




Darwin Community
LEGAL SERVICE

Celebrating
30 YEARS



Other NT submissions to the Inquiry into the purpose, intent and adequacy of the Disability Support Pension



WHO SUBMITTED?

- Along with DCLS, **FIVE** other NT organisations submitted to the Inquiry



**NPY
WOMEN'S
COUNCIL**



Danila Dilba[®]
Health Service



Central Australian
Aboriginal Congress
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION | ICN 7823



North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency



KEY POINTS

- DSP application process is too long, complex, and confusing – leads to despondency and is designed to disincentivise application
 - Inconsistency in decision making
- Demanding and rigid disability assessment requirements are difficult to meet with limited access to health specialists in community
- Extensive application forms and processes are not culturally appropriate – clients in community often speak English as third or fourth language and rarely have digital literacy skills
- Some clients on DSP are still not maintaining acceptable standard of living – it needs to be raised
- Higher disability prevalence in rural NT, and the intersectionality of disadvantage that many Aboriginal clients with disability face, means DSP is even more important.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Lift level of DSP
- Assign Centrelink case managers and social workers based in Centrelink offices to help clients navigate application process
- Lower the eligibility threshold
 - Remove IQ test for disabilities from developmental disorders
 - Add end stage kidney failure and haemodialysis to Impairment Tables
 - Empower allied health professionals to conduct assessments, or if cannot be done unless in city, waive requirement entirely.
- Centrelink provide training to doctors and health professionals on DSP requirements and processes
- Reasons for rejection need to be clearer and more detailed

