



## Disabled People Against Cuts

### Reports of WCA-Related Suicides

#### *Summary*

*This report is intended to serve as a reference collection of media reports of suicides and other deaths as a result of the WCA, for inclusion in other research reports.*

*It is also intended to serve as a testimony to those who have sadly lost their lives as a result of the Work Capability Assessment.*

*It is not the place of this report to editorialise on the immorality of the WCA, in any case the reports contained in this document speak for themselves, and further commentary is unnecessary.*

*Prepared by the DPAC Research Team, May 2014*

#### **Disabled People Against Cuts:**

**DPAC is a grass roots campaign body. It was formed by a group of disabled people after the first mass protest against the austerity cuts and their impact on disabled people held on the 3rd October in Birmingham 2010, England. It was led by disabled people under the name of The Disabled Peoples' Protest. DPAC has over 20,000 members & supporters and an outreach of over 45,000 disabled people. DPAC works with many anti-cuts groups, Universities, Disabled Peoples' Organizations, and Unions**

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## **Abbreviations Used**

ESA – Employment and Support Allowance – UK Government Sickness Benefit

BMA – British Medical Association

DWP – Department for Work and Pensions - UK Government Department

GP – General Practitioner (Medical Doctor)

HMCTS – Her Majestys Courts and Tribuneral Service

JSA – Job Seekers Allowance

MP – Member of Parliament

WCA – Work Capability Assessment – test for claimants right to claim the ESA Benefit

WRAG – Work Related Activity Group

## ***1 Reports of WCA Related Suicides***

- [The tragedy of Alice, How the Work Capability Assessment costs lives](#)
- [Former bodybuilder from Willington who can barely walk contemplated suicide after nurse ruled him fit to work](#)
- [Benefits withdrawal led to man's suicide](#)
- [Benefits row dad takes his own life and is found dead in his flat by his fiancée](#)
- [Sneinton man overdoses after benefits stopped](#)
- [Heartbroken dad reveals agony as decision to axe his son's benefits is overturned.. weeks after his boy killed himself](#)
- [Benefit Cuts Caused Disabled Yorkshire Man Nicholas Barker To Take His Life, Rules Coroner](#)
- [Back problems led to fatal dose](#)

- [Benefits man found hanged, inquest heard](#)
- [Author's suicide 'due to slash in benefits'](#)
- [Woman who drowned in drain was upset about health check](#)
- [Norwich man killed himself 'over back-to-work fears'](#)
- [Inquest hears of Cumbrian dad's health benefits worries](#)
- [Fears over benefits led to tragedy](#)
- [Benefits withdrawal led to man's suicide](#)
- [Unemployed Gravesend man hanged himself after sickness benefits were cut](#)
- [Grandfather Shaun Pilkington Found Dead After Receiving Letter Saying Benefits Will Be Stopped](#)
- [Disabled Kinver man killed himself after being left "almost destitute" when his state benefits were axed](#)
- [Bristol woman 'killed herself after benefits were stopped'](#)
- [Dying Merseyside man was told by benefits assessors 'you're fit to work'](#)
- [DWP Benefits Farce Leads To Overdose For Blind Heart Attack Victim](#)
- [Investigation Report - The benefits assessment and death of Ms DE](#)

## **2 Further Reading**

- [\*Suicide watch over benefit cuts\*](#)
- [\*http://www.bigissue.com/features/3637/atos-deaths-and-welfare-cuts\*](#)
- [\*http://www.mencap.org.uk/campaigns/take-action/death-indifference\*](#)
- [\*Rethink Mental Illness response to inquest into the death of Mark Woods\*](#)
- [\*Do cuts kill?\*](#)
- [\*Driven to the brink of suicide - Video Testimony\*](#)

- *Government admits it should not have axed disability benefits of Asperger's sufferer who starved to death just five months later weighing five-and-a-half stone*