



PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION 2021

Dementia: The Forgotten Crisis

Our Ask: Invest €20m in urgent infrastructure, home care and community supports for people affected by dementia.

COVID-19 is having a detrimental impact on people affected by dementia. The service gap is growing wider as the need becomes ever greater.

It is critical that Budget 2021 starts to close this widening service gap.

CRISIS

Dementia is the emerging health issue of our time but there is a crisis in care

**€10
million**

Urgent Infrastructure Support

To refurbish & rebuild dementia specific day centres to enable them to re-open in the immediate and to expand services into the future

**€6
million**

Dementia Home Care Supports

To provide home care that is dementia appropriate and can meet growing demand

€589k

Additional Dementia Advisers

To continue to develop a nationwide Dementia Adviser service

**€2.31
million**

Dementia Key Workers

To provide a care pathway for each person with dementia

€768k

Dementia Inclusive Community Coordinators

To support the further development of a dementia inclusive Ireland

About The Alzheimer Society of Ireland

A national non-profit organisation, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is person centred, rights-based & grassroots led with the voice of the person with dementia and their carer at its core.

National Helpline on 1800 341 341 is open six days a week Monday to Friday 10am–5pm & Saturday 10am–4pm



Dementia: The Forgotten Crisis

Our Ask: Invest €20m in urgent infrastructure, home care and community supports for people affected by dementia

- **€10 million – Urgent Infrastructure Support**

The ASI cannot re-open all day centres to pre-COVID-19 levels due to inadequate premises and facilities. Funding of €6m is required for refurbishment so The ASI can provide a day care service that is at two-thirds of the pre-COVID-19 capacity. A further €4m will provide funding for new builds to meet current and future needs in the community. Dementia specific day care will require a further €5m in Budget 2022 and €5m in Budget 2023.

- **€6 million to invest in Dementia Home Care Supports**

The ASI's recent research report¹ indicates that people affected by dementia are in need of increased dementia specific home care as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. This investment will provide home care that is dementia appropriate and can meet growing demand.

- **€589k to develop the Dementia Adviser service**

Dementia Advisers support people and their families with information, advice and signposting throughout their dementia journey. Investment in eight more Dementia Advisers is required in Phase 2 and is being called for in Budget 2021. This will add to the 19 that will be in place by the end of Phase 1, as a result of Budget 2020.

- **€2.31 million to fund the role of Dementia Key Workers**

Dementia Key Workers assist people to navigate complex care pathways by providing a coordinated care plan for individuals. The investment in this new role would, at a minimum, support people affected by dementia through a difficult health system.

- **€768k to resource Dementia Inclusive Community Coordinators across Ireland**

Dementia Inclusive Community Coordinators build the capacity of communities to support people with dementia to remain involved and included for longer. This investment is critical to ensure that the work of the HSE's Dementia: Understand Together campaign can be enhanced and sustained.

The Facts

- There are almost 64,000² people with dementia in Ireland and for every one person with dementia three others are directly affected³.
- During the COVID-19 crisis, 86% of family carers were concerned about a decline in the person with dementia, while 61% of carers believe their own mental health has declined⁴.
- Most people with dementia live at home (63%)⁵.
- No county in Ireland provides people with even a minimum standard of dementia community services and supports.
- The number of people with dementia will rise to 113,000⁶ within the next twenty years.

1 The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, (2020) Caring and Coping with Dementia During COVID-19: <https://alzheimer.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ASI-Follow-Up-Covid-Report-Final.pdf>

2 Health Atlas Ireland, 2020.

3 Pierce, M., Cahill, S. and O'Shea, E. (2014) Prevalence and Projections of Dementia in Ireland, 2011-2046. Dublin: Trinity College Dublin/NUIGalway/Genio.

4 The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, (2020) Caring and Coping with Dementia During COVID-19: <https://alzheimer.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ASI-Follow-Up-Covid-Report-Final.pdf>

5 Cahill, S., O'Shea, E. and Pierce, M. (2012) Creating Excellence in Dementia Care Report. Trinity College Dublin/NUIGalway.

6 Pierce, M., Cahill, S. and O'Shea, E. (2014) Prevalence and Projections of Dementia in Ireland, 2011-2046. Dublin: Trinity College Dublin/NUIG/Genio.

Contact us:

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📘 [facebook.com/TheAlzheimerSocietyofIreland](https://www.facebook.com/TheAlzheimerSocietyofIreland)

🐦 twitter.com/alzheimerSocIrl

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SOCIETY of IRELAND