



THE Alzheimer
SOCIETY OF IRELAND



PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION 2023

Dementia Can't Wait

Urgent funding needed to address rising needs.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) is calling on the Government to invest €19 million in urgent infrastructure and community supports for people affected by dementia.

The increased prevalence of dementia in Ireland points to a deepening gap between services and need. The ASI is calling for funding to address that need and honour the Programme for Government and National Dementia Strategy.



€4.2
million

Invest €4.2m in
**Dementia-specific
Day Services**

€120k

Investment in
**Inclusive Dementia
Supports**

€2.3
million

Investment in
**therapeutic support
and education** for
Family Carers

€1
million

Investment in
**Dementia Research
Centres of
Excellence**

€10
million

Investment
in **Dementia
Home Care**

€1.4
million

Investment in
**Memory Assessment
& Support Services**

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



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1 €4.2million investment in Dementia-specific Day Services

Day Care Centres As Sláintecare and the overall Government plan to focus on a shift to community-based care and pathways, investment in Day Services is essential to allow us to provide vital services for people living with dementia (and respite for families) to support them to remain at home in their communities.

Day Care at Home This service is essential to provide continuity of care and support as well as provide meaningful interaction to people with dementia and their families for whom attending Day Centres is not possible or of interest.

2 €2.3 million investment in therapeutic support and education for Family Carers

A diagnosis of dementia is life-changing for both the person and their family and the emotional toll cannot be underestimated. Funding is requested to provide a suite of therapeutic and emotional supports to people with dementia and their families, including supports specifically for families affected by Young Onset Dementia. These include

- (a) education and training programmes
- (b) support groups and
- (c) professional counselling and psychotherapy.

3 €10 million investment in Dementia Home Care

Demand for dementia-specific Home Care continues to rise significantly and there is a need for further investment in quality home care services to keep pace with this. The ASI acknowledges the increased investment by this Government in Home Care for people with dementia but that investment is not adequately meeting the needs of people affected by dementia. Continued funding and action to address staffing and retention challenges is required.

4 €120,000 investment in Inclusive Dementia Supports

Stigma, lack of awareness and discrimination against people living with dementia have a detrimental psychological, social and emotional impact on them and their families. The ASI is requesting investment to develop and roll out inclusive community engagement initiatives for people living with dementia and their families. In Ireland, the majority (64%) of people with dementia live at home and they have the right to access to recreational, leisure and cultural life in their communities

- An LGBTQIA+ Online Support Group
- A National Sporting Memories Reminiscence Programme
- Creating a Dementia Inclusive Generation (Post Primary School Project)
- Young Onset Dementia Online Support Group

5 €1 million investment in Dementia Research Centres of Excellence

Dementia research is poorly funded relative to its importance and the significant impact of the disease on both an individual and societal level. The ASI is calling on the Government to invest €1m in dementia-specific research funding which will be used to support the development of Centres of Excellence.

There is an urgent need for investment in Dementia Research across the spectrum of basic science, prevention, clinical and social research to create tangible change for people with dementia and their families.

6 €1.4 million investment in Memory Assessment and Support Service

The Draft Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland published by the National Dementia Office is a comprehensive outline of targets and practice recommendations in dementia assessment and diagnosis, disclosure, care planning and post-diagnostic support.

The ASI is calling on the government to implement this ambitious model of care. As part of this, in Budget 2023, The ASI is calling for €1.4 million in funding for Memory Assessment and Support Service (MASS) in communities.

The Facts

There are 64,000 people living with dementia in Ireland ⁽¹⁾

(1) Pierce, T., O'Shea, E., & Carney, P. (2019). Estimates of the prevalence, incidence and severity of dementia in Ireland. 36(2) (2) Alzheimer Europe (2020) Dementia in Europe Yearbook 2019 'Estimating the prevalence of dementia in Europe' (3) Cahill, S. & Pierce, M. (2013) The Prevalence of Dementia in Ireland

By 2045 this figure is expected to rise to 150,000 ⁽²⁾

Approx two-thirds of people with dementia live at home ⁽³⁾ and their quality of life is greatly impacted by community supports

Contact us:

- ✉ email: advocacy@alzheimer.ie
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- 📘 facebook.com/TheAlzheimerSocietyofIreland
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