



Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the Summer edition of your ASI Research Newsletter!

Below you will find information relating to our recent research activities, including an important update on our Pre-Budget Submission 2025, collaborative research reports, the work of the Dementia Research Advisory Team members and a TeamUp for Dementia Research announcement.

Report Launch Highlight

Cognitive Stimulation Therapy for People with Dementia: An Evaluation of Facilitators and Barriers to Intervention in Ireland

New research funded by the Irish Research Council and conducted by National College of Ireland in collaboration with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, makes recommendations for increasing provision of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy for people living with dementia.

Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) is an evidence-based intervention for people with mild-to-moderate dementia, which involves attending group sessions over a period of 7-14 weeks to work with a trained facilitator, engaging in different activities to trigger thinking and concentration. Studies show this intervention can improve cognitive function, communication, and memory and thinking abilities, with most improvements seen when the intervention is offered earlier in the disease-course.

Many thanks to the TeamUp for Dementia Research members who participated in this research.

You can read the full report on our website.

Cognitive Stimulation
Therapy for People with
Living with Dementia

An evaluation of facilitators and barriers
to intervention delivery in Ireland

Summary Report: Study Findings



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
For Researchers with Things to Do



National
College of
Ireland

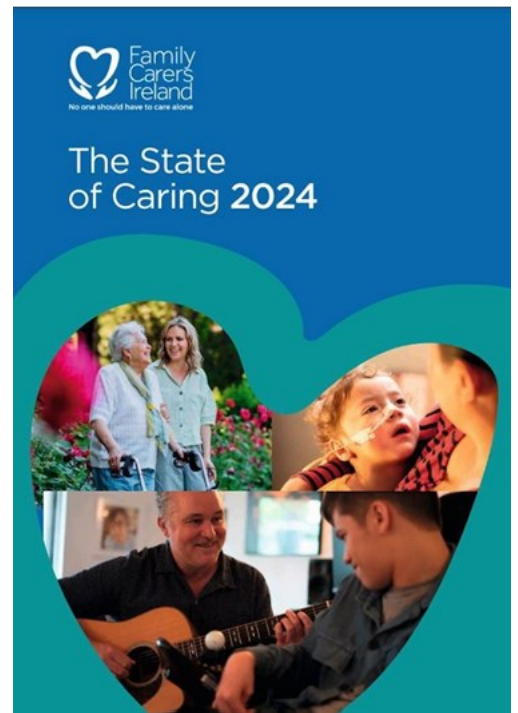
Family Carers Ireland State of Caring 2024

Every two years, Family Carers Ireland conducts the State of Caring survey, a comprehensive investigation to better understand the lives and experiences of family carers.

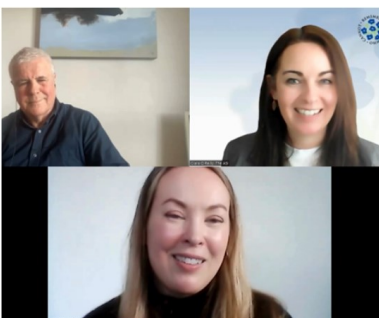
The findings are used to highlight the impact of being a carer to the media, in evidence submissions to the Government and in reports that influence decisionmakers and policy makers in a wide range of areas.

Thank you to the many TeamUp for Dementia Research members took time to contribute their experiences to the survey.

The full report is available to read on Family Carers Ireland's website.



Dementia Research Advisory Team Updates



Being a Person Public Involvement or PPI Contributor means drawing on your personal expertise as someone affected by dementia to collaborate with and improve dementia research. No formal background in research is required, rather you apply your lived experience of the condition to working with researchers. In demonstrating its commitment to incorporating that lived experience into our research work, The ASI provides bespoke training and research opportunities to the members of the Dementia Research Advisory Team.

The members have had a busy few months showcasing and honing their combined skills by presenting at international conferences and development workshops. We are so proud to support their continued success and recognised leadership as PPI Contributors in dementia research.

To learn more about the work of the Dementia Research Advisory Team please check out our website.

TeamUp for Dementia Research

TeamUp for Dementia Research will shortly celebrate its 3rd Birthday!

In the first six months of the year, TeamUp Members have been offered a huge variety of research projects; from remote focus groups and one-to-one interviews to in-person cognitive stimulation therapy and lab-based research opportunities.

Many thanks to all of the TeamUp Members whose commitment to improving dementia research in Ireland has helped the service to grow at an unprecedented rate. **The TeamUp for Dementia Research service is temporarily at capacity.** If you are already a member, don't worry! This will not affect you or the way you use the service.

We are now operating a Waiting List for potential new members. To learn more about research opportunities relevant to your interests and to join the Waiting List, please check out our website.

TeamUp for Dementia Research is open to all people (over the age of 18) affected by dementia. Please note that TeamUp for Dementia Research continues to support and circulate new research projects. If you are a research professional and are seeking recruitment support, please contact teamup@alzheimer.ie



Join the TeamUp for Dementia Research Waiting List



Research Opportunities Currently Available to Members

** In-person and remote: Limerick **

Study Title: Supporting Communication in Advanced Dementia: Insights from Familial and Professional Caregivers

The purpose of this study is to uncover effective strategies to enhance communication and promote a better understanding of the needs and emotions of people affected by dementia.

To learn more about this study, including participant eligibility, please click on the recruitment poster.

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Please check out this link: <https://shorturl.at/ENwiw>

CALL FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF PEOPLE WITH ADVANCED DEMENTIA
For a research study on communication

GET IN TOUCH

If you are:

- A family caregiver of a person with advanced dementia (defined as a person who has significant cognitive impairment and cannot communicate verbally). The person with AD may be living in home/residential/hospital or nursing home settings. Family caregivers should have provided some level of care to their family member in the past two years.
- Willing to take part in a focus group (either online or in person) with other caregivers. The time commitment is a maximum of 1 hour.

**** Online Survey ****

Study Title: A Quantitative Examination of Death Anxiety and Sensory Processing Sensitivity in Caregivers

The purpose of this study is to examine factors that influence peoples' levels of death anxiety. By better understanding death anxiety in caregivers, we can help protect them from the negative effects of death anxiety and promote better mental health.

To learn more about this study, including participant eligibility, please see here: <https://shorturl.at/Uiv4d>



Death Anxiety Research Project

This study examines psychological factors that influence death anxiety. Should you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete a short online survey that includes items on demographics, death anxiety and other psychological factors.



Scan me to take part in this research!

If you have any questions or would like to know more about this research, contact Tadhg (tconney@ucc.ie), Dr Mike Murphy (mike.murphy@ucc.ie) or Dr Annalisa Setti (a.setti@ucc.ie).



University of Cork, Ireland

This project has gained ethical approval from UCC's Social Research Committee.

**** In-person: Galway (and surrounding areas)****

Study Title: Multi-user Social Virtual (VR) Reality for people living with dementia.

The purpose of this study is to assess the effectiveness of a multi-user VR application for people living with dementia over the course of 7 weeks. The researcher aims to understand the usability of the equipment and if the multi-user VR application impacts feelings of social interaction and social connectedness.

To learn more about this study, please check here: <https://shorturl.at/gFKg8>

IMAGES TAKEN FROM VIRTUAL REALITY SOCIAL SPACE



Pre-Budget Submission 2025

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's Pre Budget Submission

Last week we launched our Pre Budget Submission. In this submission, we asked political representatives to invest in dementia supports and services.

As part of this, we have asked the Government to invest in more resources for TeamUp For Dementia Research so we can expand the service.

Read our submission on our website.

