

**PRESS RELEASE – Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

## The Alzheimer Society of Ireland welcomes Minister O'Donnell announcement to commence implementation of the National Dementia Registry

***The registry will provide vital data to map services and supports for people living with dementia in Ireland***

**27<sup>th</sup> May 2025:** The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) has welcomed the announcement by the Minister of State for Older People and Housing Kieran O'Donnell to commence implementation of the **National Dementia Registry**, which was made at the Memory Assessment Services Symposium in Trinity College last Friday.

The ASI is encouraged by this announcement to commence a registry to map services, identify need and plan the delivery of **equitable access to services** and **improve data collection** on dementia.

In recent years, The ASI has used its platform as a **leading advocacy organisation** to highlight the need for a national registry – including in our Pre-Budget Submissions, General Election Manifesto, and in our Submission to and at the Joint Oireachtas Health Committee.

A well-funded National Dementia Registry is crucial to **mapping services, identifying needs,** and **ensuring equitable access**. It will guide all aspects of dementia service provision and planning.

The ASI welcomed an allocation of €200,000 in Budget 2025 to implement a National Dementia Registry and development of the registry is included as a **key commitment** in the Programme for Government in January 2025.

**The Alzheimer Society of Ireland CEO Andy Heffernan said:**

*“I am very encouraged by the announcement by Minister O'Donnell to commence the National Dementia Registry. The development of a registry is essential to support the development, operation and quality of dementia-related health and social care services.*

*“In 2016, The ASI commissioned a study establishing the feasibility of a National Dementia Registry. A report published by The HSE in 2021 outlines a National Dementia Registry Model, the required minimum dataset, costs and recommendations.*

*“The ability to quantify the number of people diagnosed with dementia in Ireland and where they live will facilitate responsive and appropriate allocation of resources and service planning. A National Dementia Registry will underpin all aspects of dementia service provision and planning and ensure an equitable approach.*

*“The new registry will assist in addressing service gaps and help to plan services for the increasing number of people with dementia across Ireland. The ASI has lobbied for several years on this issue, and it is included as a key commitment in the Programme for Government. I am very encouraged by the Minister’s engagement and interest in progressing this area.”*

## **ENDS**

**For more information or to arrange a media interview, contact The ASI Communications & Relationship Manager, Jocelyn Grant (085) 856 7143 or The ASI Communications Officer Lead, Niamh Burke at or (086) 029 56 34, or email [communications@alzheimer.ie](mailto:communications@alzheimer.ie)**

### **Notes to the Editor:**

#### **About The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI):**

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is Ireland's leading dementia-specific service provider. The Alzheimer Society of Ireland works across the country in the heart of local communities providing dementia-specific services and supports and advocating for the rights and needs of all people living with dementia and their carers. Our vision is an Ireland where people on the journey of dementia are valued and supported. A national non-profit organisation, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland advocates, empowers and champions the rights of people living with dementia and their communities to quality support and services.

#### **Alzheimer National Helpline:**

For more information on our supports and services during this challenging time, please contact The Alzheimer Society of Ireland National Helpline. The Helpline is open six days a week, Monday to Friday, 10 am – 5 pm and Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm, on 1800 341 341. Email at [helpline@alzheimer.ie](mailto:helpline@alzheimer.ie) or via Live Chat at [www.alzheimer.ie](http://www.alzheimer.ie)

#### **About Dementia:**

- There are 64,000 people with dementia in Ireland, and the number of people with the condition will double in the next 25 years to over 150,000 by 2045. \*
- There are 11,000 new cases of dementia in Ireland each year. That’s at least 30 people every day, and anyone can get dementia - even people in their 30s/40s/50s.\*\*
- Dementia is an umbrella term used to describe a range of conditions which cause changes and damage to the brain.

- Dementia is progressive. There is currently no cure. Dementia is not simply a health issue but a social issue that requires a community response.
- Most people with dementia (63%) live at home in the community. Over 180,000 people in Ireland are currently or have been carers for a family member or partner with dementia, with many more providing support and care in other ways.
- 1 in 10 people diagnosed with dementia in Ireland is under 65.