



Tuesday 22 June 2010

## **Concern at Budget announcement on Disability Living Allowance**

The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign has released a statement expressing its concerns at the new assessments for the Disability Living Allowance announced in the Budget today.

**Nic Bungay, Head of Policy and Campaigns, commented:**

The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign is concerned at the decision in today's Budget to introduce medical assessments for everyone claiming Disability Living Allowance - a payment made to recognise the extra cost of disability.

We are appalled that this decision has been announced as a cost cutting measure, revealing the intention for the medical assessments to reduce the numbers of people receiving this essential support. As a charity supporting people with muscle disease we have particular concerns about these assessments because, as with many rare illnesses, many medical staff do not have the expertise or knowledge of the condition to make a fair assessment.

To ensure that people with neuromuscular conditions have the support of the DLA the assessment process must be carried out by a consultant with an expertise in muscle disease. In this way, the government must learn lessons from the introduction of the Work Capability Assessment for the Employment and Support Allowance where people with neuromuscular conditions have battled against a privately run assessment by a healthcare professional who does not recognise or understand their rare and complex condition, and often been denied much-needed support.

We call on the government to work with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign and our members to make sure that people with neuromuscular conditions continue to receive the support they need to live independently.

For more information about the Disability Living Allowance announcement, please get in touch:

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