

Ecas campaigns update – September 2005

Recent Ecas activity in consultation, campaigning and research includes:

HM Government, Department of Work and Pensions Disability Consultation Event 2 Sep 2005.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Manager attended a full day consultation event on the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit paper "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People" (see http://www.strategy.gov.uk/work_areas/disability/index.asp). This provided an opportunity to provide comment on the main themes such as the introduction of an Office for Disability Issues and the proposed National Forum for organisations of Disabled People. The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire attended the event. There was some lively and constructive debate, which will doubtless continue.

Disability Rights Commission debate "Whose risk is it anyway?"

The Disability Rights Commission is running a debate entitled "Whose risk is it anyway?" (see <http://www.drc.gov.uk/disabilitydebate/more/risk/>). Ecas has made a detailed submission supporting the basic theme that people should be able to control their own lives but pointing out the difficulties businesses and charities face with, amongst other things, health & safety legislation and insurance. Ecas would welcome a more co-ordinated approach with organisations such as the DRC and HSE working together to give clear and consistent advice. This view has received encouraging support from the Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, Nigel Griffiths MP.

NHS Wheelchair survey

Ecas has distributed NHS survey forms on wheelchairs to many clients, as we are keen to support the NHS in its research.

Current work

Our Centenary Project is continuing, with our sponsored PhD student at the University of Edinburgh. We will bring an update on that soon.

We are considering responses to two City of Edinburgh consultation documents – the "Draft Walking Strategy" and the "Multi Equalities Scheme".