

September's independent living technology news

Here's what's new in the world of independent living technology this month.

Public policy, legislation and campaigns

Government announces review of accessible home standards

The Ministry for Housing, Communities, and Local Government has announced a [public consultation on mandatory accessible housing standards](#) in building regulation. The consultation will consider whether current new housing meets the needs of older and disabled people.

Survey finds disabled workers disadvantaged by outdated technology

A survey commissioned by the software company Citrix has found that [eight out of ten disabled workers](#) believe outdated technology in the workplace is limiting employment opportunities for disabled people in the UK.

Vision UK calls for more funding for eye and hearing health

The campaign group Vision UK has argued for greater investment in treatment and technologies to promote better eye and hearing health after publishing the [first ever national survey](#) of the country's sensory needs.

Telecare research pinpoints sources of disruption over next five years

A new report commissioned by Essex County Council reviewing the [care technology landscape](#) predicts considerable upheavals over the next five years in the telecare market.

Technological developments and innovations

Google AI reports on efforts to improve voice recognition software

Google has published findings from promising research conducted by its Project Euphonia which is using artificial intelligence [to improve the accuracy of speech recognition software](#) for people with regional accents and speech impairments.

Columbia University develops robotic cane for people with limited mobility

Researchers based at Columbia University in New York have created an [autonomous robotic cane](#) designed to support older and disabled people with limited mobility to walk independently. By moving in step with the user, the robot provides light-tough support to enhance their balance and stability.

New hearing aids target people with severe hearing loss

Leading hearing aid provider Oticon has unveiled a [powerful new range of products for children and adults with severe or profound hearing loss](#) which promise to offer similar levels of performance to those available to users with more moderate hearing impairments.

Innovative housing construction software applies gaming industry techniques to promote accessibility

Students at the Curtin University in Australia have joined forces with real estate agents to design an [accessible home using video game technology](#) in a project to promote the importance of universal affordable accommodation.

These stories were originally published in the dispATches newsletter – a free monthly e-mail about assistive technologies that empower disabled and older people to live more independently. [Click here to sign up for dispATches.](#)