

Oireachtas Disability Group Manifesto



There is a crisis for people with disabilities and their families:

- 13.5% of the population have a disability.¹
- By 2026, the number of people with disability will have increased by around 20%.²
- 24% of adults with a disability live in consistent poverty, compared to 11% in 2011.³
- Just 31% of working age people with a disability are at work, compared to 71% of the general population.⁴
- 27% of the homeless population have a disability- double the rate of the general population.⁵
- 2,136 people with disabilities remain living in residential institutions for people with disabilities.⁶
- Over 1,400 people with disabilities under the age of 65 are inappropriately placed in nursing homes.⁷
- Only 0.3% of all people with disabilities get a Personal Assistance Service.⁸ Currently, there is no legal right to personal assistance in Ireland.
- Across 38 services, at least 1,250 parents over the age of 70 are the primary carers of an adult with a disability. Close to 400 of these parents are over 80.⁹
- Services are carrying €40m+ deficits¹⁰ and were informed of a €20m cut to their budgets in 2020.¹¹

¹ Census 2016.

² NDA (2018), Disability Statistics.

³ CSO (2017), Survey on Income and Living Conditions.

⁴ ESRI (2017), Employment Transitions Among People with Disabilities in Ireland.

⁵ Census 2016.

⁶ HSE (2018), Time to Move on from Congregated Settings. Annual Progress Report.

⁷ DCU and DFI (2018), The situation of younger people in nursing homes in Ireland- phase 1.

⁸ HSE (2017), Service Plan 2018.

⁹ National Federation of Voluntary Service Providers (2019).

¹⁰ Estimated from deficit across National Federation of Voluntary Service Providers and Disability Action Coalition organisations.

¹¹ HSE (2019), Service Plan 2020.

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To address this crisis, commit to:

End disability poverty and unemployment

- Introduce a cost of disability payment in 2020. As an interim measure, increase Disability Allowance by €20 per week pending Indecon's 'Cost of Disability' research.
- Fully implement the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for persons with disabilities.
- Introduce assistive technology passports, at a cost of €1.5m.¹²
- Publish a plan to fully commence the EPSEN Act.

End the housing crisis facing people with disabilities

- Fund housing adaptations and supports, at a cost of €128m.¹³
- Ringfence funding to the HSE for community support packages so that people have a pathway to housing.
- Accelerate the de-congregation process.
- Commit 10% of social housing to accessible housing for people with disabilities.

Fund services and supports

- Fund a multi-annual investment programme of €211m per annum for 5 years to services that allow people with disabilities to live independently in their community.¹⁴
- Introduce legislation guaranteeing the right to a Personal Assistance Service.
- Resolve the growing deficits of €40m + across disability services.¹⁵
- Establish a transport support scheme.

Make disability rights a priority

- Taoiseach's Department to lead on disability.
- Establish a Joint Oireachtas Committee on implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN CRPD.
- Fund the Decision Support Service and implement the Assisted-Decision Making (Capacity) Act without delay.
- Commit to direct engagement and resourcing of Disabled Persons' Organisations so that they can engage effectively in policy development.

¹² See DFI and Enable Ireland (2016). Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities and Older People: A Discussion Paper.

¹³ €28.38m to restore housing adaptation grant funding to 2010 levels and €100m funding for the Capital Assistance scheme.

¹⁴ Based on HSE (2018), Transforming Lives: Report on the Future Needs for Disability Services, Working Group 1 estimates.