

7 Families is a charity led campaign to provide a tax-free income for one year to seven people who have lost their income because of a serious or long-term illness or disability and who didn't have income protection insurance.



Today in the UK 2.2m people of working age will be off work for at least 6 months at any one time through sickness and disability.



In August 2014 there were 2.51 million people claiming Employment & Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefits.



91% of all individual Income Protection claims were paid by insurers in 2013.



The Knights Family

Melanie Knights is 40 years old and lives in Newcastle. She is married with three children and has a 'wonderful' spaniel dog called Oscar. She lost her job as a midwife in 2014 due to prolonged absence from work, primarily caused by arthritis.

"I got up one day and the pain was so unbearable I literally couldn't move. I had scans, x-rays and various tests before they eventally diagnosed degenerative disc disease. I've had a hip replacement since and have also been diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, which is a disorder of the connective tissue affecting the mobement of my joints" said Melanie.

"I have a 2.8cm leg difference which makes it hard to walk and I get intense back pain. My joints move around which makes me unstable on my feet and sometimes I'm embarrassed to go out. I thought things like this only happened to older people".



2,078,536 people are covered by Income Protection from their employer.



41% of workers with less than a month in savings would receive no employer sick pay if they were ill.



On average 4 in 5 people with cancer are £570 a month worse off than before.



7 families - The campaign highlights the need to plan financially in case you become too ill to earn an income. The charity Disability Rights UK are working with the seven families where the main breadwinner has been forced out of work by an accident or illness.



For more information on 7 Families please visit

www.7families.co.uk



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