



PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION 2024

Dementia Can't Wait



THE Alzheimer SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Dementia Supports to Empower Lives

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) is calling on the Government to invest in vital community supports, care services, and social protection for people affected by dementia.

The ASI is urging the Government to honour the Programme for Government, the National Dementia Strategy, and to bring the recently launched Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland from paper to practice.

€2.3 million

Investment in **Dementia-specific Day Services** including **Day Care at Home** and **Weekend Activity Clubs**

€5.2 million

Investment in **Enhanced Dementia Care** including, **Dementia Nurse Specialists**, **The Model of Care for Dementia** and **Dementia Research**

€2.2 million

Investment in **Therapeutic Support** and **Education** for Family Carers

€1.59 million

Investment in **Pay Parity** for **Dementia Workers**

€10 million

Investment in **Dementia Home Care**

Social Protection

Invest in adequate **Social Protection** for **Dementia Carers**

You can find a comprehensive evidence base for these Asks at alzheimer.ie

About The Alzheimer Society of Ireland

A national non-profit organisation, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is person-centred, rights-based and 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 and Saturday 10am - 4pm



Dementia Supports to Empower Lives

1 €2.3 million investment in dementia-specific Day Services

- **Day Care at Home** This vital service provides meaningful interaction and psycho-social support to people with dementia and their families for whom attending Day Centres is not possible or of interest.
- **Weekend Services/Activity Clubs** Dementia does not end on a Friday. The ASI intends to expand its traditional day care to include 20 Weekend Activity Clubs with a special focus on Younger Onset Dementia.

2 €2.2 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 is significant. Funding is required to provide therapeutic and educational supports to family carers. These include:

- **Education and training programmes**
- **Professional counselling and psychotherapy.**

3 €10 million investment in Dementia Home Care

The ASI acknowledges the increased investment by this Government in

Dementia-Specific Home Care but that investment is not adequately meeting the needs of people affected by dementia. Increased funding as well as action to address staffing and retention challenges is required.

4 €5.2 million investment in Enhanced Dementia Care

- **Dementia Nurse Specialists**
An investment of €2.8m would provide at least one Clinical Dementia Nurse Specialist role in every acute hospital in Ireland.
- **Model of Care for Dementia including Memory Assessment Support Services (MASS)**
Target 1 of the Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland is to provide a minimum of one MASS per local population of 150,000 people performing approximately 300 assessments per year. Investment is required to move the Model of Care from paper to practice and an investment of €1.4 million would fund two MASS in the area of greatest need.
- **Dementia Research**
An investment of €1 million in dementia-specific research funding will support dementia research professionals and clinicians to explore and develop programmes of work to embed a culture of research, evidence-based practice and innovation so that research becomes a critical enabler of dementia prevention, diagnosis, care, and cure.

5 €1.59 million investment in Pay Equity for Dementia Workers

The ASI team who provide the majority of Dementia-Specific services throughout Ireland receive less favourable terms and conditions than public sector workers engaged in comparable work. This has led to growing recruitment and retention issues and concern regarding the sustainability of the services the organisation provides to people affected by dementia.

6 Provide Adequate Social Protection for Dementia Carers

The Irish health and social care system is dependent on family carers who provide the lion's share of care to people with dementia. The value of this work to the State is estimated to be in the region of €804m per annum. Providing those carers with an adequate and dignified standard of living must be a priority.

- Increase the Carers Allowance by a minimum of €27.50
- Make Carers Allowance a qualifying payment for the Fuel Allowance
- Recognise the costs of caring in the allowable deductions for Carer's Allowance, including medical expenses and fuel, and assess income on net value.

The Facts

There are 64,000 people living with dementia in Ireland¹

By 2045 this figure is expected to rise to 150,000²

Approx two-thirds of people with dementia live at home³ and their quality of life is greatly impacted by community supports

• 1 Pierse, T., O'Shea, E., & Carney, P. (2019). Estimates of the prevalence, incidence and severity of dementia in Ireland. 36(2)
• 2 HSE and National Dementia Office (2020) Dementia Prevalence figures retrieved from <http://dementiapathways.ie/permacache/fdd/cf3/792/e223695cf65ee173882bdc394de3a8fc.pdf> • 3 Cahill, S. & Pierce, M. (2013) The Prevalence of Dementia in Ireland

Contact us:

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- 🐦 twitter.com/alzheimerSocIrl
- ☎ National Helpline on 1800 341 341 is open six days a week Monday to Friday 10 am - 5 pm and Saturday 10 am - 4 pm

