



## **DON'T SAVE ME, THEN LEAVE ME. REHABILITATION IS A RIGHT, NOT A REQUEST.**

Rehabilitation services for people with acquired brain injury (ABI) are underdeveloped and under resourced. Growing the specialist neuro-rehabilitation community services that Acquired Brain Injury Ireland provides will ensure that people move from hospital to home in a timely and seamless manner, avoid lengthy stays in hospital and maximise their potential and quality of life. Currently our health services are struggling to cater for the 19,000 brain injuries happening annually.

### **TOP PRIORITIES FOR INVESTMENT IN 2020**

1. To make our organisation sustainable into the future as the current funding model is not workable. We need a new funding model with a further annual investment of €1.5m of core funding in order to maintain and grow our services.
2. To establish a Regional Neuro-rehabilitation Centre offering specialist in-patient and out-patient rehabilitation for people with an acquired brain injury in a 25 bedded centre. We are seeking once off development funding of €5m to kick start the project. This funding would enable the necessary investment in staffing, programme development and infrastructural work to begin to get the service up and running. The project will be replicable in other sites across the country where such services are needed as outlined in the HSE's Neuro-rehabilitation Implementation Framework (2019).

€1.5m

**Funding to sustain Acquired Brain Injury Ireland into the future**



€5m

**Regional Neuro-rehabilitation Centre**  
(start up, staffing, programme and infrastructural developments)



### **WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL OUR REGIONAL NEURO-REHABILITATION CENTRE MAKE?**

**This service will:**



**1.** Take people out of acute hospitals who don't need to be there ("bed blockers")



**4.** Reduce the burden on families who are struggling to cope



**2.** Take people from the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) who have completed their medical rehabilitation or those who are on the NRH waiting list



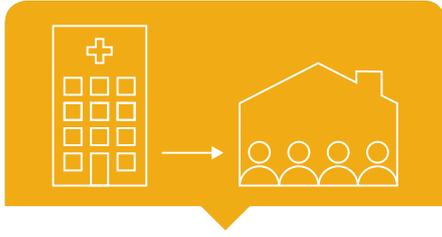
**5.** Save money across the health services by providing timely access to rehabilitation and improving the flow of people from hospital to home.



**3.** Provide specialist brain injury rehabilitation that will ensure people reach their maximum potential

## HOW DOES THIS PROPOSAL FIT WITH THE SLAINTECARE 10 YEAR PLAN?

This proposal is in keeping with Slaintecare Plan as it will:



Ensure a shift from hospital to community care, on an integrated basis



Provide timely rehabilitation services based on need



Deliver a high-quality service, in the shortest timeframe as possible.

### WHAT ARE THE MAIN CAUSES OF BRAIN INJURY?



Stroke (39%)



RTA's (14%)



Falls (14%)



Tumour (7%)



Assault (5%)

### How many brain injuries per year?

It is estimated that there are **19,000** brain injuries per annum in Ireland.

### How many estimated to be living with brain injury?

According to international prevalence rates, there are over **100,000** people in Ireland living with the consequences of brain injury.

### How does a brain injury effect the person?

Having a serious brain injury is totally life altering for both the person and their family. The brain is a complex organ. Depending on what part of the brain is injured, and the extent of the injury, the person will have to live with different consequences. Many of these consequences may be hidden, others not. They range from physical and sensory to cognitive and psychological.

### Brain injury can affect how a person feels, thinks, acts and relates to others.

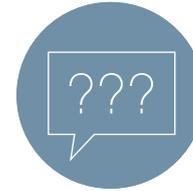
It can cause a wide range of changes that affects:



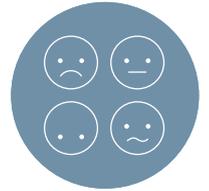
Thinking  
(memory and reasoning)



Sensation  
(touch, taste and smell)



Language  
(communication, expression and understanding)



Emotions  
(personality changes, anxiety, acting out and coping skills)

### These impairments have consequences for the individual with the brain injury and their family and they may experience:



Loss of income and unemployment



Social and economic isolation



Changes in relationships family dynamics



ACQUIRED  
BRAIN INJURY  
IRELAND

### ABOUT ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY IRELAND

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is a dedicated provider of community-based neuro-rehabilitation services for people with an acquired brain injury (ABI) and their families. As a brain injury can affect a person's ability to manage their own life, we work in communities across Ireland to support and empower people to rebuild their lives. We also campaign, educate and advocate for the rights and needs of this hidden group in society.