



## **Acquired Brain Injury Ireland welcomes TBI Research Group Report**

**17th February 2009:** Acquired Brain Injury Ireland has welcomed the report on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in Ireland published by the TBI Research Group. The Group, led by Prof. Jack Phillips, Consultant Neurosurgeon, and funded by the Department of Health & Children, conducted a two year national audit of over 2,000 patients with significant TBI.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a major cause of premature death and disability in the Republic of Ireland.

Barbara O'Connell, CEO of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland said, "The lack of research available on Acquired and Traumatic Brain injuries in Ireland is impacting on the planning and delivery of services to people with brain injury. This report is hugely significant in that it highlights the outcomes for patients being treated in Neurosurgical Units (NSU) but as its authors point out, there is no visibility on outcomes or rehabilitation care for these patients once they leave the NSU. A detailed audit across the entire pathway of care needs to be conducted so that the service requirements of those with brain injury can be planned and developed in accordance with the individual needs of the person".

Key findings of the report include:

- Men are three times more likely to be injured than women.
- There is a growing incident of brain injury due to falls. 3 of every 5 TBI in Ireland were as a result of falls.
- The number of assaults causing TBI is increasing. 11% of those studied suffered TBI as a result of an assault.
- The incident of TBI among road users has decreased in the past decade.
- 50% of pedal cyclists and 33% of motorcyclists were not wearing a helmet when they suffered TBI.
- 50% of motor vehicle passengers were not wearing a seat belt when they suffered TBI.

[Download report here](#)

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**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 client-centeredness, quality, effectiveness and value for money. Rehabilitation and clinical support 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.