



Acquired Brain Injury Ireland supports call for wearing of protective helmets by parents of Darren Shanahan

Monday, 20 April 2009. Acquired Brain Injury Ireland today expresses its condolences to the parents of 14 year old Darren Shanahan from Tipperary who died in April last year after accidentally falling from a quad bike. At today's inquest, Darren's parents appealed to drivers of such vehicles to always use a helmet.

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland's Mind Your Head campaign promotes the wearing of helmets in various sporting and leisure activities. The death of Natasha Richardson earlier this year following a skiing accident also resulted in welcome debate on the pros and cons of wearing protective headgear.

The brain is a very delicate organ which must be protected when partaking in leisure activities such as cycling, contact sports (rugby, hurling, etc), motorcycling, quad biking and skiing.

With more than 10,000 people in Ireland suffering an acquired brain injury in Ireland each year, we believe that taking responsibility and wearing a helmet may help prevent loss of life or serious injury in the event of an accident.

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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.