

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS OF THE
NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE OF IRELAND

Acquired Brain injury Ireland	Irish Heart Foundation
Alzheimer Society of Ireland	Irish Hospice Foundation
An Saol	Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association
Aphasia Ireland	Migraine Association of Ireland
Ataxia Foundation Ireland	Move4Parkinsons
Bloomfield Health Services	Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland
Brain Tumour Ireland	Muscular Dystrophy Ireland
Cheshire Ireland	Neurofibromatosis Association of Ireland
Chronic Pain Ireland	Neurology Support Centre
Crann Centre	North West MS Therapy Centre
Croí	Parkinson's Ireland
Dystonia Ireland	Peamount Healthcare
Dublin Neurological Institute	Polio Survivors Ireland
Early Onset Parkinson's Disease Association (EOPD)	PSPA Ireland
Enable Ireland	Slanu Stroke Rehab
Epilepsy Ireland	Spinal Injuries Ireland
FND Ireland	Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland
Headway	The Rehab Group
Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland	Vision Ireland



NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE
of IRELAND

GENERAL ELECTION
MANIFESTO

MAKE
BRAIN HEALTH
A PRIORITY

#INVESTINBRAINHEALTH

**MAKE
BRAIN HEALTH
A PRIORITY**

**860,000
PEOPLE
THROUGHOUT IRELAND
ARE LIVING WITH A
NEUROLOGICAL CONDITION
THAT'S ALMOST
ONE IN SIX PEOPLE**

- **INVEST IN SERVICES**
- **IMPLEMENT NATIONAL STRATEGIES**
- **PROTECT NEUROLOGICAL CHARITIES**

#INVESTINBRAINHEALTH

INVEST IN SERVICES, IMPLEMENT NATIONAL STRATEGIES & PROTECT NEUROLOGICAL CHARITIES

WHY BRAIN HEALTH NEEDS TO BE A PRIORITY

- Over 860,000 people throughout Ireland are living with a neurological condition, that's almost **1 in 6** of us
- Neurology services throughout Ireland are significantly underfunded and understaffed. Many of our regional hospitals continue to have no or very limited neurology services while, nationally, waiting lists to see a Neurologist have increased by more than 40% over the last decade and now stands at over 22,500 with more than 2,700 waiting more than 18 months
- The UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) enshrines the **Right to Rehabilitation** but Ireland, as a signatory to this Convention, continues to have among the most underdeveloped neurorehabilitation services across Europe

WHAT ARE THE NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE OF IRELAND CALLING FOR?

- Increased investment in neurological care in order to implement the existing national strategies in neurology, epilepsy, stroke and dementia services
- Commitment to the full implementation of the Neurorehabilitation Strategy within the lifetime of the next Government in order to meet Ireland's responsibility to deliver rehabilitation services under Article 26 of the UNCRPD
- Protection of vital neurological care services provided by voluntary organisations by providing a sustainable funding model for Section 39 providers of health and disability services

Ask 1

Increased investment in neurological care in order to implement the existing national strategies in neurology, epilepsy, stroke and dementia services. Comprehensive strategies have been developed which have, if implemented fully, the potential to transform care for people with neurological conditions in Ireland. What we need now is the investment to support their implementation.

Investment to Implement National Strategies in Neurology, Epilepsy, Stroke and Dementia

Tackle growing waiting lists and regional inequity through increased investment in neurology services

Address the two thirds shortage of specialist nurses across neurology services

Ensure adequate staffing to provide 24/7 access to acute stroke care and treatment and provide 21 Early Supported Discharge teams for Stroke nationwide

Continue investment in specialist dementia assessment and support services

Ask 2

Commitment to the full implementation of the Neurorehabilitation Strategy within the lifetime of the next Government in order to meet Ireland's responsibility to deliver rehabilitation services under Article 26 of the UNCRPD (UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities).



9
FULLY STAFFED
COMMUNITY
NEUROREHABILITATION
TEAMS NATIONWIDE

TACKLE
THE TWO THIRDS
SHORTFALL IN POST
ACUTE INPATIENT
NEUROREHABILITATION
BEDS ACROSS THE
COUNTRY

INVEST
IN SPECIALIST
COMMUNITY
BASED SERVICES TO
MEET LONG TERM
NEUROREHABILITATIVE
NEEDS

Ask 3

Protection of vital neurological care services provided by voluntary organisations by providing a sustainable funding model for Section 39 providers of health and disability services.



NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE OF IRELAND

ABOUT OUR WORK



We are a membership organisation, providing a platform for over 30 Irish charities who provide services and supports for the 860,000 people throughout Ireland who are living with a neurological condition, and their families. Our purpose is to collectively advocate for the shared and common issues and concerns of our members and, while we do that, to have people experiencing neurological conditions, and their families, achieve their best in life.

Working closely with our members and other stakeholders, NAI acts as a strong platform to drive the development and implementation of policy and best practice to meet the needs of people with neurological conditions and their families throughout Ireland. We provide an effective network for our members to interface with, and influence key stakeholders including policy makers and public representatives. We act as a specialist hub to inform and influence health policy as it applies to people with neurological conditions and communicate this to our members.

We maintain a very active and responsive communications platform across our websites and social media, as well as internally through our monthly e newsletters. We also work through partnership with other umbrella organisations, both within Ireland and at European level, to promote greater awareness and support for people living with neurological conditions.



#INVESTINBRAINHEALTH



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DOCUMENT