

# Building on the Potential of the Programme for Government:

A stepping stone to a  
more dementia-inclusive  
Ireland in Budget 2026



PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION **2026**



THE **Alzheimer**  
SOCIETY OF IRELAND





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## Building on the Potential of the Programme for Government:

A stepping stone to a  
more dementia-inclusive  
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The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) is calling on the Government to improve equity of access to dementia supports and services across Ireland. Increased investment is needed in community services, dementia advisers, dementia-specific homecare and dementia research.

The ASI is urging the Government to invest €9,060,520 in dementia in Budget 2026.



**€320,000**  
Development of  
Four New One-Day  
Dementia-Specific  
Day Care Centres



**€160,000**  
Expand Capacity in  
Four Existing Day  
Care Services



**€500,000**  
Dementia-Specific  
Day Care at Home



**€609,520**  
Dementia  
Advisers



**€62,000**  
Dementia-Specific  
Counselling Services



**€7,300,000**  
Dementia-Specific  
Home Support



**€50,000**  
Research  
Dementia Fund



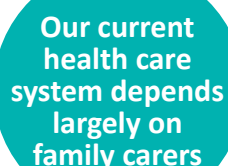
**€59,000** Improve  
Access Opportunities  
to Participate in  
Dementia Research

## Submission Context

***The Programme for Government:* This outlines a commitment to supporting people living with dementia and their families over the next five years, alongside building essential infrastructure in the sector. The Programme for Government was published in January 2025.**

**The Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland:** This was published in 2023, setting out 37 targets and a series of practice recommendations to advance the assessment, treatment, care and support of people with dementia and their families. Implementation of this transformative model is underway, and momentum must be maintained in moving it from paper to practice (1). The ASI believes that designated funding needs to be made available to accelerate the implementation of the ambitious and important Model of Care, which aims to deliver the right care, in the right place, at the right time to people impacted by dementia.

**Financial Challenges:** Our current health and social care system depends largely on family carers who provide the main bulk of care; its estimated value to the State is in the region of €807m per annum (2).



Our current health care system depends largely on family carers

However, people with dementia and their carers continue to experience financial challenges. Research published by The ASI and Family Carers Ireland in 2022 and later research in 2023 (3, 4) highlights the disproportionate impact of the cost of living on people with dementia and family carers, with many struggling to make ends meet.

**Prevalence of Dementia Continues to Rise:** Currently, projections are estimated at 150,000 by 2050 (5). For every one person with dementia, it is estimated that three family members are significantly impacted. While dementia-specific service provision is increasing across Ireland, demand continues to outpace this growth, and many core ASI services have growing waiting lists.

Research points to people living with dementia having unmet needs

National research published by The ASI and anecdotal evidence points to people living with dementia and their families having unmet needs and struggling with their physical and emotional health, access to services, and loneliness.

There are intensified global efforts to address dementia through research funding and collaboration. Ireland has an opportunity to align with these efforts and amplify its impact.

**Memory Assessment and Support Services (MASS):** As outlined in the Model of Care (1), MASS are a fundamental component of the three-level diagnostic model in Ireland. Diagnostic assessment in a MASS will generally focus on older persons with a typical and clear presentation. These services play a pivotal role in providing early and accurate diagnoses, including for complex cases, while signposting tailored post-diagnostic support.

10 MASS services have been identified so far in Ireland

As stated in the Model of Care (1), the aim is to have 30 MASS locations across the country – one per 150,000 of population. The HSE's National Dementia Services (NDS) is currently developing MASS locations across Ireland.

Only three are fully operational

10 MASS services have been identified – namely, Donegal, Sligo / Leitrim, Cavan / Monaghan, Mayo, Galway, Limerick, Kerry, Wexford, Waterford and Mullingar. However, only three are operational Sligo / Leitrim, Cavan / Monaghan and Mayo.

Funding is also needed to initiate the development of 20 additional MASS locations and to recruit staff, including support for the expansion of existing memory services.

The ASI agrees with the targets set out in the Model of Care that people should be seen within six weeks of referral with 80% of people who have undergone an assessment receiving their results within three months. To make this happen, the aim is that there should be MASS location for every 150,000 of population, as stated in the Model of Care (1).

**Regional Specialist Memory Centres (RSMC):** The RSMC model is outlined in the Model of Care for Dementia (1) and is a Level Three assessment and diagnostic service. The RSMC is generally for complex, atypical, unclear cases, suspected Young Onset Dementia, or where the person wishes to participate in a more detailed and specific aetiological evaluation.

There are currently four RSMCs that are operational – Cork, Galway, St James and Tallaght. A National Intellectual Disability Memory Service is also operational in Tallaght. More funding is required to further develop RSMC including in the North Dublin area.

Up to 45% of dementia cases can potentially be prevented or delayed

**Brain Health:** According to The Lancet, up to 45% of dementia cases could be prevented or delayed by addressing key health and lifestyle factors throughout the continuum of life. This may start in early life with education, to midlife where the majority of these factors are highlighted, to later life. These factors include education, health, socioeconomic status, lifestyle, and environment (6, 6a). However, public awareness of preventive steps is limited.

Investing in brain health matters because lifelong brain health is essential. Dementia risk begins early and persists throughout life, making brain health a lifelong priority. Promoting brain health is essential for reducing dementia prevalence and improving overall well-being. Addressing modifiable risk factors like smoking, inactivity, and poor diet could prevent up to 40% of dementia cases (6, 6a).

Many risk factors are tied to broader societal issues

Many risk factors are tied to broader societal issues, including poverty, ethnicity, and locality. Irish research tells us that public understanding of brain health needs improvement, particularly in areas with lower socio-economic status, highlighting the need for outreach and accessible resources.



## Introduction – CEO Andy Heffernan

**Support for people with dementia and their family carers has made significant strides in recent years, due to increased political awareness and increased funding. However, much more remains to be done. It is essential now that momentum is not lost and that the needs of so many remain a priority on the political agenda, and that dementia supports and services are delivered in a fair and equal way.**

Despite increased political support and backing, people who are impacted by dementia tell us daily that living with dementia can lead to isolation as they struggle to access critical services like homecare and community care, particularly in rural Ireland.

Our Pre-Budget Submission 2026 looks to address the growing need for dementia supports and services which has been costed and is evidence-based and is in line with the Programme for Government, which was published earlier this year.

In total, we are asking the Government for an investment of just over nine million euro for Dementia-Specific Day Care Centres, Dementia-Specific Day Care at Home, Dementia Advisers, Counselling Support for People Impacted by Dementia, Ringfenced Home Support Hours for People Living with Dementia, the scoping of a Research Dementia Fund, and to Improve Access Opportunities to Participate in Dementia Research.

The funding set out in our submission will enhance dementia supports and services within current resources and capacity, but it won't solve all existing challenges. Lasting change requires structural reforms: accelerated implementation of the Model of Care for Dementia, funding for the dementia registry, a full review of the first dementia strategy published in 2014 and key steps being taken toward a new national dementia strategy.



**Andy Heffernan**  
CEO, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland

In the case of homecare for people living with dementia, this will meet rising demand across the country for this key service. However, as we are all aware, action is also required to address the workforce challenges in homecare, including training, career pathways, recruitment, retention and the structural barriers to reimbursement of travel expenses, particularly in rural areas.

I am encouraged by the Minister for Older People Kieran O'Donnell and his ambition to progress the Statutory Home Care Scheme. This is very important to people with dementia. The support enjoyed by the wider dementia community is immeasurable, both at the community, national and EU levels, and we hope to play a role in focusing attention on our partners at every level. The 2026 budget within the context of this can represent a renewed commitment.

We welcome that there will be recurring funding of €300k funding for Young Onset Early-Stage dementia services and Cognitive Stimulation Therapy in 2026. This cohort has difficulty in accessing age-appropriate services given day centres are generally tailored to the needs of older people. Our activity clubs, which we started to roll out in 2024, aim to ensure people stay active,

connected and supported in their communities by providing opportunities for social engagement.

I also welcome the recent announcement by Minister O'Donnell to commence implementation of the National Dementia Registry, a platform we have been lobbying for in recent years. I am hugely encouraged by this announcement to map services, identify needs and plan the delivery of equitable access to services and improve data collection on dementia. Now funding must be secured in Budget 2026 to ensure the next steps can be taken to progress the implementation.

With the recent and very positive news in relation to disease-modifying therapies for Alzheimer's disease, this represents a landmark breakthrough in dementia care. These therapies have the potential to delay the progression of symptoms, improving quality of life for individuals with dementia and their families. However, their successful implementation requires planning, and the structures and resources now need to be put in place to ensure people can access these treatments should they wish to.

I am encouraged too by the recent Section 39 agreement at the Workplace Relations Commission, which is part of the Government's efforts to restore long-overdue pay parity between public sector workers and those in voluntary health and social care organisations like The ASI.

We have long advocated for pay parity for all our staff teams across the country and it has become a central tenet of our political advocacy and pre budget submissions. It's my belief that addressing issues around pay, conditions, and the status of Section 39 employees is essential in providing a flexible dedicated workforce that can support people living with dementia and family carers.

We will continue to lobby, both publicly and privately, for pay equity for our employees and we look forward to the swift implementation of this recent agreement.

Further discussions are needed to ensure that staff are not penalised when working long, fragmented hours, especially in more rural and disconnected areas. Currently homecare workers may travel long distances to get to their first work location and cannot be compensated for transport costs incurred.

It's important that Budget 2026 delivers financial supports for carers including the introduction of a universal carer's payment and the replacement of the current means-tested Carer's Allowance with a universal payment to ensure equitable financial support for all full-time carers. Family carers of people living with dementia deliver intensive, round-the-clock care, often at great financial cost and with little formal recognition.

**Family carers of people living with dementia deliver intensive, round-the-clock care, often at great financial cost and with little formal recognition.**

Finally, as we look forward to Budget 2026, I am very grateful for the ongoing engagement from Minister of State for Older People and Housing Kieran O'Donnell TD.

In addition, we work very closely with the National Dementia Services, the Department of Health and Senator Fiona O'Loughlin, the Chair of the All-Party Oireachtas Group on Dementia and people affected by dementia, including our working groups, to meet the challenges that the condition presents in Irish society.

Given the rising need for dementia supports and services, we need to build on the investment and momentum of recent years and continue to address the challenges faced by people impacted by dementia.

Our funding asks contained in our Pre-Budget Submission 2026 have the potential to make a difference in every community across Ireland.

*Thank you,*

**Andy Heffernan**

CEO, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland



## PBS 2026 – Lived Experience

**Muriel Moore, a member of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network (DCCN), said:**



“People going through a dementia or Alzheimer’s diagnosis experience a lot of change, which can be really challenging not just for the individual themselves but their families too. Home care provides stability and certainty and enables people living with dementia to feel comfortable and at ease in an environment familiar to them – all of which is so important to their wellbeing. Home care is such a vital support for carers and families too, providing respite and social interaction that can make a hugely positive difference to people’s lives. The benefits of home care truly cannot be overestimated.”

**Kevin Cullen, member of the Dementia Research Advisory Team (DRAT) said:**



“Alzheimer’s Disease is an incurable, life limiting disease and when diagnosed aged 63, I knew I had to contribute to research in whatever way I can. There have been no new effective treatments for 20 years; the latest disease modifying drugs (though not for everyone) give hope for the future. Meanwhile, there are so many unknowns about dementia. It is essential that we invest in research into more effective care and treatments, reduce health and social care costs in the future and most importantly, improve the quality of life for people with dementia, their care givers, and families”

**Susan Crampton, Acting Chair of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network said:**



“During my caring journey with my mother, I experienced first-hand the challenges that families face when seeking the appropriate dementia support and services quickly. My mother lived in a rural area in the West of Ireland, which meant we were particularly affected by the lack of availability of carers that could provide home care to enable her to remain in the comfort of her own home and in her community. There needs to be enough trained carers available across the country to ensure dementia support and services can be accessed easily and quickly by all people living with dementia and their families, regardless of their location.”

**Wayne Baron, living with Lewy Body Dementia and his wife, Siobhan said:**



“Finding your people, those that understand what you’re going through and can help you find the positives during challenging moments is at the heart of community supports and services. Whether it’s attending a monthly support group, an activity club, accessing home care or dementia-specific day services, it is crucial that people with dementia and their carers have a variety of options available to them so that they can access the support and services they need most, and so that they can stay engaged with their community and continue to live well with dementia. As someone who is under 65 and living with early-onset dementia, it’s particularly important that I can access supports and services that cater to my specific needs.”

## PBS 2026 – Lived Experience

**Frank Jennings, a member of the Irish Dementia Working Group, living with Young Onset Dementia said:**

"I'm a very social person, and I love meeting people and being active. Even though I have been diagnosed with Young Onset Dementia, I still want to remain a part of my community. It's so encouraging to hear that specific services that are relevant for people living with Young Onset Dementia are being established around Ireland – I really look forward to the day when they are available in my area.



These services are safe, engaging, and inclusive spaces where people living with Young Onset Dementia and early-stage dementia can take part in a range activities – these will ultimately enhance our quality of life. The Government must continue to provide funding, so these services can be further developed in the years to come. We all know how important it is that an individual's social care needs are met, and this is even more crucial for someone living with Young Onset Dementia".

**Maureen Garry, a member of the Irish Dementia Working Group, living with dementia said:**



"Navigating my local community can be exhausting and time-consuming. I need to concentrate all the time, walk slowly, watch my step, remember where I am going, what I'm getting, where the car is parked. I'm so exhausted at the end of every outing that I need to rest. Yet, people like me

who are living with dementia are not automatically entitled to a disabled persons parking permit or to disability benefit. We are told all the time to mind ourselves, take good care of our health, but how can we when we have to pay for every trip to the GP and all our medications. I know of people living with dementia that go without their medication because they simply cannot afford it. This needs to change. Surely if we were entitled to disability benefit it would save the health service money in the long run."

**Dr. Fergus Timmons, Learning and Development Quality, Innovation and Growth Manager, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland said:**



"From our experience, we know that family carers of people living with dementia are often not prepared for their new role. They don't know what to expect or how to cope with the challenges of caring for a close relative living with this degenerative and incurable disease.

They see the symptoms of dementia getting gradually more serious, and they have to try to adapt to huge changes in the relationship they have with the person who is living with dementia. They have to balance their own lives with their caring responsibilities and also prepare for an uncertain future. All of this contributes to stress, strain and carer burden. Many simply cannot cope. Many need professional counselling support on a one to one basis. This is a huge need, and would be a very welcome addition to the services and supports already offered by ASI."

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# 1 Expand Dementia Specific Day Services to support people living with dementia to remain living at home

The current government has committed to establishing 20 new dementia-specific day centres and doubling the funding for Day Care at Home.

- (a) Invest €320,000 in four new dementia-specific day care centres and €160,000 to expand capacity in existing services



**Dementia-specific day centres are vibrant hubs of activity, providing a warm and welcoming space for people living with dementia to connect, engage, and thrive outside of their homes. These centres foster community through social interaction, guest performances, and structured activities tailored to the needs of participants.**

The ASI has 58 day centres across the country. In 2024, there were 78,653 attendances, supporting 2,102 people living with dementia. An investment of €320,000 will fund the development of four new one-day services, with the option of an extra additional day for each day centre and €160,000 will expand capacity in four existing services.



## (b) Invest €500,000 to provide more Day Care at Home



**Day Care at Home is a dementia-specific service delivered by trained care workers, who provide one-to-one, person-centred support to people living with dementia for a set number of hours every week. Support is activity-based, focused on stimulation and socialising, which sets it apart from traditional homecare. Service provision needs to be flexible to accommodate the needs of people living with dementia and their family carers, across the country.**

In 2024, The ASI provided 89,212 hours of Day Care at Home to 1,040 people living with dementia. €500,000 will help The ASI to provide a further 16,666 hours (330 hours per week), supporting 115 more families.

### Why Investing in Dementia-Specific Day Services Matters

**Rising Need:** Waiting lists and unmet service demand highlight the urgency of increasing capacity for dementia-specific day services. There are currently 2,000 families on referral lists for Day Care at Home.

**Proven Dual Impact:** Independent evaluations show these services improve outcomes for people with dementia and family carers and help to meet unmet needs.

- An independent evaluation of the Day Care at Home service (7) states that it makes family care in the community more sustainable by improving outcomes, including avoiding or delaying care home admission. It is a unique service, offering much-needed relief and flexibility for family carers and provides opportunities for people with dementia to engage in positive social interactions and meaningful activities in their homes. Day Care at Home improves wellbeing and improves the everyday lived experience of people with dementia and their families. It also enhances the continuity of care for individuals who are unable or unwilling to attend day centres, ensuring they receive personalised, impactful support throughout their dementia journey.



- An independent evaluation of dementia-specific day centres (8) states that this service is highly valued by people living with dementia and their families. They provide a supportive environment for socialising, forming companionships, and participating in activities that offer cognitive stimulation and help retain abilities and skills. The dementia-specific focus of these centres reflects a strong commitment to person-centred care, extending support through both community outreach and in-reach initiatives, reducing isolation and enhancing wellbeing.

**Human Rights & Personhood:** In Ireland, 63% of people with dementia live at home in their communities. Day services empower individuals to maintain independence and community connections (9). People with dementia have the right to live as independently as possible, in a familiar environment linked to their communities (10). Research into day services and short-term respite for people with dementia through a personhood lens identified that day services are more acceptable and empowering for people with dementia than residential respite admissions (11).

**Dual Support:** While people living with dementia benefit from improved mood, increased socialisation, and reduced isolation, structured blocks of respite time enable carers to recharge physically and mentally.

**Equity of Access:** The Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland outlines the importance of day care services to people affected by dementia. However, there are significant disparities and inequity in access to day care services across Ireland. This investment will make access to dementia-specific day centres more equitable.





## 2 Information & Emotional Support Services

- (a) Invest €609,520 in eight additional Dementia Adviser posts across Ireland



**Dementia Advisers provide a locally based, individualised information, signposting, and emotional support service to people who are concerned about their cognitive health and/or have a diagnosis of dementia throughout their journey.**

The current government has committed to doubling the number of dementia advisers in the 2025-2030 Programme for Government. The ASI is requesting €609,520 to fund eight new Dementia Adviser Posts to service Meath/Louth, Kildare, Westmeath/Offaly, South Dublin/Wicklow, Wexford/Kilkenny, Cork/Kerry, Limerick and Sligo/Leitrim.

### Why Investing in Dementia Advisers Matters

**Growing Need:** Navigating services and supports is a key challenge for people with dementia and their families, and more access to information

and advice continues to be a strong need (4). The planned addition of Memory Assessment Support Services and Regional Specialist Memory Centres alongside increased GP referrals via Healthlink will create additional demand for the service.

**Comprehensive Support:** Dementia Advisers provide tailored guidance from diagnosis to end-of-life, preventing crises through early intervention and empowering families with information and support.

**Integration with Care Pathways:** The service is closely linked with health and social care professionals, facilitating referrals and aligning with Target 24 of the Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland (1) which states that all diagnosed individuals should receive contact details for their local Dementia Adviser. Currently, over 51% of referrals to the service come from health and social care professionals.

**Proven Impact:** An independent evaluation of this service demonstrates high satisfaction rates and strong value to people living with dementia, family carers and health and social care professionals. Recommendations emphasise the need for sustained development and resourcing to meet demand (12).

**Community Inclusion and Integration:** Dementia Advisers play an integral role in supporting communities to become more dementia-inclusive, fostering societal understanding and integration.

## (b) Explore and scope a dementia-specific psychotherapeutic support service



**Access to affordable, dementia-specific counselling services remains a glaring gap in Ireland's support landscape, as evidenced by national research evidence and frontline feedback (4).**

€62,000 will fund a project to explore and develop a framework for dementia-specific counselling services. The development work will include cost analysis, the drafting of a service framework, identifying training requirements and multi-stakeholder consultation and research.



## Why investing in dementia-specific psychotherapeutic support is important

**Unmet Need:** People with dementia express a clear need for support to come to terms with their diagnosis, manage their feelings about life changes, and cope with worsening symptoms.

Family carers struggle with deteriorating mental health, often compounded by the demands of caring and balancing their responsibilities with other aspects of their lives (4). In our research, 71% of family carers and 84% of people with dementia told us they would avail of counselling services if provided.

**Mental Health Impact:** Depression and anxiety are common amongst people with dementia and family carers (13, 14) and are linked to poorer outcomes (15, 16). Findings from national ASI research, with 72 people with dementia and 597 informal carers (4) underscore the need for dedicated mental health resources:

- 43% of family carers reported below-average mental health, with 16% experiencing poor mental health.
- 14% of family carers reported feeling depressed most of the time.
- One in ten family carers reported that they 'never' enjoy life.
- 31% of respondents with dementia rated their mental health as 'poor'.
- 20% of respondents with dementia stated that, in the previous week, they have not felt any enjoyment in life at all.

**Proven Benefit:** Counselling has demonstrated significant positive impacts for family carers, improving mental health and caring capacity. While evidence for its benefits to people with dementia continues to grow, early findings suggest it can play a vital role in enhancing quality of life and emotional resilience (17-19).

**Human Rights & Personhood:** Supporting mental health through counselling aligns with the rights of individuals to live with dignity and maintain their personhood. Every person deserves the opportunity to live

with dignity and access the resources they need to thrive emotionally, regardless of their diagnosis or caring role. Supporting emotional wellbeing is one of the five strands of post diagnostic support outlined for The Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland (1).







### 3 Increase Dementia-Specific Home Support & Address Home Support Staffing Challenges

Home Support that is dementia-specific and provided by dementia-trained staff is a vital lifeline for people with dementia and their families.

#### (a) Invest €7.3m\* in 22% ringfenced dementia-specific home support and take immediate action to address Home Support Staffing Challenges



\*On basis of allocation of 1 million home support hours

**Enactment of Statutory Home Care Scheme:** The Programme for Government commits to designing a Statutory Home Care Scheme to enable people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. While the Statutory Home Care Scheme promises to improve access to care, immediate action and increased funding are essential to meet the pressing needs of people living with dementia and their families until it comes to fruition.

**Dementia-specific care needs:** People living with dementia have diverse and specific needs in relation to homecare. Dementia-specific home support consists of person-centred, consistent, and continuous care, provided by staff trained in dementia care and delivered in partnership with the person living with dementia and their carer.



**Critical Staffing Challenges:** Dementia-specific home support requires specific competencies as most people with dementia who are in receipt of home support are at the moderate to advanced stage, often presenting with complex needs. These additional skills and competencies are often not reflected in remuneration. Research undertaken by The ASI (4) has found that of 236 families in receipt of homecare, 63% have experienced a reduction or delay in home support due to staffing issues.

**Inclusion & Independence:** Access to dementia-specific home support can prevent unnecessary transitions to long-term care, allowing individuals to remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible, upholding their right to choose where they live.

**Supporting families:** Without adequate home support, families and informal carers shoulder the lion's share of the caring workload, impacting their mental health, physical well-being, and financial security. In our research, 38% of family carers told us they struggle to cope with their caring responsibilities while almost one third spend 80% of their time providing care and support, equating to over 134 hours per week (4).

**Cost Effectiveness:** Investing in home support reduces reliance on more expensive residential and acute care settings. Providing quality support at home not only improves quality of life for individuals but also offers a sustainable solution to managing healthcare costs in the long term.







## 4 Invest in Dementia Research Initiatives

### (a) Invest €50,000 to conduct a scoping exercise to establish the first multiannual dementia research fund in Ireland



Ireland currently lacks a dedicated, long-term funding mechanism to support dementia research, leaving critical gaps in innovation and progress. Ireland's first multiannual dementia research fund would represent a transformative step in addressing the growing challenges of dementia.

€50,000 will fund a scoping exercise in a critical first step to ensure this initiative is feasible, strategically designed and impactful. This process would involve a comprehensive assessment of the current research landscape, identifying gaps, opportunities, and priorities for investment. The outcome of the scoping exercise would be a detailed roadmap outlining the potential structure, governance, and funding mechanisms of the multiannual dementia research fund.

## Why investing in Dementia Research is important

**Driving Innovation:** International research is leading to rapid advancements in prevention, diagnosis, care innovation and disease modifying therapies.

**Global and European Momentum:** Ireland has the opportunity to align with European and global research initiatives, enhancing competitiveness and impact. Currently, Ireland ranks average among 37 European countries in pan-European research initiatives (20), highlighting the need for greater investment to elevate its position.

**Addressing Gaps in Research Funding:** Dementia research accounts for less than 1.5% of total health research output, highlighting the urgent need for secure, long-term funding (21).

**Economic & Social Imperative:** Dementia care costs are projected to rise significantly due to increasing prevalence. Investing in research now can lead to cost-effective prevention, care, and treatment solutions and improved quality of life for people affected by dementia.

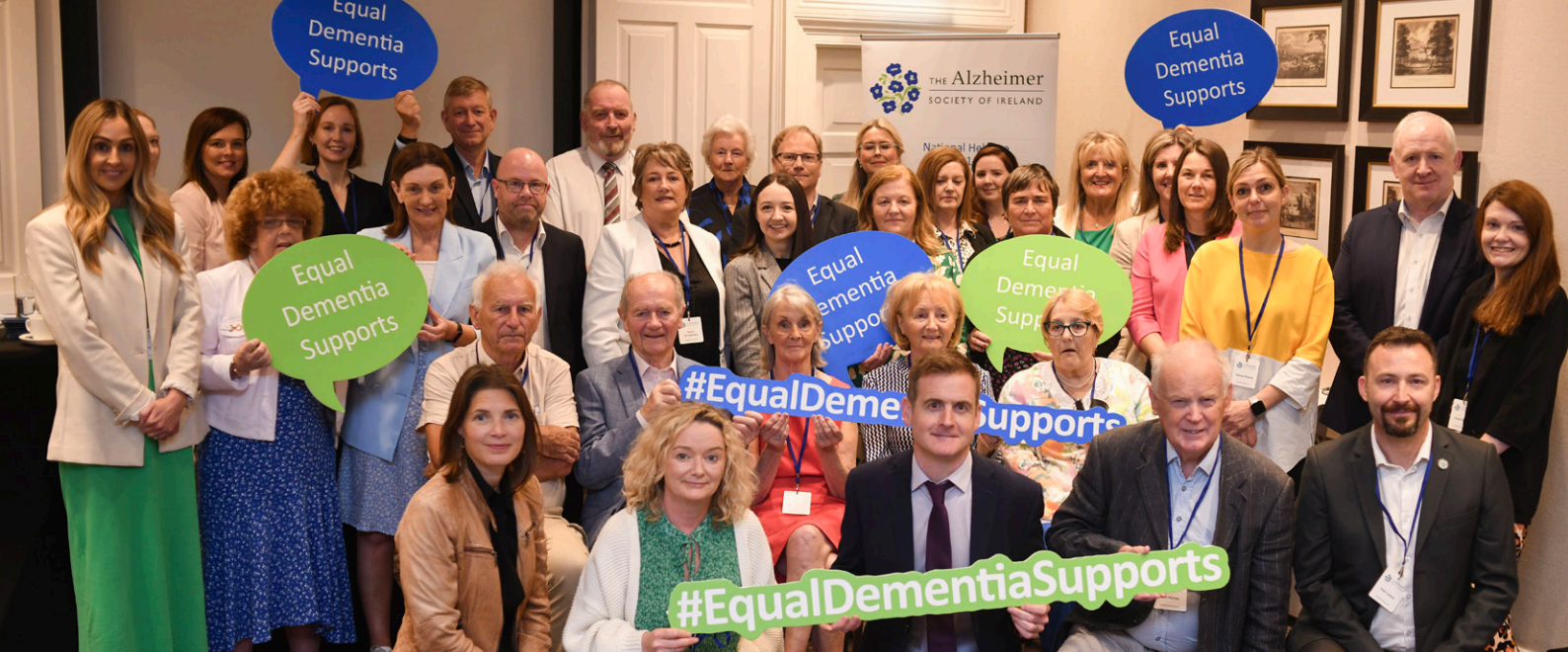
**(b) Invest €59,000 to support people living with dementia and family carers to access opportunities to participate in dementia research**



TeamUp for Dementia Research (TUDR) is an ASI service that connects people living with dementia and informal carers with opportunities to take part in ethically approved dementia research. The service makes research participation accessible and provides a safe and supported way for members to consider research participation opportunities.

€59,000 will fund one FTE post for one year and promotional activities to expand and diversify membership to 700 people with dementia and family carers while providing recruitment support to significantly more research teams.





## Why investing in TeamUp for Dementia Research is important

**Addresses Recruitment Challenges:** Recruitment remains a significant challenge in dementia research despite high interest from potential participants (22). Expanding TeamUp for Dementia Research will bridge this gap, connecting more people with research opportunities while providing essential recruitment support to the research community.

**Benefit to People Impacted by Dementia:** There are proven wide-ranging benefits of participating in research including enhanced self-confidence, self-esteem, gaining knowledge, providing a sense of purpose and meaning (23-26).

**Demonstrated Service Impact:** An independent evaluation of TeamUp for Dementia Research highlighted that the service directly supports people to participate in research and helps them to understand research (27). It also serves as a unique touchpoint for engaging with people affected by dementia early in their journey, offering hope, connection, and continuity for carers beyond their caring roles.

**Supporting National Standards:** This service directly aligns with Target 27 of the Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland (1) which states that 100% of people with dementia and MCI, irrespective of age or dementia subtype, and their supporters / family carers should be offered information about relevant and appropriate research opportunities.

**Growing Demand:** TeamUp for Dementia Research has 350 members. However it is now operating a waiting list as membership has reached capacity within the current resource allocation.



## ASI 4 Key Priorities



**Building on the Potential of the  
Programme for Government:**

A stepping stone to a  
more dementia-inclusive  
Ireland in Budget 2026

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