

## Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, BRÍ and Headway put heads together to launch first ABI Information leaflet

**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009:** Ireland's leading acquired brain injury (ABI) support organisations have today come together to launch an information leaflet on ABI and the ABI support services available in Ireland. The Inter-agency collaboration of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, BRÍ and Headway has produced a leaflet which highlights the importance of increasing ABI awareness and providing accurate information at the right time to those affected by the condition.

Supporting the launch, Mary Hanafin, T.D. Minister for Social and Family Affairs said, "An acquired brain injury can have a devastating effect on the whole family. To know of the supports and services available to them is a huge benefit to both the survivor and their family carers."

Barbara O'Connell, CEO of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland said, "As ABI service providers, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, BRÍ and Headway stand together to assist those who need information on ABI services and supports. This information leaflet is a team effort and we know from experience that together everyone achieves more. We are very grateful for the financial support from the Community Foundation for Ireland whose funding helped to make this leaflet a reality."

Kieran Loughran, CEO of Headway, added, "Because services for people with brain injury are under resourced, it is better when specialist organisations work closely together. We all have a common goal, to assist all those affected by ABI and their families. This leaflet was produced because it is important they know that they are not alone and that there are organisations here to help."

"ABI is a silent epidemic of modern times" says Michael Clavin of BRÍ. "We are actively helping to provide clear information for people and families with acquired brain injury. Knowing where to find specialist

services is important for the thousands of Irish families affected by ABI and will help to reduce the stress and anxiety endured by families at a difficult time."



Kieran Loughran, CEO Headway; Barbara O'Connell CEO ABI Ireland;  
Michael Clavin, Chairman BRÍ

The information leaflet was funded by 'The COMMUNITY FOUNDATION for Ireland' under the Small Grants scheme. The leaflet will be available and distributed throughout the country at all Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, BRÍ and Headway offices and services and available for download on their websites. It will also be available in Citizen Information Centres (CIC) nationwide. For further information please contact;

- Christine Flynn, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland Project Manager at 01 2804164
- Ned Rispin, BRÍ Development Manager at 01 235 5501
- Richards Stables, Headway Information and Support Manager at 01 810 2066

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For media queries contact: Karen O'Boyle, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland at [koboyle@abiireland.ie](mailto:koboyle@abiireland.ie) or on 01 2804164 Ext. 207

## **About Acquired Brain Injury Ireland**

Established in 2000, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (formerly the Peter Bradley Foundation) was set up to provide a range of pioneering, flexible and tailor-made services to people with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). The services provided by the organisation place a critical emphasis on Rehabilitation and clinical support. Client-centeredness, quality, effectiveness and value for money are key aspects to the service.

Approximately 10,000 people suffer from a head injury in Ireland each year and face a dramatically altered life thereafter. People with ABI progress at different rates, and may need to access services at different points in time as their needs change. Within each stage of rehabilitation a range of different service providers is involved, which must be coordinated. Once back in the community the emphasis is on more extended activities of daily living, integration, and return to work or education. Interventions focus on enhanced participation, improved quality of life, psychological adjustment and carer stress. Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is filling a vital service gap, in collaboration with statutory bodies.

## **About Headway**

Headway provides support and services to people affected by brain injury. Founded in 1985, we also work to heighten public and political awareness of acquired brain injury and the impact it has on individuals, families and carers.

## **About BRÍ**

BRÍ is dedicated to advocating for all those affected by Acquired Brain Injury. We strive to ensure that all those affected by Acquired Brain Injury have the best possible quality of life. We work to achieve change in terms of service provision, public awareness and prevention.

## **About '*The COMMUNITY FOUNDATION for Ireland*'**

The Community Foundation is a donor services and grant-making organisation. The Foundation – a registered charity - was established in 2000 with the support of Government and the business sector. It has grown with the support of individuals, families, businesses, religious and other institutions, enabling them engage in effective philanthropic activity by getting funds to the most deserving and effective local grassroots causes.

Donations made through the Community Foundation for Ireland are used wisely, grants are directed to local groups that are well run and to projects that are viable and that will ultimately make a genuine difference to the community which they serve. Community foundations have built a loyal following throughout Europe, the USA and in almost fifty other countries worldwide because they make individual contributions work the hardest for the greatest possible good - minimising costs and bureaucracy. Donors, recipients, and communities get maximum return on all charitable investments.