

ABI Ireland Staff first in Ireland to complete ACBIS Brain Injury Training

4th March 2010: A group of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABI Ireland) employees are the first ever in Ireland to complete specialised training in brain injury rehabilitation. This is the first time that the training, which is accredited by US based Academy of Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS), has been held outside the United States of America.

Barbara O'Connell, CEO of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland said, "At ABI Ireland, we are dedicated to providing the highest standard of care to people with ABI. We were the first Irish organisation to receive accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and we aim to provide a high standard of training for our staff."

"Having researched available training and accreditations, we selected the prestigious ACBIS programme as it provides the skills and knowledge necessary to offer the highest standard of care possible. I would like to thank Monkstown Hospital Trust which provided the funding to make this training possible."

As part of the 12 week training programme, ABI Ireland brought two ACBIS trainers to Ireland to deliver the course to the Irish participants. Three ABI Ireland employees are now applying to become ACBIS trainers which will allow for their expertise to be passed on to other ABI Ireland staff.

ABI Ireland is currently working with ACBIS to provide an Irish supplement for the programme which will ensure that the course material will be adapted for an Irish context.

Established in 2000, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland provides support and services to people with acquired brain injury throughout Ireland.

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About Acquired Brain Injury Ireland

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (formerly the Peter Bradley Foundation) was founded on the belief that with the correct environment and appropriate supports people with ABI can live a meaningful life in the community. If you maximise ability you can change lives.

We respond to people living with an acquired brain injury by providing a range of pioneering, flexible and tailor-made services. These include: Assisted Living Services, Home & Community Rehabilitation Services, Day Resource Services , Rehabilitation Support, Case Management, Education Programmes and Individual Development.

In Ireland, each year approximately 10,000 people suffer from an acquired brain injury and they face a dramatically altered life thereafter. At Acquired Brain Injury Ireland we place a critical emphasis on client-centeredness, quality, effectiveness and value for money. Rehabilitation and clinical support are also key aspects to the services we provide.

Commissioned by the HSE, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland has grown and now provides Acquired Brain Injury support and services throughout Ireland. We pride ourselves in working together with all agencies (statutory and non-statutory), individuals with Acquired Brain Injury, families/carers enabling us to work together to build better lives for people with acquired brain injury and those affected by it.