

# Consultation about changing Disability Living Allowance to a new benefit

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Tell us what you think

December 2010



Easy Read

**DWP** Department for  
Work and Pensions

# Important

As this is a big booklet, we do not expect you to read all of it.

Instead, look at the list of contents on pages 1 and 2. It shows what is in the booklet. Look down the list to find things you want to read about.

## Maroon writing

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold maroon** writing. Then we write what the words mean in a **light purple** box. If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal maroon** writing.

These words and what they mean are also in a Word List at the back of the booklet.

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# Contents

What this booklet is about .....	2
About our plans to change Disability Living Allowance.....	3
What the government wants .....	3
About Disability Living Allowance.....	4
About the new benefit .....	5
How the new benefit will work .....	7
Aids and adaptations .....	8
Getting the benefit automatically .....	9
Telling us about changes in your life .....	9
Children and people aged over 65 years.....	10
When the new benefit will start.....	10
About the questions .....	11
And finally, thank you! .....	11
Questions .....	12
Word list .....	23

# What this booklet is about

This booklet is part of our **consultation** about changing **Disability Living Allowance**.

## Consultation

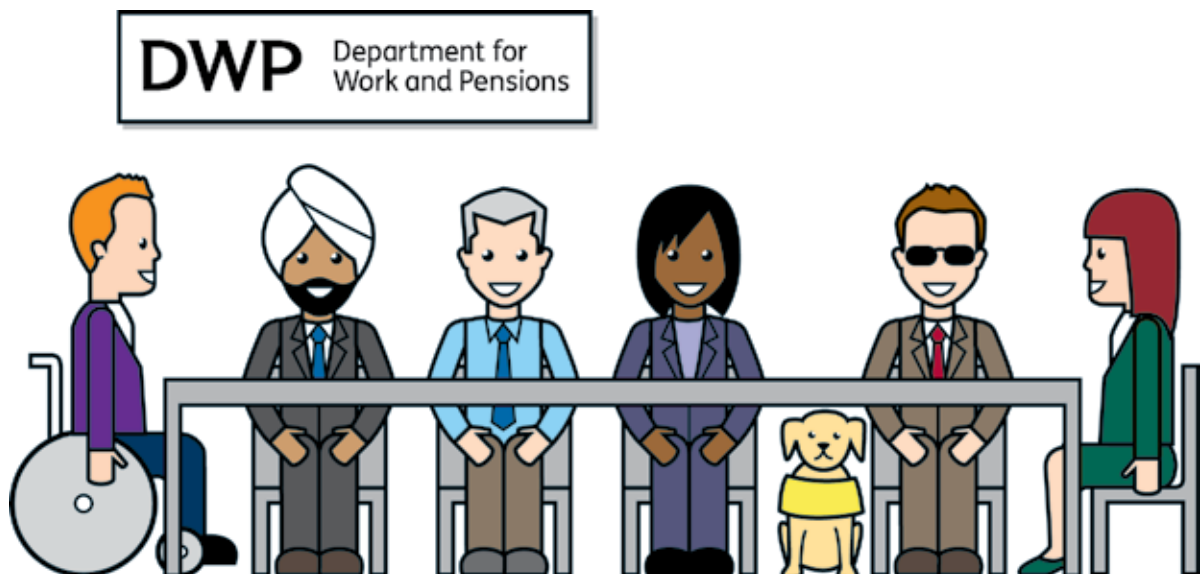
This is when the government asks what people think about their plans, and for ideas about the best ways of doing things.

## Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the help and support they need.

We want to find out what people think about our plans to change **Disability Living Allowance**.

We are asking lots of people to tell us what they think. Like disabled people and disabled people's groups in England, Scotland and Wales.



# About our plans to change Disability Living Allowance

## What the government wants

The government wants disabled people to have choice and control over the **care and support** services they need to live their lives the way they want to.

### Care and support

Care and support are the services and other things that help people live full, independent, active and healthy lives.

We know that money is very important and it lets disabled people live full and active lives.

We want to make sure that the disabled people who need it most can get extra money to help pay for the **care and support** they need.



## About Disability Living Allowance

People can find **Disability Living Allowance** hard to understand. Sometimes it is hard for people to understand who can get the benefit or why they can or cannot get the benefit.

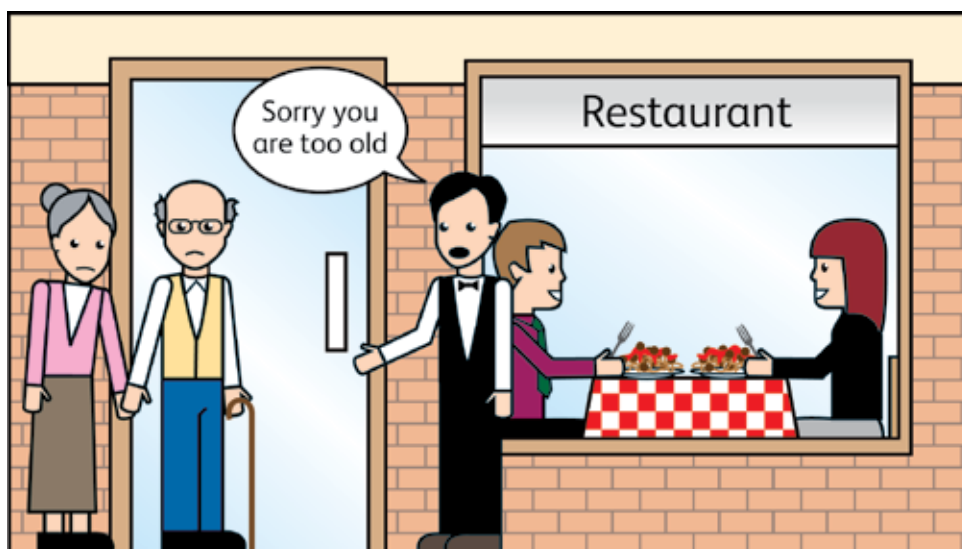
When **Disability Living Allowance** was first set up it was aimed at only a few people. But now, more and more people are getting **Disability Living Allowance**.

**Disability Living Allowance** started in 1992. Since then, things have changed, like better medical help and the way other people think about disabled people.

The government made new laws to help disabled people and to stop **discrimination**. Now, many disabled people are living more independent lives.

### Discrimination

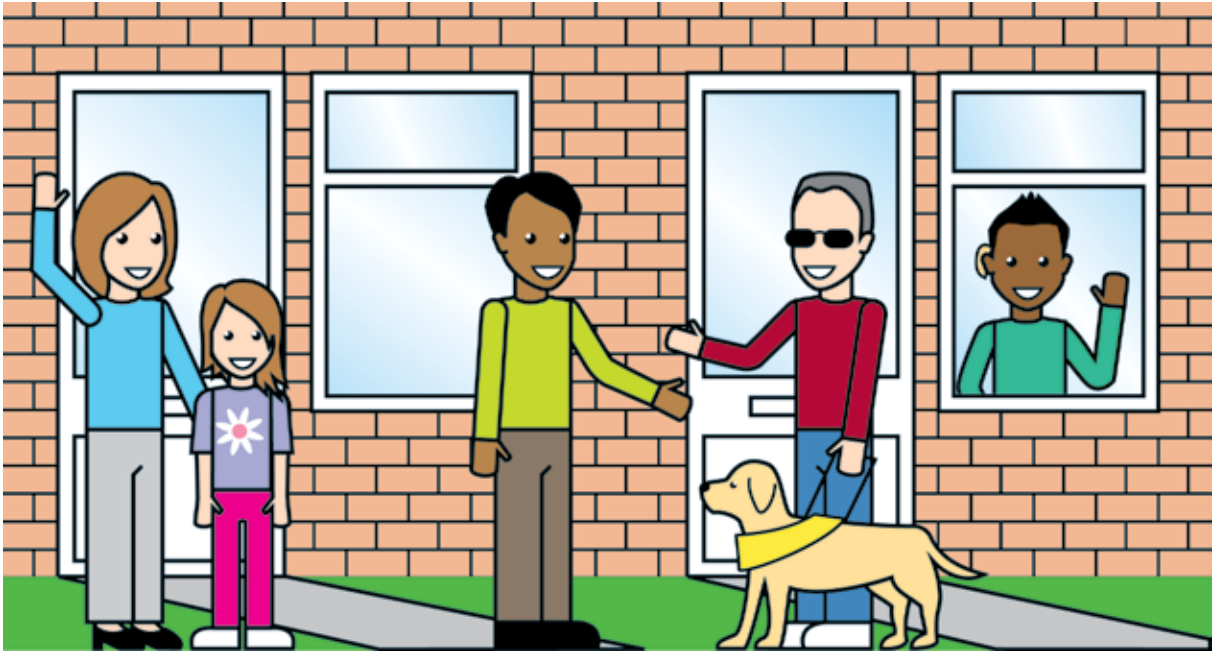
This is when someone is treated unfairly because of something. People are sometimes discriminated against because of their age, because of the colour of their skin, or because they have a disability.



## About the new benefit

We want to make a new benefit instead of **Disability Living Allowance**.

We want the new benefit to help disabled people live full and active independent lives.



The new benefit will do this by giving those disabled people, who can get the benefit, extra money to help them pay the extra costs of being disabled.

We will call this new benefit Personal Independence Payment.

Some things will stay the same.

- The new benefit will be money that people can spend any way they want to.
- People will not need to take a **means test** to get the benefit.

### Means test

This is a test to see if someone can afford to pay for the services they need.

- People will not have to pay tax on the benefit.
- The new benefit will support children and adults up to age 65. People who get the benefit when they reach age 65 will keep the benefit if they still need it. But you will not be able to claim the benefit if you are aged 65 or older.
- There will still be special rules for people who are terminally ill. This means that if someone is expected to die in the next 6 months their benefit claim will be sorted out very quickly.
- We are not going to make any changes to **Attendance Allowance** at the moment.

### Attendance Allowance

This is money that people aged 65 or over may be able to get if they need someone to help look after them because they are disabled.



## How the new benefit will work

The new benefit will have 2 parts.

One part will look at how a person can get around. The other part will look at how a person can carry out all the things they need to do to take part in everyday life.



We think there should be 2 amounts of benefit for each part. This will make the benefit much simpler. The amount of benefit that a person gets will depend on what their needs are.

When you make a claim for the new benefit we will look at the things you need to do to take part in everyday life. These are things like

- getting around.
- talking to other people.
- looking after yourself.
- looking after your condition.
- eating and drinking.

## DWP About changing Disability Living Allowance

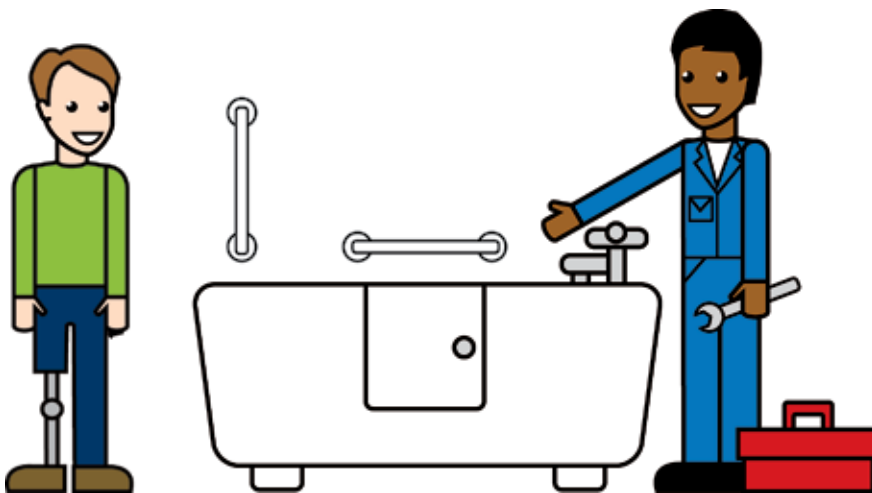
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To help us do this we may look at what your doctor says about you and the things you have told us about yourself.

We may also ask you to see an independent person to talk about how well you can do the things you need to do to take part in everyday life.

### Aids and adaptations

We know that many people use aids and adaptations to help them live independently.



We will look at the way these aids and adaptations help disabled people to live an independent life. This will make sure the new benefit reaches those people who need it most.

This may mean looking at things like how a disabled person can get around using a wheelchair. At the moment we do not look at this for **Disability Living Allowance**.

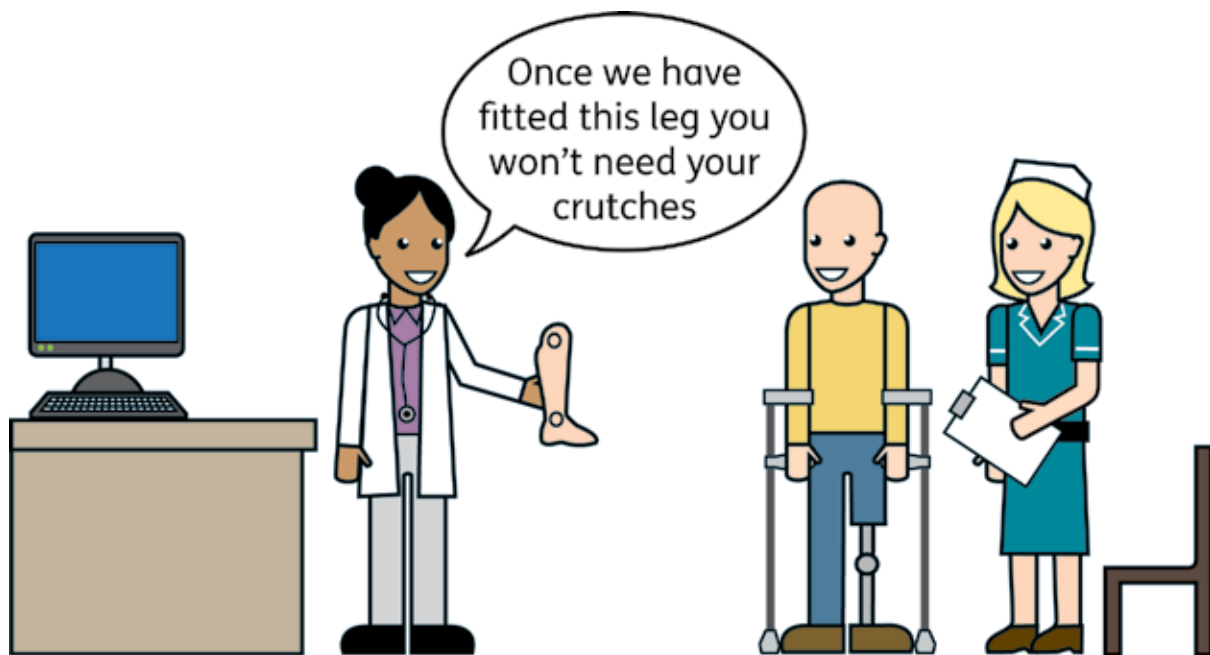
## Getting the benefit automatically

At the moment some disabled people automatically get some **Disability Living Allowance** because of their health condition or disability.

We want to change this so that we look at everyone asking for the new benefit to see what their needs are.

## Telling us about changes in your life

Some people's needs will change as time goes by. We want to make sure that the new benefit deals with these changes.



We will regularly look at the benefit people get and check to see if there have been any changes. We will do this in many different ways, like getting people to fill in forms and talking to people who help the disabled person, like doctors and carers.

People will still need to tell us if things in their life change.

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## Children and people aged over 65

The new rules will be for people aged 16 to 64.

We have not decided yet whether claims from children and people over 65 should follow the new rules.

## When the new benefit will start

The new benefit will start in 2013.

We will then start to look at people who already get **Disability Living Allowance** to see if they should get the new benefit.

We will get in touch with everyone who will have their claim looked at to let them know what they will need to do.

## About the questions

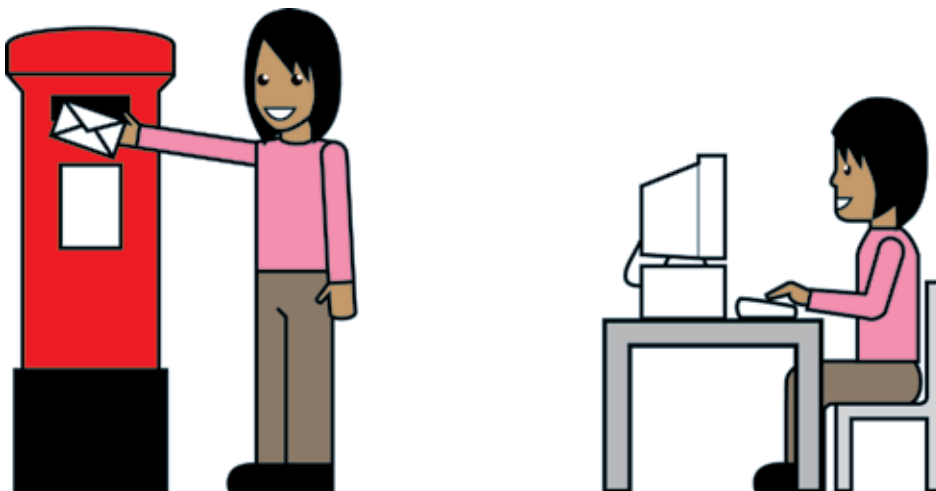
On the next few pages there are questions that we would like you to give us your answers to.

This **consultation** starts on 6 December 2010 and will end on 14 February 2011.

Send your replies to

DLA Reform Team  
1st Floor  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

Or you can email your reply to  
[consultation.dlareform@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.dlareform@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)



## And finally, thank you

Thank you for taking the time to look at this booklet and taking part in the **consultation**.

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# Questions

## Question 1

What things stop disabled people joining in with other people and living full, active and independent lives?

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## Question 2

What parts of **Disability Living Allowance** do you think we should keep?

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### Question 3

What extra things do disabled people need to spend money on?

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### Question 4

The new benefit will have 2 amounts for each of the 2 parts of the benefit. Do you think this will make the benefit easier to understand and also easier for us to run?

Do you think just having the 2 amounts for each part will cause any problems?

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## Question 5

Do you think some health conditions or disabilities should allow people to get an amount of the benefit automatically?

Or do you think that all claims should be based on the needs of the person asking for the benefit?

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## Question 6

How can we make sure that disabled people who most need the new benefit can get it?

What activities or actions are the most important to live an independent life?

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## Question 7

How can we make sure that the new benefit takes into account the way a person's health condition can change?

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## Question 8

When a person makes a claim to the new benefit, should we take account of any aids or adaptations that they use?

What aids and adaptations should we take into account?

Should we only take aids and adaptations into account if the person already uses them? Or should we take aids and adaptations into account that a person could use and get hold of easily?

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## Question 9

How could we make the way a person asks for benefit better.  
For example

- How could we make the claim form easier to fill in?
- How could we tell people about the new benefit so that they know what the benefit is for and who is likely to get the benefit?

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## Question 10

Who are the best people to tell us about the needs of the person asking for benefit?

What information will we need to make it clear what the person can and cannot do?

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## Question 11

An important part of the new benefit may be talking face to face with an independent person about how well you can do the things you need to do to take part in everyday life.

What good things and bad things may this bring?

Is there any time when it would not be right to say that a person had to meet an independent person face to face, either in the person's own home or somewhere else?

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## Question 12

What should we use to decide how often we should look at a claim again and check it?

Should the way we look at a claim again depend on the needs of the person and their health condition or disability?

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## Question 13

The new benefit will be easier for people to understand, so we will expect people to tell us when things change in their lives.

How can we get people to tell us about the changes in their lives?

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## Question 14

What types of help and advice are people who will ask for the new benefit likely to need?

Would it help if we told people to get help and advice and where to get it from?

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## Question 15

How do disabled people pay for their aids and adaptations at the moment?

Should disabled people be allowed to use the new benefit to pay for a one-off cost?

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## Question 16

What are the main differences we should think about when we are dealing with claims for children instead of adults?

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## Question 17

How important or useful has **Disability Living Allowance** been in getting people to use other services or to get other benefits?

What can we do to make things better?

At the moment people who get **Disability Living Allowance** automatically get help from other benefits and services, like the Blue Badge scheme and the Warm Front scheme.

What would it mean to disabled people if they did not automatically get help from these other benefits or services?

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## Question 18

What information about the disabled person could we share with other services or government departments to stop the disabled person having to tell lots of people the same thing?

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## Question 19

How would our ideas for the new benefit affect different equality groups? For example, the equality groups looking at disability, age, race, gender, **sexual orientation** and religion and belief.

### Sexual orientation

This is about whether a person is

- heterosexual – sexually attracted to people of the other sex.
- lesbian – a woman who is sexually attracted to women.
- gay – a man who is sexually attracted to men.
- bisexual – sexually attracted to men and women.
- asexual – not sexually attracted to men or women

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## Question 20

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about our plans?

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## Word list

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This is money that people aged 65 or over may be able to get if they need someone to help look after them because they are disabled .....6

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- asexual – not sexually attracted to men or women ..... 22

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