

What is an Acquired Brain Injury?

An Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is an injury that has occurred after birth, in childhood or adulthood.

As many as 19,000 brain injuries happen in Ireland every year from causes including stroke, road traffic accidents, falls, assaults and brain tumours. That's 52 people every day - men and women of all ages - acquiring a brain injury that can affect their lives and those of their family for months and years after the initial injury. This often results in a dramatically altered life at home, in work or in social settings.

Often people after brain injury can look fine but may be experiencing problems which impact on their day-to-day lives. Returning to education, training and work can be challenging. This may affect not only the individual themselves but also their families, employers and colleagues. People with brain injury often have difficulties with one or more of the following:

- Memory
- Sight
- Ability to cope with pressure
- Mobility
- Ability to organise themselves and their finances
- Speech and language
- Concentration
- Judgement
- Understanding of situations



ACQUIRED
BRAIN INJURY
IRELAND

About Us:

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is the country's leading provider of community rehabilitation for those of working age (18-65 years) living with and recovering from an acquired brain injury. Access to personalised community rehabilitation services like ours is vital to rebuild lives after hospital. Because every brain injury is unique.



Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is an internationally recognised and accredited provider of community based neuro-rehabilitation services for people affected by brain injury.

STEP AHEAD Referrals & Contact Details

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STEP AHEAD

Getting back to work, training
or education after brain injury. >>



Ireland's European Structural and
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2014-2020

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EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your future
European Social Fund

What is STEP AHEAD?

STEP AHEAD is a national vocational assessment service for adults aged 18-29 years with an acquired brain injury (ABI) and who want to return to work, training or education. STEP AHEAD also provides essential brain injury information and education for employers, tutors and trainers who are supporting people affected by brain injury.

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland has two STEP AHEAD teams located in Dublin and Cork. Each team includes an Occupational Therapist and two Vocational Facilitators who will carry out one-to-one assessments as well as providing ongoing vocational guidance and support.

Every STEP AHEAD participant will be supported to develop a Personal Vocational Plan (PVP) which will enable them to set, and achieve goals relating to education, training and employment.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection



About our STEP AHEAD Vocational Assessment

A full assessment is carried out by an Occupational Therapist, highlighting each STEP AHEAD participant's work skills, knowledge and experience.

The STEP AHEAD team uses specific assessment tools while also taking a holistic look at each participant's life. The assessment focuses on the individual's functional and work capacity to identify transferrable skills.

BENEFITS:



STEP AHEAD will give the individual a chance to get involved in work related tasks which they may find more challenging. This will identify the person's strengths and weaknesses



STEP AHEAD will provide assistance in setting vocational goals; which includes outlining potential work, training and education options



STEP AHEAD will give feedback, make recommendations and provide supportive strategies



STEP AHEAD will support the development of a sustainable working environment for the employee, employer, student, tutor and trainer



Who can take part in STEP AHEAD?

All STEP AHEAD participants must meet the following criteria:

- Have sustained a brain injury
- 18-29 years

STEP AHEAD Referrals must be:

- In receipt of disability allowance or invalidity pension; or
- In receipt of illness benefit for more than three months; or
- Referred by a relevant organisation or service supporting young people with disabilities i.e. Primary Care Teams, HSE Disability Services, Residential or Day Services

PLEASE NOTE

Under the terms of the funding, referrals from GPs and mainstream schools will not be eligible.

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