



ODG Pre-Budget Priorities for Budget 2023

The Cost of Living Crisis is not new for disabled people & is now worsening as costs rise for everyone

Who we are: The Oireachtas Disability Group (ODG) comprises six national disability and mental health organisations- the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI); Inclusion Ireland; Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI); Mental Health Reform (MHR); National Disability Services Association; and the National Federation of Voluntary Service Providers.

What we do: We advocate on matters of key importance relating to disability. We bring together cohesive information from disabled people, service providers and advocacy groups. We commit to the voice of disabled people being central to this work. Our aim is to offer support to elected representatives in their work responding to the rights and needs of disabled people.

What we need: Budget 2023 is shaping up to be the 'Cost of Living' crisis. While this is welcome, the Government cannot continue to ignore the longstanding crises concerning the Cost of Disability and the provision of services and supports to people with disabilities. This is why we are asking for you to Stand Up for Disabled People in Budget 2023.

Priorities:

- 1. The Cost of Disability Report Action Plan**
- 2. The Disability Capacity Review Action Plan**
- 3. Resourcing Legislative & Policy Improvements – e.g Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 & Amendment Bill 2022**

Did you know that:

- Being disabled costs between €9,000 and €13,000 extra per year- not including inflation and the rises in the cost of living.
- Only 9% of people with disabilities receive any specialist disability services, and the Disability Capacity Review showed that spending needs to rise €800m to €1,250m higher by 2032 to meet unmet need.
- 1,300 people under 65 years are living in nursing homes, and greater numbers are still entering than are leaving.
- From 2012-2018, over 800 people had moved to the community through de-congregation while almost 700 people had died. How many more will die in institutions without realising their right to live in the community?
- There are more than 1500 people with intellectual disabilities needing residential supports who are currently living with a primary carer over the age of 70. More than 450 of these family carers are over the age of 80.
- Disabled people who are not working experience lasting poverty at almost 5 times the national average (19.2% versus 4%).
- 27% of the homeless population have a disability. Part M of the Building regulations must be amended to provide sufficient wheelchair liveable housing (to Universal Design ++ Standard).
- Adequate, ongoing funding for Disabled Persons' Organisations (DPOs) is needed to meet obligations under the UNCRPD in consultation on all matters affecting us.¹

Budget 2023 – Time to Deliver on Years of Promises

When is the Government going to realise that disabled people have faced a cost of living crisis for decades? It is getting worse every day and Budget 2023 is the time for Government to implement their own Programme for Government commitments:

- *"Ireland requires a new national social contract between citizens and the State. The **ambition of this Government is to provide each citizen with accessible and affordable health care, housing, education, childcare and disability services, as well as a living wage, upskilling, and a dignified retirement**..... Policy decisions throughout the course of the Government will consistently seek **to improve living standards**" (p.74)*

¹ A DPO is an organisation run and controlled by disabled people

- "Ever since Ireland ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we have **signalled to those with a disability that we are now serious about making a difference – a difference that will make things better.**" (p.77)
- "improve the services available through better implementation and by working together across Government in a better way. **We want to empower and give those with a disability the ability to choose the supports that most meet their needs.**" (p.77)
- "**improve outcomes for those who are struggling on low incomes, struggling with caring responsibilities, having to raise their families alone, or living with a disability.**" (p.75)

The Government has made promises to disabled people and their families:

- In the [Programme for Government](#),
- In the [Disability Capacity Review](#)
- In the [Cost of Disability in Ireland report](#)
- In the [Housing Strategy for Disabled People](#), and numerous Strategies, Reports and Policies, etc.

How can disabled people trust that promises will be kept? There are 643,000 disabled people in Ireland. We are asking the Government to provide targeted support to people and families in every community who experience substantial and ongoing extra needs.

It is crucial that:

- **The Government introduce a Cost of Disability Payment in Budget 2023**
- **The Government publish the Capacity Review Action Plan and base their spending commitments on the actual requirements**
- **The Government improves and progresses decision-making supports for all disabled people, including those who may be involuntarily detained under the Mental Health Act 2001.**
- **The Budget 2023 announcement is clear, transparent, and accessible for people with disabilities.** The announcement should tell us:
 - The overall funding provided for disability services in 2023
 - The additional funding allocation for disability in 2023 with a breakdown of the additional amounts allocated for new services, the maintenance of existing services, and responding to needs identified in the Disability Capacity Review
 - How the funding allocated in Budget 2023 compares to the funding levels recommended in the Disability Capacity Review

#KeepYourPromises

Further information is available from the organisations' own Pre-Budget Submissions, which will be shared publicly in coming weeks