, tumour-related factors, not the effects of treatment alone.

Further information about the current eligibility requirements for the DSP can be found on the Services Australia website: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/who-can-get-disability-support-pension?context=22276>