

**SHAPING ATTITUDES  
CHALLENGING INJUSTICE  
CHANGING LIVES**



**London Lighthouse: 21 June 2011**

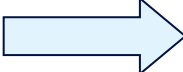
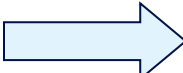
# **Benefits reform & HIV**

**Sarah Radcliffe**

**Senior Policy & Campaigns Officer, NAT**

# Overview



1. **Disability benefits and HIV**
2. **Incapacity Benefit**   
**Employment and Support Allowance**
3. **Disability Living Allowance**   
**Personal Independence Payment**
4. **Housing Benefit changes: capped LHA, extension of shared accommodation rate**
5. **What NAT is doing**

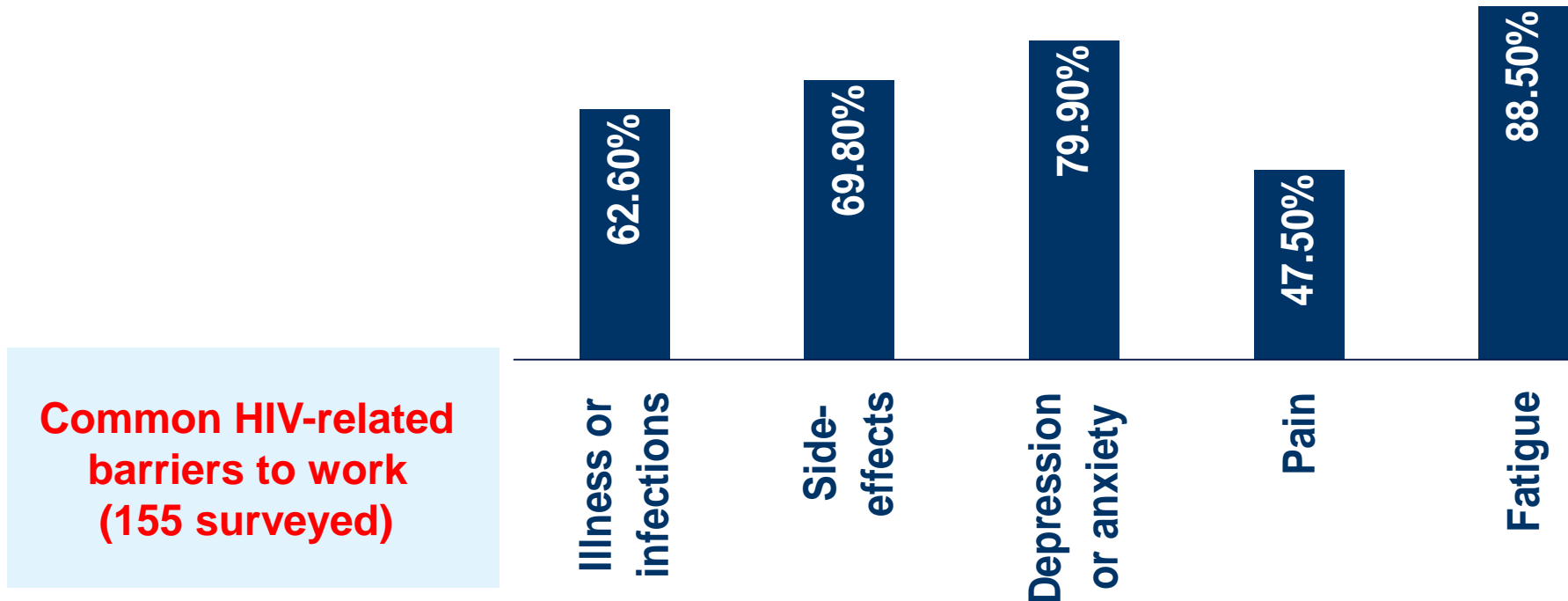
# Disability benefits and HIV

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RESPONSE  
TO HIV



 **Out of work benefits (IB/ESA)**





 **Extra-costs benefits (DLA)**



# From IB to ESA

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-  Incapacity Benefit is being replaced by **Employment and Support Allowance**
-  Current IB claimants will be re-assessed for ESA- 2011 to 2014
-  ESA has two rates: the **Support Group** and the **Work-Related Activity Group**
-  Test for ESA- the **Work Capability Assessment (WCA)**

# Issues with ESA

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-  **The WCA rules**
-  **Assessors' knowledge of HIV**
-  **High rates of appeal/ inaccurate decisions**
-  **Ongoing reviews and reform process**
-  **Welfare Reform Bill: from 2012, contributory ESA will be limited to 1 year for work-related activity group**

# From DLA to PIP

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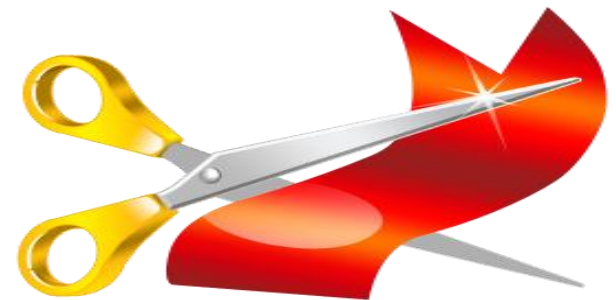
-  **Disability Living Allowance to be replaced with **Personal Independence Payment** from 2013/14**
-  **Two components at two rates**
  - **‘daily living’ (replaces care)**
  - **‘mobility’ (more broadly defined)**

# Issues with PIP

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-  **New 'face to face' assessment – draft criteria**
-  **20% budget cut**
-  **Will lower rate care claimants lose out?**



# Housing benefit

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## **Caps on LHA rates for private rentals**

£250 – 1 bedroom                      £290 – 2 bedroom

£240 – 3 bedroom                      £400 – 4 bedroom



**Shared accommodation rate will now apply to those aged under 35**







**April 2013: Size criteria for social housing – tenants with ‘spare rooms’ will lose some benefit (or have to move).**

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# NAT activity

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-  **Welfare Reform Bill**
-  **Harrington Review and working group on fluctuating conditions**
-  **Development of PIP assessment**
-  **HIV Activists Network**

Thank you!

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Questions?

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# SHAPING ATTITUDES CHALLENGING INJUSTICE CHANGING LIVES

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