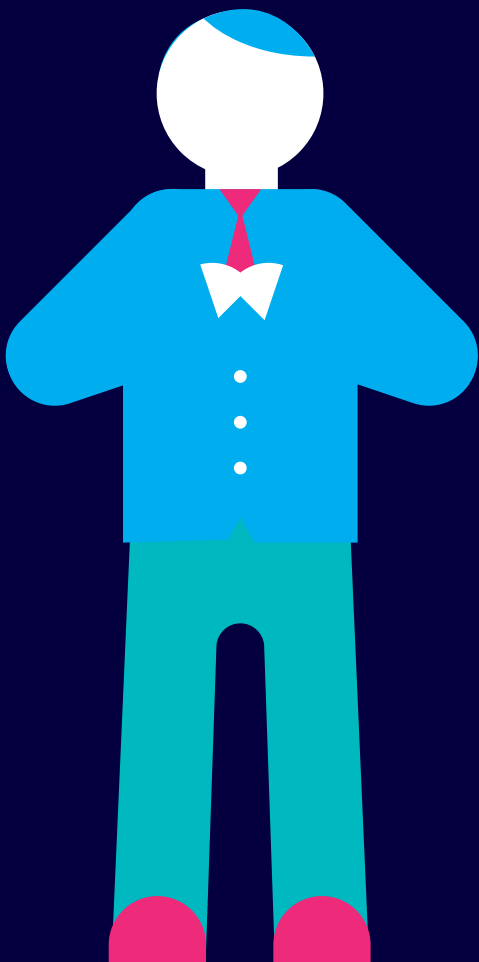




Make Work Pay for People with Disabilities
Recommendation 9(a)
National Survey 2018





Make Work Pay
for People with
Disabilities:

National Survey 2018

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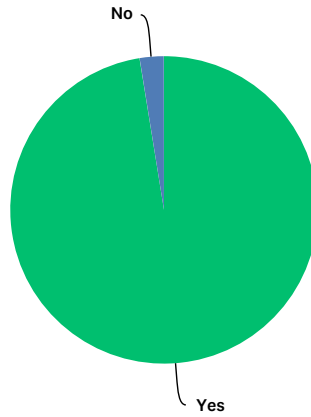
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Make Work Pay recommendation 9(a): national survey

- The survey was created on Friday, the 9th of March 2018. It closed on the morning of the 16th of April, 2018.
- There were 3,297 total responses, with 2,539 fully completing the survey.
- What follows is the response data of the Make Work Pay recommendation 9(a), by question. Afterwards there is a selection of cross-tabulated data that provides some views of disposition towards the proposal and timeframe according to disability type and expectation of future education, training or employment.
- The key question in the survey is question 12, which asks about disposition towards the proposal and which allowed responses by a comment explaining their positions.
- In total there were 464 of these comments. While they can be sorted into increasing the data for Q12 regarding level of support/opposition, a sample of some of these commentaries is provided as an appendix.

Q1 Does your family currently receive Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA)?

Answered: 3,297 Skipped: 0

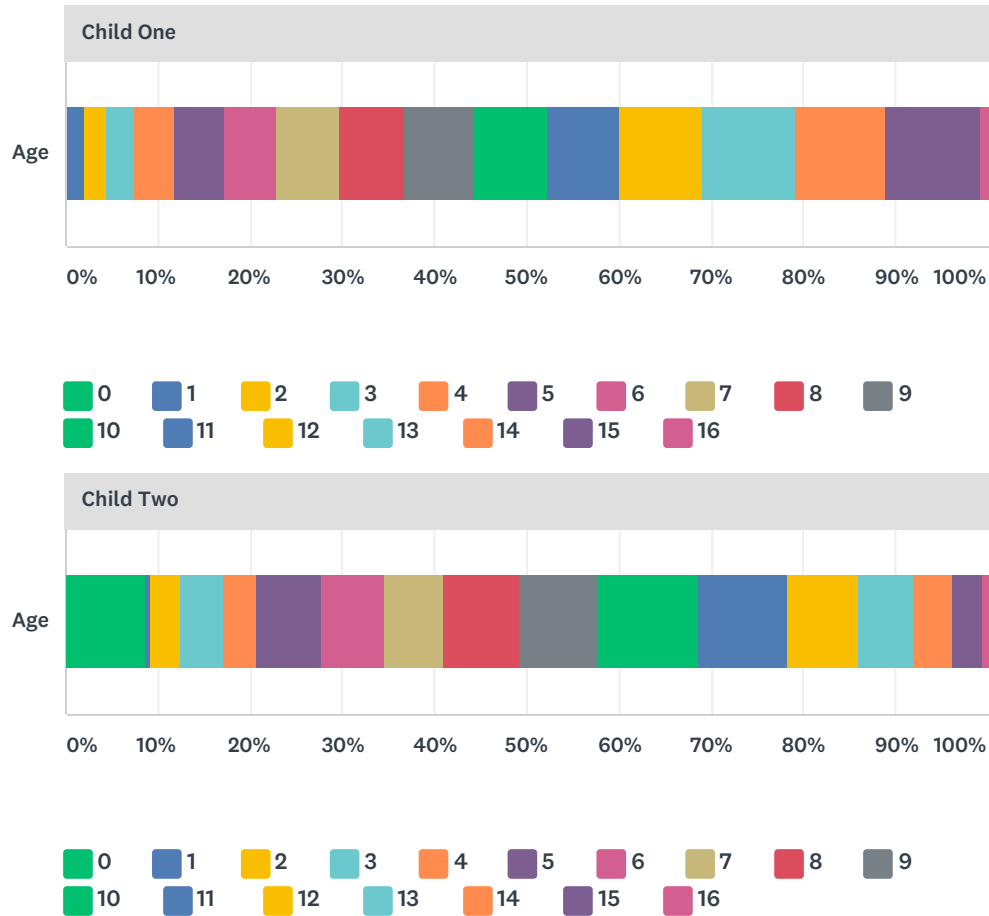


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	97.51%	3,215
No	2.49%	82
TOTAL		3,297

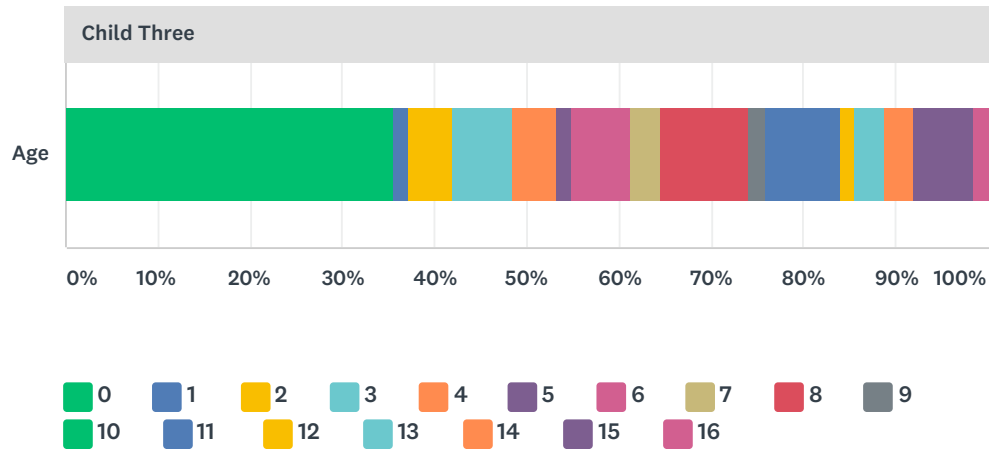
Question 1 allowed the survey to discover how many of the respondents were active recipients of Domiciliary Care Allowance.

Q2 What is the current age of the children for whom are receiving DCA?

Answered: 3,092 Skipped: 205



Make Work Pay recommendation 9(a): national consultation



Child One																		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	TOTAL
Age	0.26%	1.79%	2.44%	2.95%	4.35%	5.29%	5.62%	6.69%	7.08%	7.37%	8.12%	7.89%	9.12%	9.97%	9.81%	10.49%	0.71%	
	8	55	75	91	134	163	173	206	218	227	250	243	281	307	304	323	22	3,080

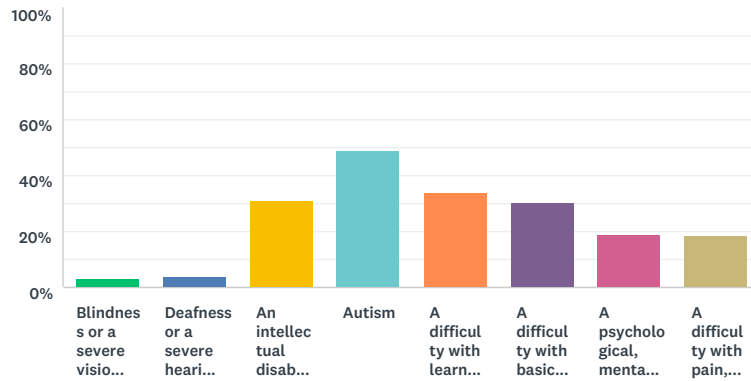
Child Two																		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	TOTAL
Age	8.45%	0.56%	3.10%	4.51%	3.66%	7.32%	7.61%	6.20%	8.16%	8.16%	11.55%	9.58%	7.32%	5.92%	4.22%	3.10%	0.56%	
	30	2	11	16	13	26	27	22	29	29	41	34	26	21	15	11	2	355

Child Three																		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	TOTAL
Age	35.48%	1.61%	4.84%	6.45%	4.84%	1.61%	6.45%	3.23%	9.68%	1.61%	0.00%	8.06%	1.61%	3.23%	3.23%	6.45%	1.61%	
	22	1	3	4	3	1	4	2	6	1	0	5	1	2	2	4	1	62

Question 2 provided some visibility on the variety of ages of the of the respondents' children. Of those responding about their first qualifying child, the distribution was generally quite even, with some increase as their child grew closer to 17 years old.

Q3 Child One What is the nature of your child’s (or children’s) disability?

Answered: 3,168 Skipped: 129

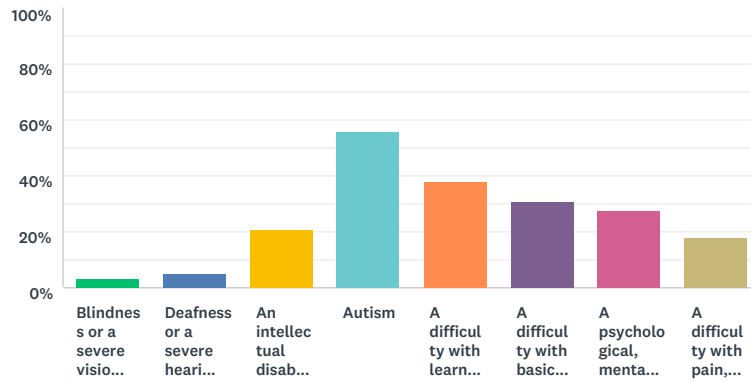


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Blindness or a severe vision impairment	101
Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	133
An intellectual disability	977
Autism	1,557
A difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating	1,072
A difficulty with basic physical activities, for example, washing, dressing, climbing stairs, going to the toilet	968
A psychological, mental health or emotional difficulty	603
A difficulty with pain, breathing, or any other chronic illness or condition Total	584
Respondents: 3,168 (respondents selected one or more categories)	

This question, which was repeated for each child for whom it was relevant, showed a high number of the respondents were parents of children with autism. This trend was repeated for people who were responding to the survey who had a second or third child qualifying for DCA.

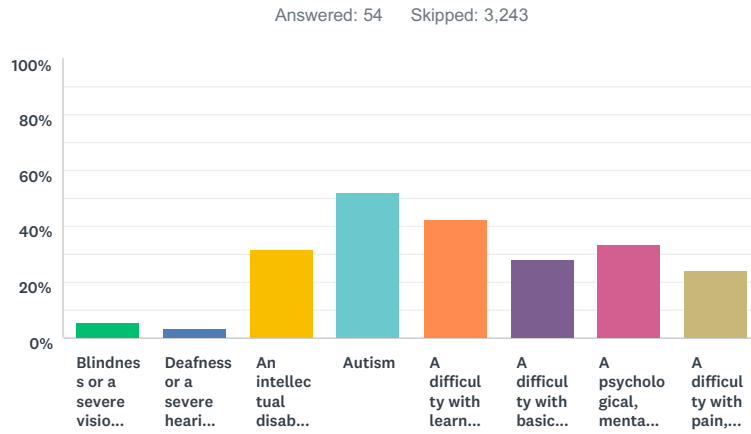
Q4 Child Two If you do not have a second child with a disability you may leave this question blank. What is the nature of your child's (or children's) disability?

Answered: 381 Skipped: 2,916



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Blindness or a severe vision impairment	13
Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	19
An intellectual disability	81
Autism	212
A difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating	144
A difficulty with basic physical activities, for example, washing, dressing, climbing stairs, going to the toilet	119
A psychological, mental health or emotional difficulty	104
A difficulty with pain, breathing, or any other chronic illness or condition	69
Total Respondents: 381 (respondents selected one or more categories)	

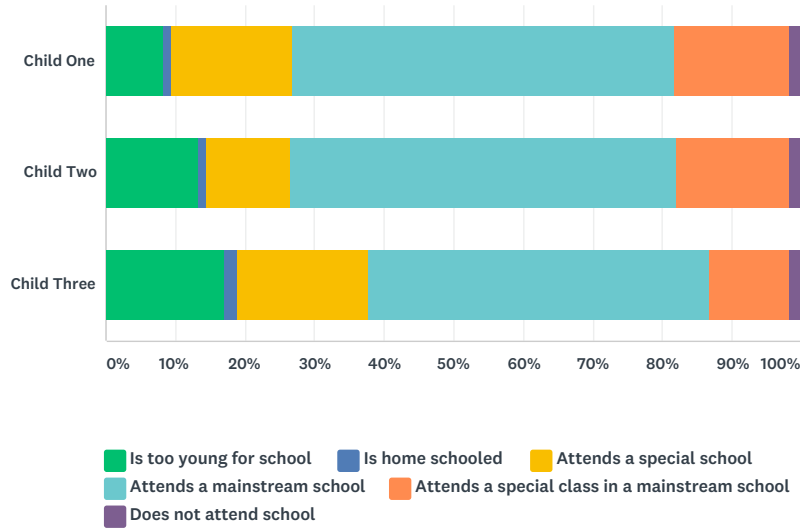
Q5 Child Three. If you do not have a third child with a disability you may leave this question blank. What is the nature of your child's (or children's) disability?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Blindness or a severe vision impairment	5.56%	3
Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	3.70%	2
An intellectual disability	31.48%	17
Autism	51.85%	28
A difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating	42.59%	23
A difficulty with basic physical activities, for example, washing, dressing, climbing stairs, going to the toilet	27.78%	15
A psychological, mental health or emotional difficulty	33.33%	18
A difficulty with pain, breathing, or any other chronic illness or condition	24.07%	13
Total Respondents: 54 (respondents selected one or more categories)		

Q6 Does your child (or children) currently attend a school or training institution?

Answered: 3,168 Skipped: 129

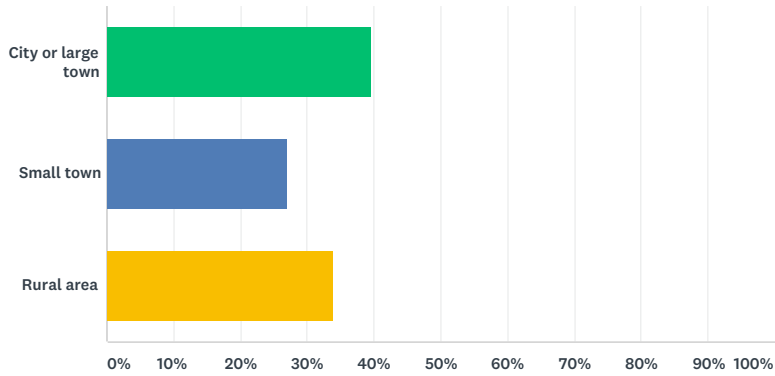


	IS TOO YOUNG FOR SCHOOL	IS HOME SCHOOLED	ATTENDS A SPECIAL SCHOOL	ATTENDS A MAINSTREAM SCHOOL	ATTENDS A SPECIAL CLASS IN A MAINSTREAM SCHOOL	DOES NOT ATTEND SCHOOL	TOTAL
Child One	8.27% 261	1.14% 36	17.58% 555	54.53% 1,721	16.79% 530	1.68% 53	3,156
Child Two	13.11% 51	1.29% 5	12.60% 49	54.24% 211	16.97% 66	1.80% 7	389
Child Three	16.98% 9	1.89% 1	18.87% 10	49.06% 26	11.32% 6	1.89% 1	53

Question 6 allowed the survey to discover the type of participation in education that applied to the children of the respondents.

Q7 How would you describe the area where you live?

Answered: 3,168 Skipped: 129

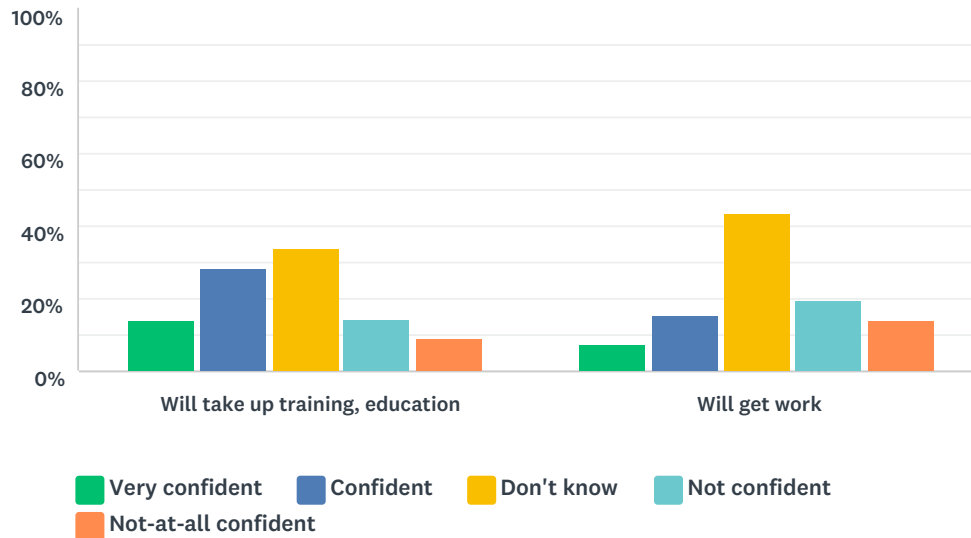


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City or large town	39.09%	1,245
Small town	27.06%	862
Rural area	33.85%	1,078
Total Respondents: 3,168 distinct respondents, 17 made more than one selection		

The results of the answers to question 7 show more than 60% of respondents live in small towns and rural areas.

Q8 How confident are you that your child (or children) who is getting a DCA payment will take up training, education or work?(Please select from range: Very confident to Not-at-all confident)

Answered: 2,547 Skipped: 721

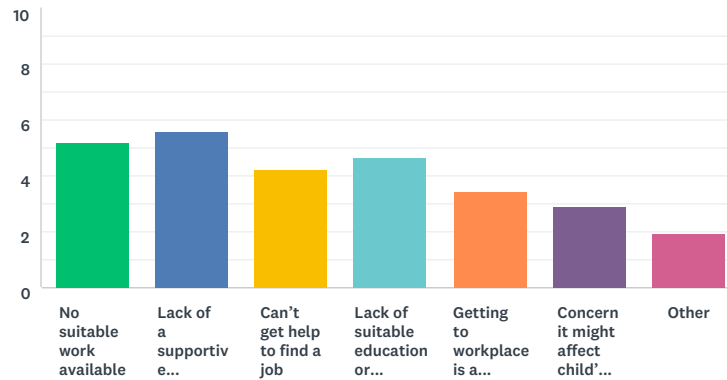


	VERY CONFIDENT (1)	CONFIDENT (2)	DON'T KNOW (3)	NOT CONFIDENT (4)	NOT-AT-ALL CONFIDENT (5)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Will take up training, education	14.13% 360	28.11% 716	34.24% 872	14.53% 370	9.46% 229	2,547	2.76
Will get work	7.55% 169	15.41% 345	43.59% 976	19.34% 433	14.11% 316	2,239	3.18

The response to this question indicates that a higher proportion of people were confident or very confident that their child (or children) would take up training or education than the number who were confident or very confident that their child (or children) would get work.

**Q9 What is your main concern about your child's (or children's) future access to work?
(1=most relevant, 7=least relevant)**

Answered: 2,576 Skipped: 721

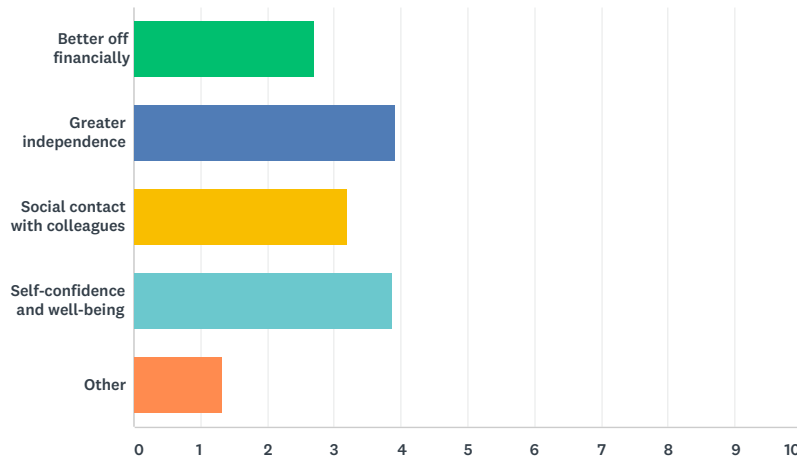


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
No suitable work available	27.36% 705	25.16% 648	17.04% 439	14.71% 379	6.99% 180	5.43% 140	3.30% 85	2,576	5.22
Lack of a supportive workplace	33.21% 849	30.32% 785	16.51% 427	9.17% 238	5.52% 144	3.65% 92	1.63% 41	2,576	5.59
Can't get help to find a job	4.84% 122	12.74% 321	25.75% 649	27.74% 699	17.50% 441	9.01% 227	2.42% 61	2,576	4.23
Lack of suitable education or training course available	14.75% 380	15.83% 408	22.16% 572	24.38% 628	13.66% 352	7.26% 187	1.90% 49	2,576	4.64
Getting to workplace is a problem (for example, no transport or no parking)	5.28% 136	7.53% 194	10.05% 259	14.17% 365	35.13% 905	20.57% 530	6.87% 177	2,576	3.44
Concern it might affect child's entitlements (such as social welfare payment or medical card)	7.61% 196	6.32% 163	5.55% 143	7.10% 183	14.79% 381	42.24% 1,088	16.38% 422	2,576	2.91
Other	7.14% 184	2.02% 52	2.76% 71	2.72% 70	5.86% 151	11.92% 307	67.59% 1,741	2,576	1.97

The answers to question 9 revealed that people are concerned that there will be no suitable work available for their child (or children), that, if there is work, the workplace will not be supportive, and that there was a lack of suitable education or training course available.

Q10 What might be the future benefits to your child (or children) of taking up or being in work?
(1=most relevant, 5=least relevant)

Answered: 2,576 Skipped: 721

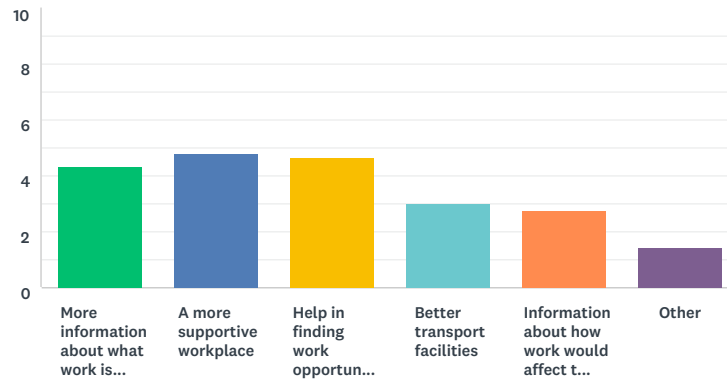


	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Better off financially	13.70% 353	11.53% 297	13.59% 350	53.53% 1,379	7.65% 197	2,576	2.70
Greater independence	33.46% 862	34.55% 890	23.29% 600	6.83% 176	1.86% 48	2,576	3.91
Social contact with colleagues	9.63% 248	26.55% 684	40.99% 1,056	20.61% 531	2.21% 57	2,576	3.21
Self-confidence and well-being	39.05% 1,006	25.47% 656	20.54% 529	12.46% 321	2.48% 64	2,576	3.86
Other	4.15% 107	1.90% 49	1.59% 40	6.56% 169	85.79% 2,210	2,576	1.32

While there was a fairly even distribution in the responses , the more preferred benefits of work were identified as providing greater independence, self-confidence and well-being, and social contact with colleagues.

**Q11 What are the most important things that would help your child (or children) overcome barriers to getting work?
(1=most relevant, 6=least relevant)**

Answered: 2,576 Skipped: 721

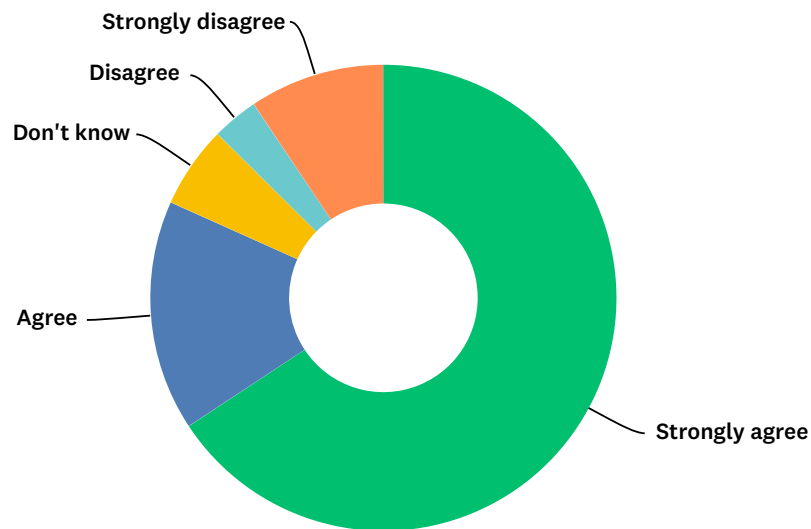


	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
More information about what work is available	18.48% 476	29.62% 763	29.97% 772	13.59% 350	6.52% 168	1.82% 47	2,576	4.34
A more supportive workplace	36.53% 941	27.60% 711	22.44% 578	8.15% 210	3.65% 94	1.63% 42	2,576	4.80
Help in finding work opportunities or other help such as education and training	31.13% 802	27.68% 713	25.97% 669	9.36% 241	4.00% 103	1.86% 47	2,576	4.67
Better transport facilities	4.46% 115	7.76% 200	11.22% 289	39.36% 1,014	32.69% 842	4.50% 114	2,576	2.98
Information about how work would affect them financially	4.46% 115	5.90% 152	9.20% 237	26.32% 678	46.35% 1,194	7.38% 189	2,576	2.73
Other	4.93% 127	1.44% 37	1.20% 31	2.83% 73	6.79% 175	82.80% 2,081	2,576	1.47

The responses to question 11, about what is most important in overcoming barriers to getting work, mirrors the response to question 9 and again reflects the focus on workplaces being supportive, getting help in finding work, and being better informed about what work is available to people with disabilities .

Q12 "The Make Work Pay report recommended that Domiciliary Care Allowance be paid to parents or guardians until the child is 18 years of age, and that the qualifying age for Disability Allowance would change from 16 to 18 years of age."

Answered: 2,075 Commented: 474

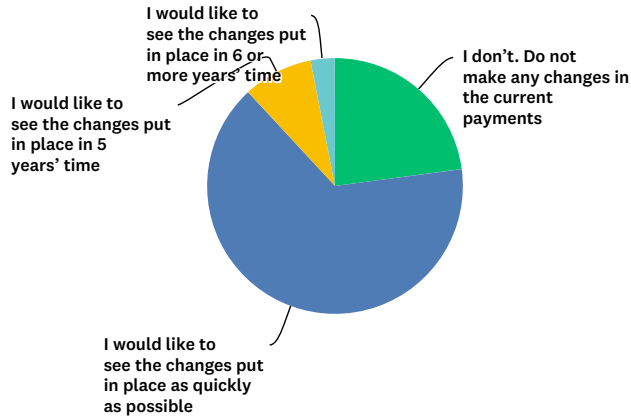


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	65.78%	1,365
Agree	15.90%	330
Don't know	5.74%	119
Disagree	3.28%	68
Strongly disagree	9.30%	193
Please use this space to tell us the reasons for your answer. Please tell us why you agree, disagree or don't know.	0.00%	0
TOTAL		2,075

Question 12 relates to the respondents disposition towards the policy proposal. The results indicate strong support for the proposal, but also identifies a significant proportion of people who disagreed or strongly disagreed. This question allowed respondents to explain their position using a comment box. The total comments were 464 and a sample of these are provided in the appendix. The department and the Make Work Pay stakeholder focus group will carefully consider the results of this survey question.

Q13 The Make Work Pay report did not say when the recommended changes in the Domiciliary Care Allowance and the Disability Allowance payments for those aged 16 to 18 should happen. When do you think they should start?

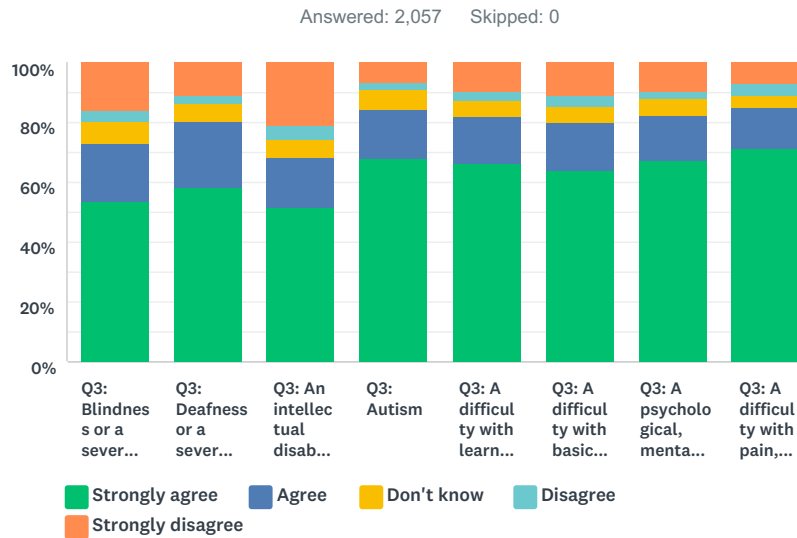
Answered: 2,539 Skipped: 758



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I don't. Do not make any changes in the current payments	22.91%	580
I would like to see the changes put in place as quickly as possible	65.22%	1,664
I would like to see the changes put in place in 5 years' time	8.82%	219
I would like to see the changes put in place in 6 or more years' time	3.06%	76
TOTAL		2,539

Question 13 also directly relates to the respondents disposition to the practical implementation of the policy proposal and casts the proposal. The responses to this question will be considered together with those for question 12.

Cross-tabulation of Q12 and Q3

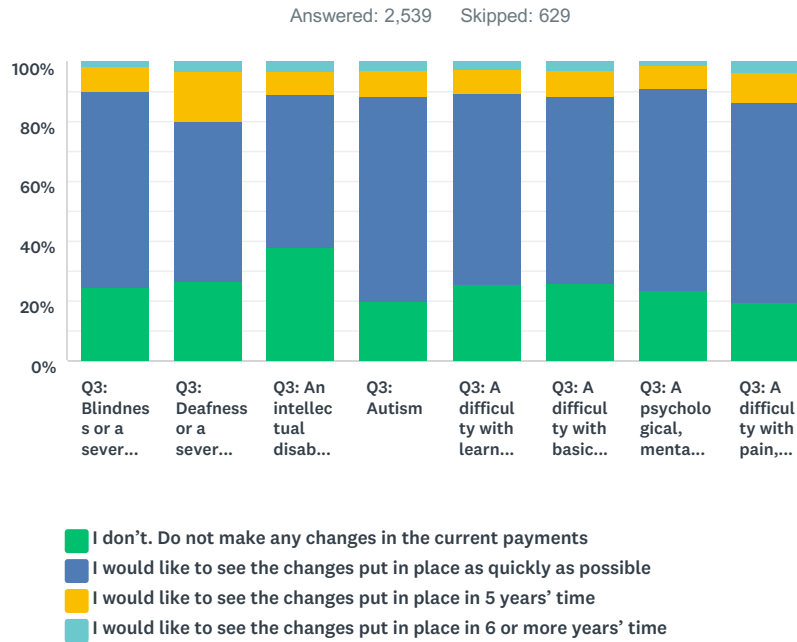


	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DON'T KNOW	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
Q3: Blindness or a severe vision impairment	53.57% 30	19.64% 11	7.14% 4	3.57% 2	16.07% 9	2.72% 56
Q3: Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	58.33% 49	21.43% 18	5.95% 5	3.57% 3	10.71% 9	3.99% 84
Q3: An intellectual disability	51.81% 329	16.54% 105	6.30% 40	4.25% 27	21.10% 134	30.68% 635
Q3: Autism	68.27% 695	16.31% 166	6.29% 64	2.65% 27	6.48% 66	49.05% 1,018
Q3: A difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating	66.28% 462	15.64% 109	5.45% 38	2.87% 20	9.61% 67	33.64% 697
Q3: A difficulty with basic physical activities, for example, washing, dressing, climbing stairs, going to the toilet	63.82% 404	15.80% 100	5.53% 35	3.95% 25	10.90% 69	30.48% 633
Q3: A psychological, mental health or emotional difficulty	67.02% 252	15.43% 58	5.32% 20	2.66% 10	9.57% 36	18.04% 376
Q3: A difficulty with pain, breathing, or any other chronic illness or condition	71.47% 268	13.60% 51	4.27% 16	4.00% 15	6.67% 25	17.99% 375
Total Respondents	1,365	330	119	68	193	2,075

Q12: "The Make Work Pay report recommended that Domiciliary Care Allowance be paid to parents or guardians until the child is 18 years of age, and that the qualifying age for Disability Allowance would change from 16 to 18 years of age." Please indicate on the scale how you feel about the above statement

Q3 Child One What is the nature of your child's (or children's) disability?

Cross-tabulation of Q13 and Q3

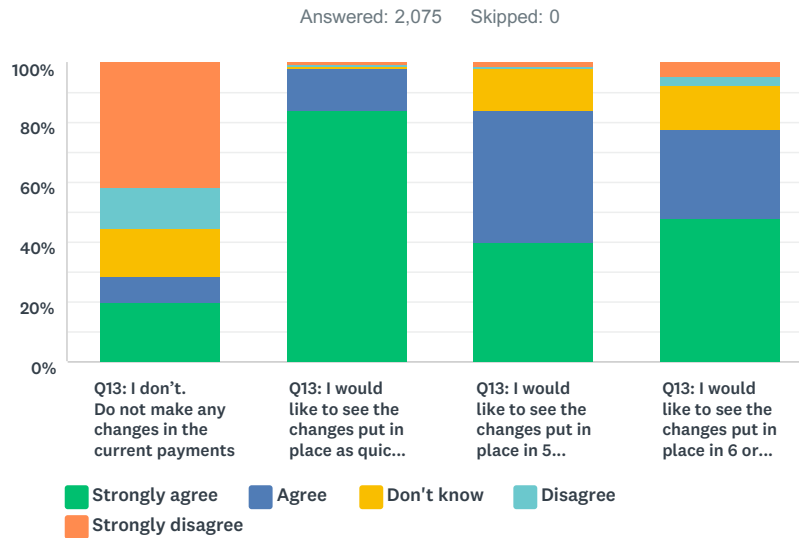


	I DON'T. DO NOT MAKE ANY CHANGES IN THE CURRENT PAYMENTS	I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CHANGES PUT IN PLACE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE	I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CHANGES PUT IN PLACE IN 5 YEARS' TIME	I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CHANGES PUT IN PLACE IN 6 OR MORE YEARS' TIME	TOTAL
Q3: Blindness or a severe vision impairment	24.29% 17	65.71% 46	8.57% 6	1.43% 1	2.82% 70
Q3: Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	26.73% 28	53.47% 56	16.83% 17	2.97% 3	4.07% 104
Q3: An intellectual disability	37.93% 301	51.09% 414	7.92% 62	3.07% 24	31.52% 801
Q3: Autism	20.19% 256	68.38% 873	8.53% 106	2.90% 36	50.04% 1,271
Q3: A difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating	25.35% 220	64.27% 563	7.90% 67	2.59% 22	34.18% 872
Q3: A difficulty with basic physical activities, for example, washing, dressing, climbing stairs, going to the toilet	26.00% 199	62.53% 480	8.67% 65	2.93% 22	30.23% 767
Q3: A psychological, mental health or emotional difficulty	23.38% 112	67.75% 327	7.79% 36	1.30% 6	18.64% 481
Q3: A difficulty with pain, breathing, or any other chronic illness or condition	19.68% 89	66.97% 306	9.73% 43	3.62% 16	17.79% 454
Total Respondents	580	1,664	219	76	2,539

Q13 The Make Work Pay report did not say when the recommended changes in the Domiciliary Care Allowance and the Disability Allowance payments for those aged 16 to 18 should happen. When do you think they should start?

Q3 Child One What is the nature of your child's (or children's) disability?

Cross-tabulation of Q12 and Q13



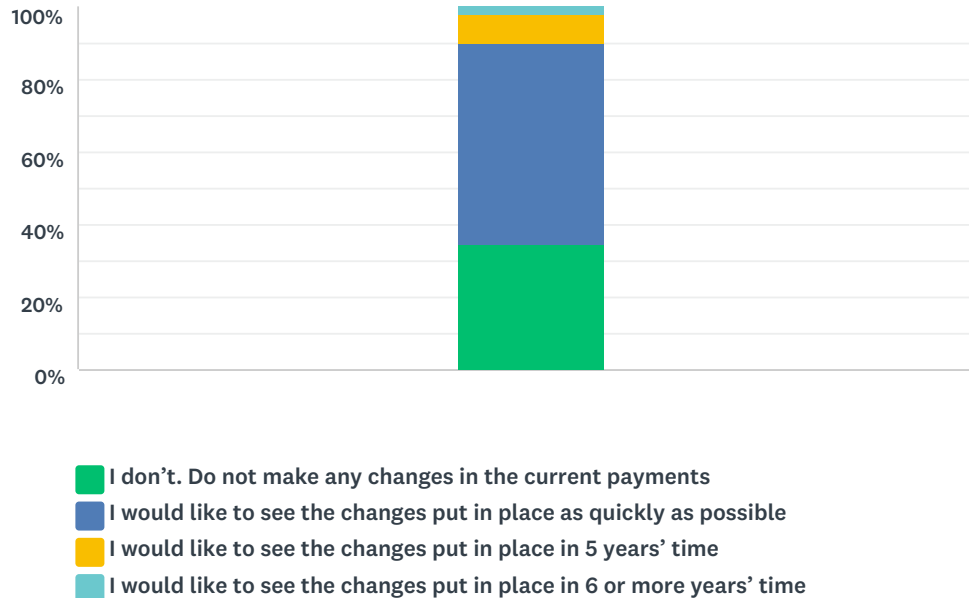
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DON'T KNOW	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	
Q13: I don't. Do not make any changes in the current payments	20.14% 87	8.29% 35	15.88% 67	14.22% 62	42.18% 178	20.66% 429	
Q13: I would like to see the changes put in place as quickly as possible	84.01% 1,172	13.89% 193	1.23% 19	0.14% 2	0.72% 10	67.19% 1,396	
Q13: I would like to see the changes put in place in 5 years' time	39.78% 74	44.09% 82	13.98% 26	1.08% 2	1.08% 2	9.04% 186	
Q13: I would like to see the changes put in place in 6 or more years' time	47.76% 32	29.85% 20	14.93% 10	2.99% 2	4.48% 3	3.26% 67	
Total Respondents	1,365	330	122	68	193	0	2,075

Q12 "The Make Work Pay report recommended that Domiciliary Care Allowance be paid to parents or guardians until the child is 18 years of age, and that the qualifying age for Disability Allowance would change from 16 to 18 years of age." Please indicate on the scale how you feel about the above statement.

Q13 The Make Work Pay report did not say when the recommended changes in the Domiciliary Care Allowance and the Disability Allowance payments for those aged 16 to 18 should happen. When do you think they should start?

Cross tabulation of Q12 commenters and Q13

Answered Q12 using the "Comments" option: 464 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I don't. Do not make any changes in the current payments	33.19%	154
I would like to see the changes put in place as quickly as possible	57.76%	268
I would like to see the changes put in place in 5 years' time	7.11%	33
I would like to see the changes put in place in 6 or more years' time	1.94%	9
TOTAL		464

Q12 "The Make Work Pay report recommended that Domiciliary Care Allowance be paid to parents or guardians until the child is 18 years of age, and that the qualifying age for Disability Allowance would change from 16 to 18 years of age." Please indicate on the scale how you feel about the above statement.

Q13 The Make Work Pay report did not say when the recommended changes in the Domiciliary Care Allowance and the Disability Allowance payments for those aged 16 to 18 should happen. When do you think they should start?

Appendix

Sample of comments provided in answer to Q12.

Against We are against the proposed changes to the system. The fact that a child with a disability can leave school at 16 does not mean that most will and with lots of schools for disabilities catering for the kids until age 18, it is unlikely that many children with disabilities will opt out at age 16. Consideration must also be given to the fact many of these children will either be encouraged by their parents to remain on until age 18 and many of the children with an increased level of disability will not even be personally aware that they could leave school at 16 and will therefore continue by default and most probably because it is their parents wish that they do so. I do not know ANY parents of children with disabilities that would encourage their child to leave school early. School provides a critical support mechanism for parents of children with disabilities and it is preposterous to think that most parents would not encourage their child to continue in any education available to them. It is when children leave school that such parents and children are thrown into chaos because there aren't enough viable educational, training or employment opportunities available and so inevitably, rather than through choice, they fall into being dependent on the state. In some cases adequate daycare/supported work opportunities are not even available and so these children become victims of the state's inadequate response to their needs and not a deliberate burden on the state/taxpayer. For those with higher functioning disabilities, many will choose to stay on at school because 1) they are able and 2) they will want/be able to go to college with a view to attaining work. And so for all of these reasons, I don't see early leaving as the core problem in the poor employment figures of people with disabilities. It is accepted that there may be a small number of children with cognitive capacity who will choose to exit education early. If the concern is genuinely about early school leavers failing to access employment how come no figures are given on how many children with disabilities are leaving school at age 16? The paper does not give figures. Most of the children will continue in education which proves that it is what happens after school ends that causes the problem. The poor employment figures for people with disabilities is to do with the fact that there are limited viable job opportunities. You cannot avail of education and training or jobs if they are simply not there. Overall, I do not believe that the numbers of children with disabilities leaving school early is the problem in people failing to enter employment rather it is the failure of the system following second level education that leaves people with disabilities with no employment future. It is a failure of the system, not the individuals, many of whom would like and would be capable of some form of employment. Changing disability payments on the premise of supporting people to gain employment is a misnomer. The credibility of the argument is also diluted by the fact that no figures in relation to the number of early school leavers with disabilities are provided. I am firmly of the view that most parents of children

with disabilities would be encouraging their children to enter the workforce if at all possible – so much else will have been a struggle for these children all their lives that it is hard to imagine any reasonable parent wanting to curb the independence of their disabled child further. As a parent who knows that my son will not be able to work, I would give anything to be in a position where a future in employment was possible. If children with disabilities do not appear frequently enough in employment as adults based on current figures it is because there are not enough employment opportunities and lack of supports to get to the point that a person with a disability has enough skills or is taken seriously as a prospective employee who can contribute to the workforce. Those lucky enough to find a job then frequently fall foul to the fact that there are inadequate supports for them and their employer to sustain employment. The real change that needs to come about is attitudinal in nature. We think the entire premise of the recommendation is wrong – ‘changing disability payments for better employment outcomes’ the premise should be that disability payments should support better quality of life for people with disabilities. As parents who know that our son will not be able to work (due to the nature of his disability) we feel that changing the current system disadvantages us and other parents in our situation. Why should our son be disadvantaged in terms of financial support from the state because he will never avail of employment opportunities? It is not just arguable, but probable, that those people with disabilities who go on to avail of employment opportunities will earn more than my son will ever be able to do in his lifetime. My son may require more supportive therapies throughout his life (OT/Physio etc) and why should he be denied the opportunity to pay for that by having his payments cut until he is 18 (DA affording a larger monthly income to the individual than DCA does to the parent). It should not be a one-size-fits-all approach and the government needs to take into account that disability payments/supports should be based on need – not giving to one portion (the employable portion who can give back to the government by paying tax on their earnings!) at the expense of those who are not in a position to work and therefore not able to contribute in tax. The proposed change to the system would seem to be nothing more than a cost cutting exercise for the government to make meagre savings (in the overall scheme of the budget) by disadvantaging those with disabilities when it is arguable that they should be supporting them more financially across a number of disability support payments. To make the argument that this is supporting people with disability to gain employment is disingenuous. I would like to start that while parents of children with disabilities were made aware of this through the Domiciliary Care Allowance system that many parents will have struggled to find the time to respond as the demands on their time are frequently such that it difficult to attend to matters outside of the daily caring remit and as such there opinions will be missed. For this reason, a longer consultation period might be useful when accessing the opinions of disabled people or their families to allow more people to get their view noted.

4/6/2018 4:18 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Against My child will never work but will always need substantial occupational therapy and speech therapy both of which we have to pay privately even at 6 years old. Reducing his income would severely reduce the amount of assistance he has to help him function

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Against It is not clear from the recommendation if the Domiciliary Care Allowance will be increased to the rate of Disability Allowance from 16 to 18 years of age. If the Domiciliary Care Allowance is increased to the same rate of payment as the Disability Allowance for these two year then I would see merit in it. However if the rates remain the same and at the current rates this will result in a difference of €6,322. This is a significant amount of money for any household to be without and would have a negative and detrimental effect and impact particularly on the person with the disability and also the family. recommendation, because 3/31/2018 10:17 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Against My children are still at school, one in a special school, one in mainstream. They are at a crucial age developmentally and ,also, regarding their education. Removing financial supports now is extremely harsh and, to me, is discriminatory when compared to the age that supports are changed for all children in the state They still have additional needs and that has not changed over the past number of years. Adding to parental stress at this stage will most definitely have a negative impact on my childrens' lives..The impact of removing the DCA now is just to add more stress to my husband and I as parents who are already dealing with a most difficult and stressful situation. I am appealing to the government to reconsider this. 3/30/2018 6:18 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Against My family will receive €12,644 less if we agree to this change and will not get free travel until he is 18 years old. I will not be able to advocate for my child when applying for DA if he is 18years old when making application . 3/26/2018 4:41 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Against I want my daughter to become as independent as possible and would like her to start receiving her disability allowance from age 16 so she will have her own bank account and also be able to look after her own money. 3/20/2018 2:01 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Against Your main reason is to save money...you are not prioritizing the well being of my child. You have no compassion, understanding and no value to the many unpaid carers in this country. You've cut funding, given us long wait times for specialists, overcrowded hospitals. Cut out carers respite. Given no access to respite, no transport. Now you want us to accept less funds for our children. Shame on you. What jobs are there for intellectually moderate-severely disabled workers? There aren't even jobs for able bodied workers. Not only can't my child ever work, I had to give up my job to care full time. My partner is self employed and makes just enough that we don't get the carers allowance. Our child's needs are huge. We can barely meet our child's needs on DCA, now you want to rob his disability as well. Don't try to paint your cutting funds as progress. You know full well it isn't. 3/19/2018 6:43 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Against Absolutely not!!!! My child is suffering from a learning disability, severe emotional dysregulation, including Oppositional Defiant Disorder, ADHD, severe anxiety, and Autism. He is under the care of disability child services and Camhs. He is on ADHD medication to manage his impulsivity and explosive behaviours, along with Psychotropic medication (Risperdal, which is an antipsychotic medication) since he was 7 years of age. He finds school VERY difficult and frequently engages in work refusal at school. He has zero interest in learning and we feel we will be lucky if we can keep him in school until he is 15, despite

the support of a special Autism specific school. He will always be dependent on the state for disability allowance and is highly unlikely to be even willing to engage in any training programme, let alone hold down work of any kind. He has complicated mental health issues that will require balancing and high level of care for the rest of his life. My other son also has Autism, depression, anxiety and OCD. He is on disability allowance and in college at present, and he did not view the Disability Allowance Payment as a means to "opt out" of engaging in education and training and lean on the state instead, as suggested in the report's findings. It is very few children with a disability in my view that will have the cleverness to view DA at 16 as a means to leave school. All parents would have to do in this case is to not apply for DA for their child until they turn 18 if that's how they feel. I think this is wrong and if the government are adamant in making changes, then there should be an option for parents to apply for DA for their child at 16 or choose to remain on DCA until 18. Change should not be forced on us. They option should be there for parents to choose.

3/19/2018 5:43 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Against In my sons case he is deaf and wears hearing aids. He needs a lot of care and attention. When he turns 18 we will have to pay for his hearing aids which are expensive and I was going to save his DA money for this reason. Not all disabilities are supported where parents have to buy aids and when a child turns 18 yes they will be an adult still going to school and parents have to pay for this aids. DA would definitely help with this.

3/18/2018 6:20 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Against I strongly disagree, as a "one size fits all" approach cannot be used for such a variance of disabilities. To give you an example, I know of a huge cohort of parents who are in receipt of DCA who are delighted with this proposal as they know that their children will not qualify for Disability Allowance as the only condition their child has is Type 1 diabetes. Their responses are going to totally distort parents' feelings on this. In our case, sadly, our daughter will more than likely never be able to work because of her medical condition, so to arbitrarily take away a valuable benefit for the two years between 16 and 18 seems rather amoral to say the least.

3/15/2018 8:54 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Against My son was told he would get nearly 800 euros a month from 16. He was excited about saving this money to help fund his accommodation for college. He will have to travel over an hour otherwise on public transport will make a big impact on his health. This proposal is bad news for us. It will do the opposite for him as his saving money for future independence is reduced.

3/15/2018 9:06 AM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Against I strongly disagree, speaking for myself, I am parenting 3 children alone with no support. My oldest will be going to college and the next one will be in transition year and the youngest has profound intellectual disability coupled with seizures that are difficult to control. He needs round the clock supervision. I have just finished my Healthcare Support QQI Level to start searching for a job even if I am only going to work for the 15hours that I am allowed to work. Most time the family live from one week pay to the next - it is so difficult to make ends meet. If they start making the payment for the child at age 16, it is a weekly payment and it is one less responsibility. Even if you have to make any contribution towards anything for him it won't be much.

Yes: it means more € Parents of special needs kids. Need all the financial help they can get.

4/5/2018 9:22 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Yes: it means more € This payment would support the child to pursue further education and not just accept disability allowance and feel this is the future. Children are in school until they are 18 and this payment supports the additional financial strain of the families with children that have a disability.

4/4/2018 10:51 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Yes: it means more € I strongly agree because I think the parents or guardians would be better able to budget the money for the child until he/she was 18 years old.

4/4/2018 6:11 PM [Add Tags](#) – [View respondent's answers](#)



Yes: it means more € From what I've read my children wouldn't qualify for Disability Allowance and we would be left with nothing while they are still attending secondary school

Unsure I don't think it should be a one-size-fits-all approach. This whole process is somewhat insulting as it take the disabled as a homogeneous group. I am dyslexic but have had a better than average life, held a great job, education and raising my family. I am 'disabled' but I am nothing like my child who is incapable of any speech, reading, following a story, or indicating any level of understanding. What I am getting at is the idea that a single 'handout' is appropriate to all who fall into the box labelled "disabled" is very unfair. Some people have obvious and pressing needs for substantial support. Others may very well do perfectly well with a little inclusion and support from those around them. My child is such. No amount of money given today will effect the future more than what she gets for free from us, the teachers in school and the wider community who go out of their way to insure no-one is left outside. As for the change at 16... well, we are 8 years away from that so not able to say how it will effect us. I do know that many children do have greater and more costly needs as they grow older. Ask any parent and they will tell you that the late teen years are brutal. Some will benefit as their child's develops and achieves more... but the losers in this case will be those more severely disabled who will remain, and increase their dependence on their family, should they still have one capable of supporting them. I would watch out for unexpected consequences from changes While we should try to target help in a fairer way, we also must avoid pushing others beyond their ability to coup. Most will benefit from being encouraged to stay in school longer, but how many really wish to leave anyway. School is the highlight of my child's day and money means nothing to them. All it does is pays for a new computer or handheld that can be used for PECS, or buy the right type of clothes that doesn't itch... For our kids this will not improve their future, they want to go out... be it school, training or work... or even the park to feed the ducks. These kids just need the places to train and work to do, or at least some reason to get up.

