

Disability Federation of Ireland



Annual Review 2021



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A Letter from our Chairperson



Notwithstanding the on-going Covid pandemic, DFI achieved a great deal in 2021. One milestone was the completion of our four year strategic plan. This plan's external facing priority areas are advocacy on full implementation of the UNCRPD, representation for the Federation's organisations and supporting self-advocacy of people with disabilities. These are supported by three internal priorities, engaging with the Federation's organisations, effective communications and re-configured corporate processes for implementing this plan. Fundamentally this plan is about the Federation's organisations working collaboratively to ensure the equal participation of people with disabilities in society.

Several key publications last year reflected on DFI's on-going work. The Ombudsman's Wasted Lives Report built upon DFI's initiative in highlighting the inappropriate placement of people with disabilities in nursing homes. The Indecon report on the cost of disability, illustrated why so many disabled people are at risk of poverty, a key issue for DFI. The Dept. of Health's Disability Capacity Review demonstrated the urgent need for significant investment in services for people with disabilities while DFI also contributed extensively to the Housing Strategy for Disabled People" which was published in early 2022.

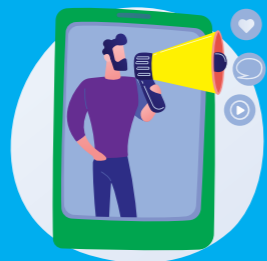
DFI has continued to push for the full implementation of the UNCRP through the Oireachtas Disability Group and participates in the work of the Dialogue Forum set up to look at the relationship between voluntary organisations and health related statutory organisations.

The year also saw the departure of two key staff members, Clare Cronin and Joanne McCarthy. We wish them both well in their new endeavours. Joanne has been central to all of the Federation's policy and advocacy work over many years.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Directors, our committee representatives and the staff for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Federation.

Fran Brennan
Chairperson

Advocacy



Highlights of our year included:

Poverty and Cost of Disability

After significant pressure from DFI and disability organisations, the Indecon report on the cost of disability was published in December 2021. It concluded that people with disabilities face extra costs averaging 8,700-12,300 per year.

Housing

DFI was an active member of the Advisory Group informing the review of the old Housing Strategy and the development of the new Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027. We also consulted members and fed their input into a forthcoming Citizen's Information housing report.

The Disability Participation and Consultation Network

DFI continued to advocate for the full implementation of the UN CRPD. As part of this work, we participated actively in the new Disability Participation and Consulting Network (DPCN). We also made a substantial submission on Ireland's draft first state report on the UN CRPD.

Oireachtas Disability Matters Committee and Oireachtas Disability Group

The Committee settled into its work of monitoring the implementation of the UN CRPD in 2021. We made several submissions to the Committee and presented to it. We also continued to support and strengthen the Oireachtas Disability Group.

Wasted Lives Report on Nursing Homes

This report, documenting the experience of people with disabilities inappropriately housed in nursing homes, was published in May 2021. The Ombudsman's investigation into this issue was strongly supported by DFI and is a major breakthrough for our longstanding campaign in this area.

Changing Places

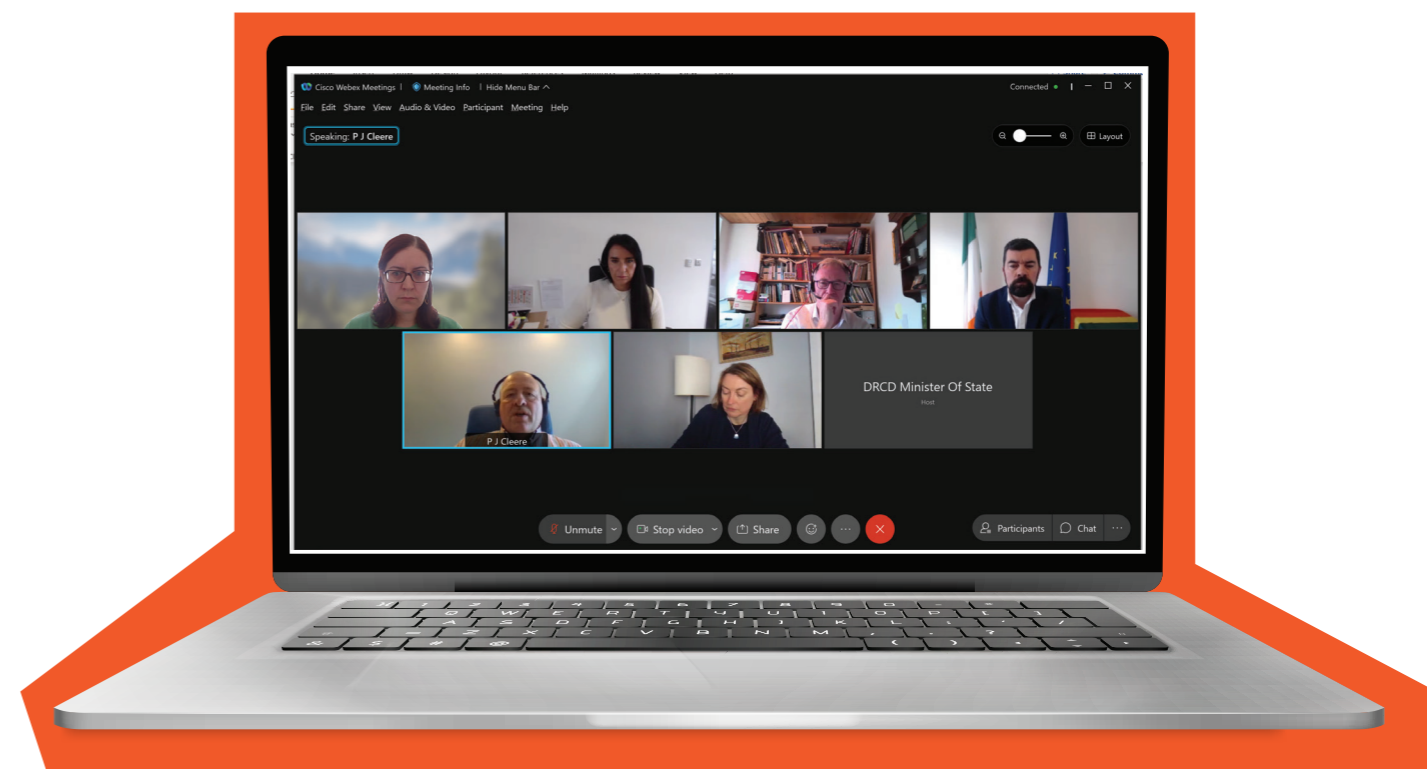
As well as supporting the opening of more Changing Places the group successfully lobbied for an Oireachtas Working Group to examine the provision of Changing Places facilities. This led to a Public Consultation on the Review of Building Regulations Part M (Access and Use) to make provision for a Changing Places toilet in certain buildings in 2022.

Campaigns

#MakeWayDay introduced a mobile friendly tool allowing participants to take an access survey within their five-kilometre radius. #PurpleLights on 3 December celebrated Disability Leadership. DFI is on the steering group of the #WeAct campaign which got off to a great start in 2021, showcasing the value of community and voluntary organisations' work.

We also:

- Lobbied for Budget 2022 to match the investment urgently needed as outlined in the Disability Capacity Review.
- Made several policy submissions on areas like education, housing, poverty, health and Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan.
- Helped establish a committee in Wicklow County Council to assist them with the implementation of UN CRPD.
- Continued to strengthen our EU engagement.



DFI met with Minister of State Joe O'Brien before Budget 2022 to discuss disability poverty

Health and COVID-19

Key issues included:

Workforce Planning

DFI highlighted serious recruitment and retention challenges experienced by our members to the HSE, Department of Health, politicians and in submissions. We advocated for a workforce planning approach, and for pay parity for section 39 organisations.

Transfer of functions between Department of Health to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

In 2021, we highlighted the need for ongoing collaboration between both Departments and the HSE so that people with disabilities can access both specialist disability services and mainstream health services in an integrated way. We highlighted the ongoing responsibilities that both Departments will have for health services for people with disabilities, and the need for mechanisms to promote joint working.

Dept of Health Dialogue Forum with Voluntary Organisations

The focus of the Dialogue Forum is creating a better working relationship between voluntary health and social care organisations and the state. The Forum was established in response to the Catherine Day Report. In 2021, COVID-19 was a focus of much of the work. This included contributing to the development of a report by the National Economic and Social Council, NESC, on the response of voluntary organisations and the state to COVID-19.

HSE Service Plans

The 2021 service plan was delayed due to COVID-19 and published in early 2021. When it was released DFI did an analysis of it which was shared with our members.

Mapping of Community Neurological Services

This project is seeking to map Community Neurological Services to support people to live well at home across the country. DFI, NAI and the HSE are working jointly on the project.

Independent Living Skills

We supported the final delivery of the Independent Living Skills Projects for the Community Healthcare West region and Co. Galway.

Capacity Review

DFI and the Oireachtas Disability Group, ODG, pushed for publication of the Disability Capacity Review, which was published in July 2021. It outlines the investment that will be needed in disability services to respond to unmet needs and demographic changes up until 2032. A cross-Departmental group, led by the Department of Health, are working on an action plan that will cover priority areas of the Capacity Review to focus on until 2025. DFI made a submission to inform this Action Plan in October 2021, following consultation with our members.

COVID-19

The pandemic further focused our work on ensuring that persons with disabilities and carers got vaccinated as a priority group. We also facilitated funding from a range of counties to identify and buy IT equipment for the most isolated. We worked with local authorities and access groups on the reopening of towns and cities and highlighting priority needs.



The DFI led Independent Living Skills Project, funded by Healthy Ireland, was celebrated with a meet and greet between project partners, participants and Minister Feighan, Minister of State for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy.

Member Engagement

We worked on building closer work relationships with our members and undertook the following projects:



Insurance

We worked with a group of member organisations on getting better insurance cover for their organisation's work.

CEO Networks

We have had two CEO Peer Support Networks, one in the North-West and the other on the East Coast. In response to the pandemic, a series of joint virtual sessions were provided.

Family Support Worker's Forum

A facilitated forum for family support workers in DFI member organisations to share practice issues, provide peer support and solve problems.

SOLA Courses

We supported two Quality Management QQI Level 8 courses in 2021 with the University of Limerick.

Improving Quality

We continued to support 32 organisations who are on the journey towards the Improving Quality, IQ Standard. The Standard parallels with the 'Charities Governance Code'.

Training for Member Organisations on Microsoft TEAMS

The project was funded by Comic Relief/Community Foundation of Ireland. We delivered Microsoft Teams training sessions to DFI member organisations to support them in adjusting to virtual and hybrid work.

Webinars

We provided a range of webinars to our members in 2021. They covered topics such as UN CRPD, Returning to the Workplace, HIQA and NESC research findings into the role of the voluntary sector during COVID-19. We encouraged members to participate in the FreedomTech CHAT events on technology and disability.

DFI Representation to HSE

We reviewed how we represent and consult with our members in relation to HSE working groups and committees.

DFI National Health Advisory Forum

In November 2021, DFI held the inaugural meeting of the Forum to strengthen our communication with members on HSE representation.

Corporate

Our Corporate work focused to support and implement the following projects:



Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025

In July, our Company Members agreed the Strategic Plan for the next four years. We worked throughout 2021 to prepare DFI for the re-orientation and re-structuring required to implement the new Strategic Plan.

Governance Compliance Code

DFI's board of directors approved our compliance with the Governance Compliance Code on the 14 October 2021.

Annual and Strategic Meetings

We continued to hold our annual and our two Strategic General Meetings with members online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Remuneration

A project to introduce a new remuneration system for DFI staff which was paused in 2019 was taken up again in 2021.

Restructure of Membership Application Process

A review of our membership application process took place in 2021. We have worked to streamline the process.

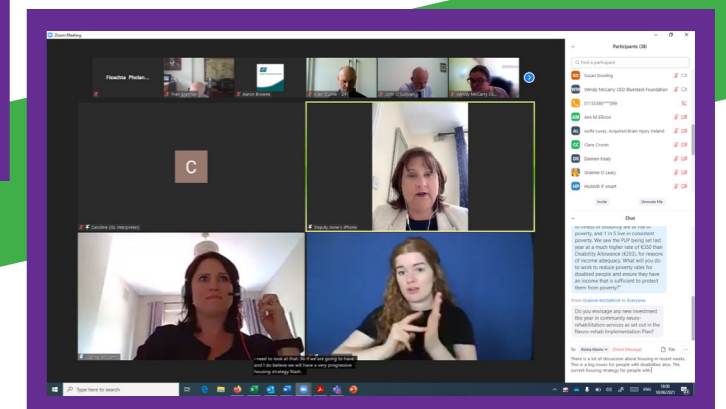
HR/Staff Development

DFI experienced considerable staff changes in 2021 with the resignations of our Director of Policy, Advocacy & Engagement and our Communications Manager. A review of these roles was done in advance of commencing recruitment.

All staff completed project management training in 2021.



Launch of the #WeAct campaign



Minister Anne Rabbitte addressed the members at the DFI AGM

119

DFI member organisations



35

We hosted over 35 webinars, events and meetings in 2021



32

Organisations supported to date through Improving Quality, IQ



The Year in Numbers

29

Local Authorities committed to #MakeWayDay



22

Participants in SOLA training courses on Quality Management



17%

Our Twitter followers grew to 7530 in 2021, a 17% increase



3

We were actively part of 3 media campaigns in 2021 our own #MakeWayDay, #PurpleLights, as well as the #WeAct campaign.



Extract from 2021 financial statement

Full financial details available on our website
www.disability-federation.ie

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income and Expenditure) for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Restricted funds 2021 €	Unrestricted funds 2021 €	Total funds 2021 €	Total funds 2020 €
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	-	71,739	71,739	51,342
Charitable activities	5	181,824	1,264,445	1,446,269	1,351,022
Other activities	6	123,115	21,855	144,970	105,219
Total income		304,939	1,358,039	1,662,978	1,507,583
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	1,353	1,353	-
Charitable activities	7	304,559	1,257,624	1,562,183	1,360,741
Governance costs	8	93,061	-	93,061	80,152
Total expenditure		397,620	1,258,977	1,656,597	1,440,893
Net movement in funds		(92,681)	99,062	6,381	66,690
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	18	207,232	1,117,870	1,325,102	1,258,412
Net movement in funds	18	(92,681)	99,062	6,381	66,690
Total funds carried forward		114,551	1,216,932	1,331,483	1,325,102

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	€	2021 €	€	2020 €
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	13		89,267		132,694
			89,267		132,694
Current assets					
Debtors	14	70,262		91,174	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,443,960		1,232,805	
			1,514,222		1,324,519
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(272,006)		(132,111)	
Net current assets			1,242,216		1,192,408
Total assets less current liabilities			1,331,483		1,325,102
Total net assets			1,331,483		1,325,102
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	18		114,551		207,232
Unrestricted funds	18		1,216,932		1,117,870
Total Funds			1,331,483		1,325,102

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the board on 12th of May 2022 and signed on their behalf, by:

Michael Doyle
Director

Francis Brennan
Director

Disability Federation of Ireland Member Organisations 2021

Affiliate with Nominating Body Status

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland
Alzheimer Society of Ireland
Anne Sullivan Centre
Arthritis Ireland
Asperger Syndrome Association of Ireland (ASPIRE)
Autism Spectrum Disorder Initiatives (ASDI)
Bluestack Special Needs Foundation
Caring & Sharing Association (CASA)
Central Remedial Clinic
Centre for Independent Living Blanchardstown
Centre for Independent Living Longford
Centre for Independent Living Mayo
Centre for Independent Living Tipperary
Cheeverstown House
Chime
Co. Roscommon Disability Support Group
Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland
DEBRA Ireland
Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI)
Down Syndrome Ireland
Dyslexia Association of Ireland
Enable Ireland
Epilepsy Ireland
Fighting Blindness
Housing Association for Integrated Living (HAIL)
Headway Ireland
Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland
Irish Deaf Society

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind
Irish Haemophilia Society
Irish Kidney Association
Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association
Irish Society for Autism
Irish Wheelchair Association
KARE
Leitrim Association of People with Disabilities
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland
Muscular Dystrophy Ireland
National Council for the Blind of Ireland
National Federation of Arch Clubs
Neurofibromatosis Association of Ireland
North West MS Therapy Centre
Parkinson's Association of Ireland
Polio Survivors Ireland
Rare Diseases Ireland
Reach Ireland
Rehab Group
Sophia Housing Association
Special Olympics Ireland
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland
Spinal Injuries Ireland
St Catherine's Association
St Gabriel's Foundation
St Michael's House
Vantastic
WALK
Western Care Association

Affiliates

Ability West
ACTS (Accessible Community Transport Southside)
AHEAD
Áiseanna Tacaíochta
Arts & Disability Ireland
Athlone Access Awareness
Care Alliance Ireland
Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups
Centre for Independent Living Carlow
Centre for Independent Living Cork
Centre for Independent Living Donegal
Centre for Independent Living Galway
Centre for Independent Living Kilkenny
Centre of Independent Living Offaly
Centre for Independent Living Sligo
Centre for Independent Living Waterford
Centre for Independent Living West Limerick
Centre for Independent Living Wexford
Children in Hospital Ireland
Childvision
Co-Action West Cork
Cork Deaf Association
Crosscare
Diabetes Federation of Ireland, Southern Regional Office
Donegal Mental Health Advocacy Services
Dyspraxia DCD Ireland
Family Carers Ireland
Fibromyalgia Support Group (Midlands)
Federation of Irish Complementary Therapy Associations (FICTA)
Feach

Galway Autism Partnership (GAP)
GROW
Heart Children Ireland
ICARE (Inishowen Children's Autism Related Education)
Inspire Wellbeing
Lakers Social and Recreation Club
Lucan Disability Action Group
Mental Health Reform
Migraine Association of Ireland
Move4Parkinson's
Neurological Alliance of Ireland
North Tipperary Disability Support Service Limited
North West Parents & Friends Association
Out and About Association
Prader Willi Syndrome Association Ireland (PWSAI)
Reach Deaf Services
Sharing the Journey
Saint Hilda's Services

Associate

Alcohol Forum
Bloomfield Mental Health Services
Extra Care
Fionnathan Productions
Homefelt (Private Nursing Services)
Livability
Plan Ireland
Positive Futures
Respond
Voluntary Service International



DFI's vision

An Ireland where people with disabilities are participating fully in all aspects of society.



DFI's mission

DFI is a federation of member organisations working with people with disabilities to implement the UN CRPD and ensure their equal participation in society.



Four-year goal

Member organisations are actively involved in DFI, working to implement the UN CRPD and to achieve the equal participation of people with disabilities in society.

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Company Number: 140948

Charities Regulator Number: 20010584



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