



DISABILITY FEDERATION OF IRELAND

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Sent via email to: minister@health.gov.ie

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Dear Minister Donnelly,

I hope you are keeping well and best of luck with the forthcoming Budget. Please see attached our pre-budget submission.

As Minister for Health, you have the core role related to advancing the health and wellbeing of the 643,000 disabled people in Ireland. You also have an interest in ensuring that they can benefit from the supports of your department by being able to fully participate in all aspects of life in Ireland. This submission addresses a number of those other areas. Disabled people form a core objective in the Programme for Government and each budget is a critical annual marker of progress or otherwise for them.

The three government parties are now half-way through this Programme for Government, with possibly three Budgets left. While 643,000 disabled people, and their families, still need to see, in their day to day lives, how things are improving.

The unprecedented cost of living crisis is having a serious impact on disabled people and their families who were already dealing with high poverty and unemployment while living with chronic deficits in health, specialist services, housing, and other areas. These people are also dealing with the myriad of other issues that are there for everyone.

A targeted focus in Budget 2023 on disabled people will address a number of government objectives.

- you target your resources,
- you advance your disability commitments and
- women, who largely do the care and support work, are supported.

Disabled people and their families need to have practical improvements that are impactful in their day to day lives in the year ahead.

Disabled people and their families fear that progress on the government's commitments to them will be side-lined or curtailed as Ireland goes through another crisis.

Kind regards,



John Dolan
Chief Executive Officer
Disability Federation of Ireland