

ODI MONTHLY RESEARCH SUMMARY – July 2007

The aim of this monthly summary is to disseminate briefing on new research according to key ODI themes such as; Young People, Human Rights, Employment, Independent Living and Older People. This summary may not cover all disability related research reports of interest published in the last month. If you feel there is an important report I have missed please forward to me and I will include in the next summary.

[Note - The views expressed in these reports are not necessarily those held by the ODI or any other Government Department].

Independent Living

Research and development work relating to assistive technology

2006-07. Department of Health

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_076552

This report covers research and development work carried out by or on behalf of any government department that might increase the range of activities and independence or well being of disabled people. The report describes the wide range of government funded projects supporting the development, introduction and evaluation of assistive technology.

Employment and Benefits

Knowing and understanding Disability and Carers Service customers

DWP Research Report No. 439. By Janine Hawkins, Carol Goldstone and Meena Bhagat of Carol Goldstone Associates

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs2007.asp#knowing>

This report presents the findings of a qualitative study of the experiences of Disability and Carers Service (DCS) customers, namely claimants of Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. The report examines views on the sources of awareness of disability benefits, the different stages and experiences of the application and disputes process, along with an evaluation of customer perceptions of DCS staff and services. Six key conclusions and recommendations are proposed.

The take-up rate of Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance: Feasibility study.

DWP Research Report No. 442. By Diana Kasparova, Alan Marsh and David Wilkinson

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs2007.asp#takeupdis>

This project represents the first of potentially three stages of research on the feasibility of estimating the DLA/AA take-up rate and a complementary study to it. Being methodological in nature, the research does not question the current level of fraud and error. Nor does it aim to suggest whether or how the policies and/or practices relating to the benefits in question should change.

On the basis of a desk-based review of documentation relating to claims, interviews with key stakeholders, investigation of existing data and analysis of potential approaches to estimating take-up of DLA/AA, the study puts forward a measure of take-up and recommends an approach to its estimation.

Evaluation of Residential Training provision

DWP Research Report No. 448. By Rita Griffiths, Stuart Durkin and Alison Mitchell
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs2007.asp#evalofres>

This report presents the findings of an evaluation of Residential Training (RT) provision. RT is an employment programme funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) which provides vocational training, rehabilitation and work experience within a supportive and specialist residential setting designed to add value to mainstream training. The programme aims to help long-term unemployed adults with disabilities and serious health conditions who are unable to access suitable local training, to move off benefits into sustained employment or self-employment. Frequently, customers have multiple disadvantages and complex barriers to employment including physical and learning disabilities, mental health conditions and drug and alcohol problems.

The aim of the study was to assess how effective RT was in helping long-term unemployed people with disabilities make the transition from benefits into work. The research comprised a total of 210 in-depth, face-to-face interviews with key stakeholders including RTC staff, Jobcentre Plus Disability Employment Advisers (DEAs), and current and former RT customers. Fieldwork took place between April and August 2006.

Young People

Can we count them? Disabled children and their households

Janet (2007). Full Research Report. ESRC End of Award Report, RES-000-22-1725. Swindon: ESRC

A team from the Disability Studies Research Group at the University of Warwick carried out this study, funded by the *Economic and Social Research Council*, to scope existing quantitative national and regional data sources on disabled children and to consider their strengths and limitations in order to inform the future development of more robust data. Included amongst the report's findings are analysis of the prevalence of disabled children, the implications of using different definitions and a user guide to data sources.