



We know this is a big booklet. And we don't expect you to read all of it.

Instead, look at the list of contents on pages 1 to 4. This shows everything in the booklet. You can look down the list to find things that affect you.

For example

- If you want to know what we say about jobs for disabled people and people off work sick, go to Chapter 4 that starts on page 43 and ends on page 52.
- If you want to know what we say about jobs for people who find it hard to get work, go to Chapter 5 that starts on page 53 and ends on page 61.

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

When we first mention any of these words, it is in **bold maroon** writing. A box then shows what the words mean.

These words and what they mean are also in a Words list at the back of the booklet.

If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal maroon** writing. If you see words in **normal maroon** writing, you can look up what they mean in the Words list.

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## What the Minister says...

The Government wants everyone to be treated fairly and share in the country's success.

We want families with children to have enough money to live a good life. And while we will support people who cannot work, we want those who can work to do so.

Work is good for people and for the country.

- Work gives people more money in their pockets.
- Work is good for health.
- Work is good for families.
- Work helps people live happily side by side.



This booklet shows how we will make these things happen by making changes to the way our benefit system works.

We are living in good times – more people than ever are working. And fewer people have no job or are off work sick.

We have already helped improve the lives of 600,000 children. And 300,000 more will be helped by things we started earlier this year.

We have also helped a lot of people move into work. But we must do more because there are still people living on benefits who could work if they had the right support. We will support these people so they can move into the 680,000 jobs that need filling.

We want people who can work to look for and prepare for work. To do this we will change the benefits system. And we will help by bringing the New Deals up to date.

The new Employment and Support Allowance will be brought in for new claimants who are sick or disabled. This benefit looks at what a person can do, rather than what they can't.



And from October 2008, **lone parents** whose youngest child is 12 or over will have to look for work. From October 2009 the age of the youngest child will reduce to 10, and to 7 from October 2010.

## Lone parent

These are single people with 1 or more children.

Our aim is to get British benefit claimants into British jobs so that they become British workers.

And we will make sure that people are better off working than getting benefits. For example, through the National Minimum Wage, and working benefits and tax credits.

When deciding on these changes, we were guided by experts. And by the 3 reports written by Harker, Leitch and Freud. We also looked at what worked well in other countries.

Our new benefits system is one in which most claimants will look for and prepare to return to work. And by returning to work, they and their families will be better off.

Our promise is unchanged: we will help people who can work to have better lives through working. And for those who cannot work, we will have a better benefits system.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hain'.

**Peter Hain**

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

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