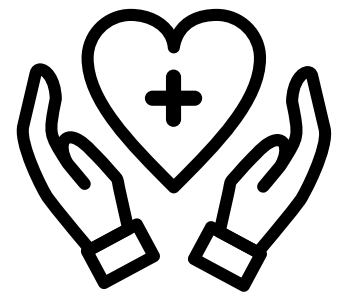




Budget 2022 Key Measures



Disability Health Services



€55m funding for new developments

€50m funding for existing levels of service, to include addressing demographics, changing needs, pay awards, non-pay inflation etc.

€10m one-off COVID funding

This will include funding for the following:

- €8.2m for recruitment of therapists and administrative support for the 91 Children's Disability Network Teams
- Investment in digital health technology to support work on early intervention/waiting lists
- €3.75m to fund 120,000 extra personal assistance hours and 30,000 extra home support hours
- €9m to double the delivery of respite hours on the 2021 targets and increase alternative respite options
- €5.5m to build on the nursing homes pilot and address the issue of under 65s inappropriately placed in nursing homes
- €5m funding for decongregation
- €13m for increased residential placements on a planned basis, as well as more urgent situations
- €14.4m for supports for school leavers
- One off €10m funding to upgrade buses and for assistive technology to improve disability services
- Utilising digital health technologies to screen and audit the speech and language therapy waiting list, identifying areas of need and providing therapist-designed home-based programmes
- Mapping the availability of health, social, education and childcare services available to people with disabilities. It will show people where there are supports near them, and where the gaps are.

€37m for expansion of mental health services to include:

- Recruitment of over 260 additional posts in mental health services
- Continued development of national clinical programmes in eating disorders, ADHD, early intervention psychosis, self-harm and dual diagnosis
- Developing a model of care for specialist mental health services for older people
- Further development of the perinatal model of care
- Further development of two Child and Adolescent Mental Health Hubs
- Out of hours services through crisis cafés and crisis resolution services.

There were also some mainstream health measures that will be relevant to some people with disabilities:

- Extension of free GP care to children aged 6/7
- Expansion of dental access for those on medical card payments
- Lowering drug payment scheme threshold to €100
- Trauma centres
- Free contraception for women aged 17-25
- €37m for expansion of mental health services
- €250m to tackle hospital waiting lists
- €30m to give people greater access to High-Tech drugs
- Supporting the development of a dementia registry and dementia audit in acute hospitals

Housing



- Reaffirms the Housing for All commitments. 11,820 new social homes will be delivered through build, acquisition and leasing
- Programmes next year. 9,000 of these will be new build homes.
- €194 million to the delivery of homeless services, provision of emergency accommodation, other services and supports.
- €10 million in Covid-19 funding to consolidate improvements in health services for people who are homeless.
- €6 million for the expansion of the Housing First programme.
- Increase of current spend by an additional €168 million or 7%.
- €65 million (€5 million higher than 2021 allocation, ie an 8.3% increase) to undertake 11,000 grants to adapt the homes of older people and people with a disability. (In 2019 the total number of grants awarded was 10,023, in 2020 this was 8,137).
- The Department of Housing has indicated that some budget allocation was secured to support the forthcoming new Housing Strategy for Disabled people. We await more details on this.
- Increased funding to support the work of the Housing Agency, the Approved Housing Body Regulatory Authority and for the establishment of the Commission on Housing – €2.1 million.

Income, Poverty, Employment



General:

- Minimum wage increased to €10.50 an hour - €409.5 per week (39 hours)
- Fuel allowance increase of €5 per week
- Living Alone Allowance increase of €3 a week
- Working Family Payment increase of €10 per week
- Back to School Allowance increase of €10
- Increase for qualified child dependents – €2 for children under 12 and €3 for children over 12.
- 100% Christmas bonus
- Treatment Benefit:
 1. Increase the age threshold at which the requirement to have at least 5 years paid PRSI contributions applies, from 25 to 28 years inclusive
 2. Introduce a grant of 50% of up to €500 towards the cost of wigs/hairpieces/hair replacement systems due to illness

Disability and Income:

- €5 increase to all core social protection payments, including Disability Allowance etc
- Disability Allowance income disregard – increase from €350 to €375. Last year approx. 7,000 of the more than 150,000 people on Disability Allowance benefited from the income disregard increase in Budget 21. (Implementation: June 2022)
- Disability Allowance general weekly means disregard increased from €2.50 to €7.60 (Implementation: June 2022)
- Wage Subsidy Scheme increase of €1 per hour
- Blind Pension: Broaden eligibility for the disregard of PhD scholarship income in the means test to recipients of Blind Pension

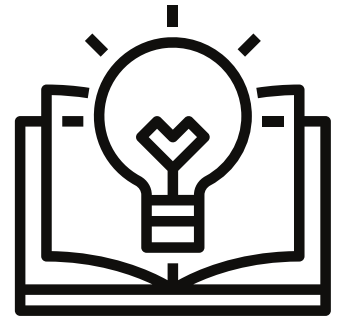
Carers:

- Domiciliary care allowance extended from 3 to 6 months
- Carer's Allowance income disregard increased from €332.50
- to €350 for a single person and from €665 to €750 for a couple
- Carer's capital disregard – increase from €20,000 to €50,000

Employment:

- Wage Subsidy Scheme increase of €1 per hour
- Disability Allowance income disregard – increase from €350 to €375
- Make three grants currently available through Intreo to also be
- available through Employability providers:
 1. Job Interview Interpreter Grant
 2. Workplace Equipment Adaption Grant
 3. Personal Reader Grant

Education



Primary and Secondary Education:

- 1,165 additional SNAs
- 980 additional special education teachers working in special classes, special schools and mainstream settings to support children with special educational needs
- The provision of additional administrative principals in special schools and mainstream schools with two or more special classes
- 350 additional teachers to reduce the primary staffing schedule
- Increasing the number of schools and children benefiting from supports within the DEIS programme

Further and Higher Education:

- €3m to implement the 10 year Adult Literacy for Life Strategy
- Support Future FET: Transforming Learning 2020-24
- Increases to the maintenance grant payment, expansion of certain income thresholds & measures in relation to the nonadjacent grant
- Additional supports for students impacted by COVID-19
- €5m for pilot initiatives for equity and inclusion in the Programme for Access to Higher Education, Path

Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



Disability measures:

- Further integrating people with disabilities into policy-making
- €1m for practical supports to help people with disabilities access and remain in employment
- €100,000 for the autism innovation strategy
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Other relevant measures:

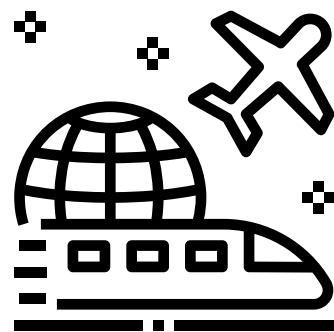
- Continue the implementation of the Early Childhood Care and Education programme, including the Access and Inclusion Model
- €69m to support the quality of early learning and school aged childcare services
- €9m to broaden eligibility for the National Childcare Scheme
- €41m additional funding for Tusla including addressing increasing demand and complexity of cases; increasing statutory residential care provision; and addressing recommendations arising from Tusla's Accommodation Review of refuge provision
- €28m to implement reforms set out in the White Paper to End Direct Provision

Justice



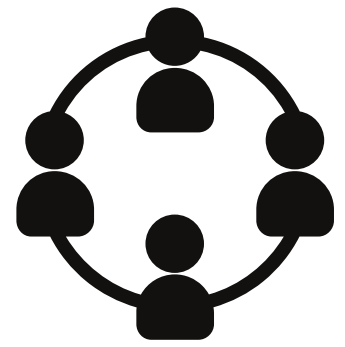
- €0.85m to recruit additional psychologists and specialist mental health nurses in the Prisons Service
- €1m to recruit additional doctors, nurses and healthcare assistants to enhance the delivery of healthcare services throughout the Prisons Service
- Further implement the *Supporting a Victim's Journey* review recommendations around consent, victims' rights and supporting vulnerable witnesses
- €6.7m to implement the Youth Justice Strategy

Transport



- Provision of a Fuel Grant rebate for disabled drivers
- Youth Travel Card- 50% discount on fares for 19–23 year-olds
- €363m per annum (up to 2025) in walking and cycling infrastructure across the country, including Greenways
- €1,474m investment in carbon reduction and public transport

Rural and Community Development



- €4m to enhance the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, SICAP, with a particular focus on under-represented groups including people with disabilities
- Strengthening local participation through supports for Public Participation Networks and Local Community Development Committees
- €0.8m supports for the community and voluntary sector
- €4m to increase activity under the LEADER programme, including the transitional programme
- €1m to deliver a number of supports under Our Rural Future including rural recreation supports, remote working hubs, and the Towns Centres First initiative