

ASI Research Update

Summer 2023



THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY *of* IRELAND

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to our Summer Research Newsletter!

The Research & Policy team have been busy the last few months working on funding schemes, in-person events and training, including the launch of our National Survey.

Check out what we have been up to below and some upcoming events.

The Experience of Dementia in Ireland 2023 - We need your help!



The Alzheimer Society of Ireland recently launched our national survey to capture a snapshot of the experiences of people affected by dementia – those living with the condition and their families, caregivers and supporters.

We want to understand more about key challenges and what support is needed. This research aims to use the information gathered from the survey in our political advocacy, service planning and awareness-raising about dementia.

To be eligible to take part in this study, the following people are needed:

- Individuals currently providing (informal) care or support to a family member or a friend who is living with dementia
- Persons living with dementia
- Participants can be located anywhere in the Republic of Ireland

You can check out our website for more information of how to take part: www.alzheimer.ie

Report Launch - The Case for Dementia Clinical Nurse Specialists in Acute Settings

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is pleased to publish this short report examining the case for investment in Dementia Nurse Specialist Roles in acute settings in Ireland. The results of this work highlight the substantial improvements these roles have on the experience of people with dementia and their families in acute settings.

Recommendations include:

1. Invest in at least one Dementia Clinical Nurse Specialist for every 300 hospital admissions
2. Ensure that the Dementia Clinical Nurse Specialist roles are supported through structure and cooperation for ongoing measurable success.
3. Fully integrate and embed the Dementia Clinical Nurse Specialist role within existing services for dementia patients.

This work was commissioned by The Alzheimer Society of Ireland and carried out by Dr Liz Tully from Xenon Health Solutions. You can read this on our website!

Report Launch - The Case for Dementia Clinical Nurse Specialists in Acute Settings



The Cost of Living While Caring: A brief report on the financial situation of family carers of people with dementia in Ireland, highlighting significant financial challenges faced by family carers of people with dementia. This publication results from a collaboration between The ASI and Family Carers Ireland (FCI). It follows an analysis of feedback provided by family carers of people with dementia surveyed as part of FCI's The State of Caring 2022 report.

This report highlights the financial challenges faced by 129 family carers of people with dementia and is based on anonymised dementia-specific data collected by Family Carers Ireland. It also provides a picture of the costs of caring in Ireland in 2022 for family carers of people living with dementia.

- 55% of carers said they have difficulty making ends meet. Notably, 12% (n=15) of family carers state they have great difficulty making ends meet.
- 17.8% of family carers stated that they were cutting back on household essentials.
- 22.5% have cut back on seeing friends and family.
- In some cases, financial difficulties were so impactful that people had fallen into arrears with mortgage payments (4.7%) and utility bills (5.4%).

Read the report in full on our website, www.alzheimer.ie

Upcoming Events

DemTalks Podcast Launch 13th June 2023



The Dementia Carers Campaign Network supported by The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is an advocacy group of carers and supporters of people living with dementia.

The DemTalks Podcast is a podcast series designed by members on topics that are important to them. Caring for a person with dementia can be an isolating experience and this podcast seeks to alleviate some of that isolation through information, solidarity and hope.

The launch will showcase the work of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network, feature a panel discussion on Caring in the LGBT+ Community and have a focus on Carer well being with a talk from Professor Ian Robertson as well as light refreshments and a chance to chat to other carers and collaborators.

When: 13th June 2023

Where: Lexicon Library and Cultural Centre, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin

Time: 7-9pm

Alzheimer Europe Conference 2023—October 16-18th



The 33rd Alzheimer Europe Conference is taking place in Helsinki, Finland this year 16-18th October. The theme for this year is "New Opportunities in Dementia Care, Policy & Research".

The ASI Research & Policy Team were delighted to have a number of abstracts selected for the conference, and we look forward to seeing some of you in October!

Irish Gerontological Society Annual Scientific Meeting

The Irish Gerontological Society is holding its Annual Scientific Meeting this year at The Galmont Hotel, Galway from 28th-30th September.

This year's conference theme is "Looking to the Years Ahead: Europe's fastest growing older population". For more information on abstract submission and speakers, check out their website.