

Pre-Budget Submission 2023



THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY *of* IRELAND



Introduction

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) is keenly aware of the enormous challenges currently faced by people affected by dementia across Ireland. These challenges are rising, most notably following on from the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still affecting us today.

I must acknowledge the great support in recent years from across the political spectrum, and most notably from Minister of State Mary Butler who we have enjoyed a strong relationship with since 2016 when the All-Party Oireachtas Group on Dementia was founded. She has demonstrated a strong interest in dementia and has targeted funding towards some really practical initiatives.

Our submission has been informed by a broad and robust consultation with key stakeholders and we have carried out external consultations with a public survey and listened to the lived experience of dementia via members of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network and Irish Dementia Working Group. We have captured our grassroots with internal consultations with front-line service staff including Service Managers, Dementia Advisers, Care Workers and Volunteer Branch members.

As CEO I will bring their message to government – people throughout Ireland are struggling and they need support. This year The ASI celebrates our 40th anniversary. There have been so many milestones achieved since 1982 when carers Winifred Bligh and Imelda Gillespie held their first meeting and changed the face of dementia care in Ireland forever.

Forty years on, The ASI is a national organisation providing support, services and care to thousands of people living with dementia and those who care for and support them in Ireland today.

However, we cannot work without adequate funding. I believe this year, as we mark our 40th anniversary and reach this tremendous milestone, that people impacted by dementia must continue to be heard and supported by the government.

Andy Heffernan

CEO

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

Overview of asks

1. €4.2million investment in dementia-specific Day Services

- Day Care Centres
- Day Care at Home

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

A suite of services comprising:

- Family carer training
- Family carer support groups to include families affected by YOD
- Counselling for family carers

3. €10 million investment in Dementia Home Care

- Continued funding for Home Care Hours
- Action to address staffing/retention challenges.

4. €120,000 investment in Inclusive Dementia Supports

- 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-specific research funding which will be used to support the development of Centres of Excellence.
- Embed a culture of research, evidence-based practice and innovation in dementia prevention, diagnosis, care and/or cure.

6. €1.4 million investment in Memory Assessment and Support Service

- Implementation of the Draft Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland
- Funding for Memory Assessment and Support Service (MASS) in communities.

Context

Programme for Government: The current 2020 Programme for Government states a commitment to implementing the National Dementia Strategy (1) which was developed to *“improve dementia care so that people with dementia can live well for as long as possible, can ultimately die with comfort and dignity, and can have services and supports delivered in the best way possible”*.

Growing Prevalence: The increased prevalence of dementia in Ireland from 54,000 to 64,000 people (2) points to a widening gap between services and need. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the trajectory of the disease for many as highlighted in research published by The ASI (3). New worrying evidence of cognitive impairment in some individuals who contracted COVID-19 also raises the possibility that the pandemic may have a long-term impact on the number of people developing dementia in the future – further emphasising the need for a major public health response (4).

Rising need: The need for services is growing, not only among existing service users but also among those who had not previously been in contact with dementia-specific services. In 2017, The ASI and National Dementia Office highlighted that no county in Ireland has a minimum standard of services to meet the needs of people with dementia and family caregivers (5). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has decimated service availability and had a detrimental impact on people with dementia and their families.

Rising cost of living: People affected by dementia are often unable to work and face considerable costs such as medication, care provision and medical equipment. The current rising cost of living and energy inflation is impacting those people disproportionately. In recent work published by The ASI (June 2022), families affected by Younger Onset Dementia highlighted the financial burden of supports and interventions during this challenging economic climate (6). Households affected by dementia urgently need publicly-funded supports and services.

Robust Consultation: The asks set out in this Pre-Budget Submission (PBS) have been informed by a broad and robust consultation with key stakeholders and relevant research and reports.

- *External consultation:* Surveys completed by 339 people affected by dementia, the majority of whom are family carers.
- *Lived Experience of Dementia:* Consultations with members of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network and Irish Dementia Working Group.
- *Internal consultations* with front-line service staff including Service Managers, Dementia Advisers, Care Workers, volunteer Branch members.
- *A comprehensive review of internal and external reports and research papers.*

COVID-19 Lasting Impact: According to Alzheimer’s Disease International, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact both the lives and people with dementia and the prioritisation of dementia policies (4). Research by The ASI throughout the COVID-19 pandemic revealed the disproportionate and detrimental impact of COVID-19 and associated restrictions on people with dementia and their families (3). The pandemic has receded for now but the threat of another wave remains and there continues to be a greater need than ever for services to support

people with dementia and their families to contend with the lasting impact of the pandemic on their mental and physical health. Globally, older people with dementia continue to be vulnerable to COVID-19 two years on, while many, including carers, have experienced increased isolation as a result of pandemic management policies such as closures and restrictions on movements (3, 4).

Our Asks

1. Increase funding for Dementia Specific Community Day Services by €4.2 million

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.

- a) **€2.5m investment to restore and increase the availability of dementia-specific Day Centres** to meet current demand and the unmet needs of people with dementia and their families. It is essential to ensure the sustainability of existing provision and expand the capacity to provide more places and more days per week.

Rationale

- The ASI provides 80% of Ireland’s dementia-specific Day Services and approx 15% of all Day Care centres for older people in Ireland.
- There is considerable unmet demand for Day Care places, reflected in waiting lists for a place in the first instance and/or requests for more days for people who already have a place.
- A number of ASI Day Centres have not fully reopened following the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the rising costs of providing Day Care services. Additional day-to-day funding will be required to support the ongoing requirements to deliver these services and not leave people with dementia and their families short of this vital service.
- The inconsistency of funding across the various CHO areas has led to an imbalance of service and geographical inequality.

Since the first dementia-specific day care centre opened in 1987, the number of centres operated by the ASI has grown in response to local needs. However, a culture of scarcity exists in dementia-specific day centres as providers contend with considerable unmet demand for places, reflected in extensive waiting lists and/or requests for additional hours.

It is essential that Day Centres can provide enough places and hours to provide adequate levels of support to people with dementia and their families. The figure of 2.5 million is urgently required to address the shortfall in current service level agreements. With this funding, the ASI would be able to reduce the waiting lists and also provide much-needed extra days to people living with dementia.

An evaluation of The ASI’s Day Centres highlights the great value placed on these services and the person-centred approach underpinning care (7). People with dementia attending Day Centres were very positive

about their experiences; welcoming the opportunities for social interaction and participation in meaningful activities. Family and other informal caregivers also highly valued the service. These findings are consistent with the results of international research exploring Day Centres from the perspective of people with dementia (8-10) and family carers (11-13). In addition, research recently published by the *Centre of Economic and Social Research on Dementia* found Day Centres and Short-Break Respite were highly valued among both family carers and the public (14, 15).

- b) Maintain €1.7m funding in Community Day Care at Home Services** to people with dementia across Ireland. Day Care at Home is essential to provide continuity of care and support to people with dementia and their families for whom attending Day Centres is not possible or of interest.

Rationale

- Day Care at Home is meeting an urgent need for People living with Dementia and their families by providing variety, stimulation, and personalised fun activities and is considered a lifeline by many.
- The service provides a unique opportunity to increase the continuity of care of ASI services earlier or later in the journey for the Person living with Dementia, or if they do not wish to or are unable to attend Day Centres. It enables The ASI to maintain and develop a trusting rapport with family carers.
- Continued funding will allow an expansion of the Day Care at Home service deeper into the community with improved connectivity and linkages with other health care providers.

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced The Alzheimer Society of Ireland to temporarily close all its Day Care Centres and suspend vital face-to-face supports, Day Care at Home was set up to provide an interim alternative model of care and support to ASI clients and families to address the absence of the Day Care Centres.

Day Care at Home provides continuity of care and support to ASI clients and families, based on providing person-centred activity-based care (e.g. socialisation, stimulation) in block hours that is needs-led with minimum personal care. The emphasis of Day Care at Home on meeting needs rather than being task-led is a defining feature of this new service and it is uniquely placed to be responsive to the needs of people with Young-Onset Dementia.

In April 2020, the Day Care at Home service was initially piloted in Dundalk and Monaghan in agreement with the HSE and was subsequently rolled out to other geographical areas. During 2020/2021 the ASI utilised existing HSE Day Care funding to fund this new service. For 2022, funding of €1.7 million was allocated specifically for the Day Care at Home Service. The ASI now seeks to ensure this service and funding is maintained going forward.

Service Managers report that the flexible nature of Day Care at Home has resulted in a service that is truly responsive offering companionship, a continuation of hobbies and interests and addresses isolation.

An evaluation completed on the Day Care at Home service indicates that family carers and people with dementia highly value this service, perceiving it as an essential source of support, respite, and reassurance (16).

2. Invest in Therapeutic and Educational Supports for Family Carers

A diagnosis of dementia is life-changing for both the person and their family and the emotional toll cannot be underestimated. **€2.3m 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 (YOD). These include (a) education and training programmes (b) support groups and (c) professional counselling and psychotherapy.

- a. 15,700 hours of Counselling (to include a specific allocation for families affected by YOD) at a cost of €1.26m (100 hours per 1,000 affected at €80 per hour).
- b. 77 Family Carer Support Groups (to include specific groups for families affected by YOD) across at a cost of €140K (1 per 1,000 affected at €1,800 per group).
- c. 190 Family Carer Training Programmes at a cost of €950K (1 per 500 affected @ €5,000 per programme).

Rationale

- The ASI provides 78% of Carer Support Groups and 78% of Dementia Family Carer training Programmes which are currently oversubscribed. For example, in June 2022, 257 people were on a waiting list for family carer training despite a 12% increase in course delivery last year.
- Evidence suggests that an optimal mix of participating in psychoeducational interventions incorporating skills training, peer support programmes, psychological therapies and counselling has highly positive effects on caregivers of people with dementia (17-19).
- Our current health and social care system depends largely on family caregivers who provide the main bulk of care; its estimated value to the State is in the region of €807m per annum.
- Caring in Ireland has long been associated with poor health outcomes and it is essential to provide adequate support to this cohort (20).
- In The ASI's PBS Public Consultation three-quarters of family carers said they would avail of counselling services if they were offered by The ASI with 59% responding '*definitely yes*' and 26% with '*probably yes*'.

Context

Family Carers of people living with dementia are known to struggle with stress, burnout and health challenges related to caring. The lasting impact of caring over the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this. The prevalence of clinical depression for family caregivers of persons with dementia is three times the Irish national average. Unmet needs of the carer can significantly impact their quality of life, including loss of self, loss of companionship/friendship, and loss of freedom (21).

The ASI currently provides award-winning face-to-face and online family carer training, and family carer support groups. These services are consistently over-subscribed and demand continues to rise. Professional counselling services and psychotherapeutic interventions have stood out as a critical support gap in our consultations with family carers and Dementia Advisers. In our consultation, 84.6% of family carers said they would avail of counselling/psychotherapy services if The ASI could provide this. Counselling has been found to be highly effective for reducing depressive symptoms and anxiety in carers of people with dementia (22, 23) while Family

Carer support groups are associated with subjective well-being and a positive opportunity to share experiences and information (24, 25).

The vast majority of carers are very willing to provide care for their loved one with dementia, but they are not able to do this without support. Significant investment in psycho-educational programmes for carers can also lead to potential economic benefits resulting from fewer people with dementia being admitted to residential care.

Young-Onset Dementia

Specific and targeted support must be delivered to families of people affected by Young Onset Dementia (YOD). The families of people with YOD experience unique challenges that can be markedly different from families contending with a later diagnosis. In a review of diagnostic and post-diagnostic processes and pathways for people with Young Onset Dementia published by the National Dementia Office, it was recommended that there should be dedicated support interventions for young families of people with YOD and that peer support groups are of particular value (26). Research exploring supports and services for people affected by YOD published by The ASI has noted (5):

Counselling: Healthcare Professionals have highlighted the need for counselling for whole families, particularly where there are children in the home. Although counselling is of great interest to family carers, they have indicated that support to access counselling was not forthcoming and an additional cost during this challenging economic climate.

Support Groups: YOD Peer Support Groups founded upon social networks are deemed to be beneficial by families however they are under-resourced, lacking geographical equity, and reactive in nature.

Family Carer Training: Dedicated family carer training for families affected by YOD are essential. Family carers require specific knowledge on how they might best support a person living with YOD, empowering them to maintain their confidence and stay engaged within the community.

3. Invest €10m in Dementia Home Care Supports

The ASI is calling for an investment of €10m in dementia-specific home care supports and for the Government to take immediate action to address the staffing crisis in the sector. Home care that is dementia appropriate and provided by dementia-trained staff is crucially needed.

Rationale

- Demand for dementia-specific home care continues to rise significantly and there is an urgent 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.

- People with dementia have the right to live as independently as possible, in a familiar environment linked to their communities (27).
- Intensive Home Care Packages can improve delayed discharge and offer a flexible and person-centred approach to support people with dementia in their own homes and to remain at home for longer, reducing the need for admission into long-stay residential care (28).
- Home care continues to be a core issue highlighted by people with dementia and their carers in The ASI's grassroots and research.

State policy is that older people should be catered for in the comfort and security of their own homes. People with dementia have the right to live as independently as possible and remain engaged with their communities. Enactment of the Statutory Home Care Scheme (29) will significantly address access to home care and the current Programme for Government states a commitment to introducing this. In the meanwhile, additional home care hours are badly needed.

In The ASI's PBS Public Consultation, home care was the most frequently and strongly cited need among family carers, both for themselves and the person with dementia they support. Among people with dementia involved in the consultation, Home Care Supports were raised as a key need and area that should be prioritised. Similarly, The Dementia Carers Campaign Network, supported by The ASI, believes the availability of dementia-specific home care to be the most significant issue impacting the quality of life of people affected by dementia.

Research published by Family Carers Ireland found that 82% of carers who responded in the study spent over 90 hours per week caring while 75% of respondents who worked full time also provided over 50 hours of care per week (30). Similarly, The ASI's De-Stress Report published in 2017 found that most carers (79%) reported that they themselves provided 81% – 100% of the care for their spouse (31). This highlights the ongoing need for increased investment in Home Care Supports. Feedback from The ASI's Dementia Advisor service and engagement with the Dementia Carers Campaign Network corroborates these statistics.

Intensive Home Care Packages have been linked to delayed discharge and offer a flexible and person-centred approach to support people with dementia in their own homes and to remain at home for longer, reducing the need for admission into long-stay residential care. However, if home support services are to have this impact, increased funding is required to meet existing and growing demand. The economic merit of investment in Intensive Home Care Packages should be noted: the average weekly cost of a nursing home bed is c.€1,149 and c. €5,992 for a bed in an acute hospital. In contrast, the average cost of an Intensive Home Care Package for a person with dementia is c. €925 per week with an average of 39 carer work hours (28).

Indeed, the HSE's aim of introducing Intensive Home Care Packages for people with dementia was to facilitate timely discharge home from acute hospitals and to prevent unnecessary hospital admission. Dementia is common among older people admitted to acute hospitals; about 29% of older people admitted to public hospitals in Ireland have dementia (32). A comprehensive and well-resourced system of community support services, of which dementia-specific home care should be a pillar, is necessary to support people with dementia to remain living at home for as long as possible.

Home care for people living with dementia is highly skilled and strongly valued by those who receive it. However, as a profession, it is generally low-paid and undervalued by the state. The additional skills and

expertise required in delivering dementia-specific home care are often not reflected in remuneration. There is a critical need to standardise home care rates of pay and benefits across Ireland as well as introduce meaningful career progression. Robust training and staff development must be considered as part of the solution to the rising retention crisis.

4. Invest in the development and provision of 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 an investment of €120,000 to develop and roll out inclusive community engagement initiatives for people living with dementia and their families.**

These initiatives include (a) An LGBTQIA+ Dementia Support Group, (b) A National Sporting Memories Reminiscence Programme (c) Creating a Dementia Inclusive Generation in Post-Primary Schools (d) Specific Young Onset Dementia Support Group. The investment will support the recruitment of two Community Engagement Officers to deliver these initiatives and cover development and running costs.

Rationale

- In Ireland, the majority (64%) of people with dementia live at home in their communities and they have the right to access to recreational, leisure and cultural life in their communities (2, 27).
- Supportive environments and societies are fundamental in ensuring that people with dementia and their families are meaningfully included in society (33) and there is a strong need to develop and roll-out inclusive supports to open up local communities to people affected by dementia.
- In their most recent yearbook, Alzheimer Europe recommends that *National, regional and local governments should provide sustained funding for projects and initiatives to create dementia-inclusive societies* (34).
- In The ASI's PBS Public Consultation, 88% of family carers said that community engagement and supports are *extremely important* (54%) or *very important* (34%) for people with dementia and their families. The importance of community support was the strongest finding to come from The ASI's consultation with people living with dementia.

a) Provision of Support Groups for the LGBTQIA+ Community who are affected by dementia

Currently, there are no dementia services that are LGBTQIA+ specific in Ireland and Europe is still heavily influenced by heteronormative assumptions and structures. Recent robust research suggests that the rates of cognitive impairment appear to be significantly higher among sexual minority older adults than among heterosexual older adults, even when sociodemographic factors are adjusted for (35). A recent Irish study exploring the care needs of the older LGBTQIA+ community, supported by The ASI, highlighted the introduction of LGBTQIA+ specific services as a key consensus-based recommendation (36). Furthermore, The *2021 Alzheimer Europe Report on Sex, Gender and Sexuality in the context of dementia* recommends that Health & Social care services should provide different options for dementia support and care, including ones that are mainstream but inclusive and ones that are specialised or specifically tailored towards the needs of people with certain gender identities or sexual orientations (37).

b) Roll-out the National Sporting Memories Reminiscence Programme

Ireland has a vibrant sporting culture with local clubs and teams embedded into communities across the country. **Sporting Memories** is an awareness and support programme that brings people together to reminisce about their lives through the medium of sport. It aims to tackle dementia, depression and loneliness and support people affected by dementia to stay engaged in their communities. Following the success of this initiative in the UK, The ASI has worked with Stirling University and the *Dementia: Understand Together* Campaign to develop a sporting memories handbook to raise awareness of dementia and provide a guide on how to develop a sporting memories programme in one's local club. Now, work is required to engage with and support local clubs to adopt this approach.

Sports-based reminiscence has shown potential for improved outcomes in well-being, communication, and cognition (38-40). Despite a gender-inclusive remit, Sporting Memory Groups in the UK report comparatively higher attendance from men than other community provisions (41). In a recent UK study of men with dementia, Sporting Memories Group Sessions were found to provide a vehicle for people with dementia to retain important parts of personhood and feel a sense of value (42). This is important because, in general, men are less likely to utilise professional health services or seek psychosocial support than women (43).

c) Creating a Dementia-Inclusive Generation

Nearly one-third of young people know somebody living with dementia, which is generally a parent or grandparent (44). The ASI has collaborated with the *Dementia Services Information and Development Centre* (DSiDC) to facilitate the delivery of a dementia awareness programme, with the focus on educating post-primary students to become part of a dementia-inclusive generation. It includes an e-Learning programme in addition to a Peer Educator Programme which provides students with a toolkit to facilitate dementia awareness sessions with their peers and to stimulate creative engagement.

Research into a similar initiative in the UK reports strong benefits such as increased awareness of dementia, reduced stigma and fear, a recognition of the importance of learning about dementia, appreciation of the caring role and how to support carers in addition to increased awareness of how to help people with dementia to live well (45). Moreover, there is evidence that the impact is wide-ranging and stretches far beyond the students who undertake the course.

d) Support Groups for people with Younger Onset Dementia

The National Dementia Strategy seeks to address 'the needs of all people with dementia, including those with younger-onset dementia' and states that the challenges and needs of those with Young Onset Dementia (YOD) can be vastly different from older people (1). It is estimated that up to 4,311 people are living with YOD in Ireland (2).

Many are still employed in the labour market at the time of their diagnosis and have financial and personal responsibilities such as mortgages and young families. The review of post-diagnostic supports and pathways

published by the National Dementia Office (26) states that people with Younger Onset Dementia have greater difficulty fitting into existing dementia service provision, which is generally tailored to the needs of older people. In fact, this was found to be a significant barrier in attending support groups. The report and research (6) published by The ASI highlights the importance and wellbeing benefit of support groups for people with YOD and their preference for having YOD-specific groups. The ASI's consultations and research highlight the need for both online and face-to-face offerings in the local community (6, 46, 47). Research has shown that people with YOD often feel that they do not fit in with the age profile of those attending more traditional support groups (48, 49). In providing support groups to people affected by YOD, it is imperative that these groups are age and stage appropriate, and fulfil the needs of those in attendance (50).

5. Invest in Dementia Research Centres of Excellence

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. These will be high value grants provided to world-class researchers over three years, enabling them explore and develop programmes of work to embed a culture of research, evidence-based practice and innovation in dementia prevention, diagnosis, care and/or cure.

Rationale

- Dementia research continues to be poorly funded relative to its importance and the significant impact of the disease on both an individual and societal level.
- Ireland has strong research infrastructure meaning it is well prepared for high quality, patient-driven translational dementia research. Now, there is now a need for funding to actually undertake and implement this work.
- The importance of research is highlighted in national policy and strategy (51) yet there continues to be no regular dementia-specific funding round available in Ireland. For example, a key objective of the National Dementia Strategy is "Funding for clinical, non-clinical (including psychosocial research) and health service research on dementia" (1).

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. There are approximately 105 Disease-Modifying Agents under trial worldwide, of which many are in later-stage clinical trials (52) and high optimism that some of these will be licensed for use over the coming years. There is an acute need to invest in Research so that Ireland can begin preparing for the impact of these therapies and significant advancements in diagnostics.

Across Ireland, there is an existing network of institutions and individuals with expertise in dementia and facilities to undertake essential dementia research, aimed at preventing dementia and supporting those with the disease to live as well as possible. Over the past two years, Ireland's Research Infrastructure has grown meaning Ireland is better prepared for high quality, patient-driven translational dementia research. This infrastructure

includes TeamUp For Dementia Research¹, The ASI's well developed PPI Initiative², strong investment in Dementia Trials Ireland³ and Dementia Research Network Ireland⁴. Now, there is now a need for funding to actually undertake and implement quality research.

Research and innovation is a key focus for the WHO Global Action Plan for Dementia (2017-2025) and given the significant scientific, medical and socioeconomic challenge dementia poses for Ireland, it is vital that we continue to invest in dementia research (53).

6. €1.4 million funding for Memory Assessment and Support Service

The Draft Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland published by the National Dementia Office (54) 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 funding for Memory Assessment and Support Service (MASS) in communities.

The diagnostic assessment in a MASS is comprehensive and capable of diagnosing complex presentations, including Young Onset Dementia. The Draft Model of Care sets out that there should be a minimum of one MASS per local population of 150,000 people (i.e. three Community Health Networks), performing approximately 300 assessments per year.

In addition, people with significant risk factors for dementia or who are diagnosed with Subjective Cognitive Impairment (SCI), Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) or dementia, can access a brain health (risk reduction) service through the MASS.

The ASI is calling on the Government to fund a further two further MASS teams (at a cost of €700,000 each) across communities in Ireland where the need is the highest.

The composition of Level 2 Memory Assessment and Support Service consists of: *Consultant 0.5 WTE; Senior Neuro-psychologist 0.5 WTE; Specialist Registrar 1.0 WTE; CNS/ANP 3.0 WTE; Senior Occupational Therapist 0.5 WTE; Senior Speech and Language Therapist 0.5 WTE; Senior Social Worker 0.5 WTE; Senior Dietitian 0.5 WTE; Neuro-radiologist 0.2 WTE; Clerical Support (Grade 4) 1.0 WTE (National Dementia Office, 2021). A Level 2 Memory Assessment and Support Service can also triage people with language, behavioural, visuo-spatial and

¹ TeamUp For Dementia Research is a service that aims to make research more accessible by breaking down barriers to recruitment and participation. It is managed by The ASI in collaboration with Dementia Research Network Ireland.

² The ASI's internationally recognised PPI initiative led by the Dementia Research Advisory Team. These experts by experience ensure that research is patient-led and relevant to people living with dementia and their families.

³ Dementia Trials Ireland is a world-class clinical trials infrastructure to support and grow dementia intervention studies. It is a landmark step in helping prepare Ireland for undertaking and delivering clinical trials.

⁴ Dementia Research Network Ireland links researchers across disciplines in the areas of dementia and neurodegenerative diseases with the objective of enhancing research co-operation and coordination in Ireland.

other presentations and divide on the most appropriate diagnostic pathway for the person (e.g. to a RSMC, cognitive/behavioural neurological clinic or a POA service).

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