

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



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 PLUS Referrals & Contact Details

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland
STEP AHEAD PLUS Vocational Assessment and Rehabilitation Service

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**ACQUIRED
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STEP AHEAD PLUS

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



What is STEP AHEAD PLUS?

STEP AHEAD PLUS is our national free vocational assessment service for adults with an acquired brain injury (ABI) who want to return to work, training or education. STEP AHEAD PLUS also provides essential brain injury information and education for employers, tutors and trainers.



The STEP AHEAD PLUS Process:

- 1. Interview:** Vocational interview via video call with one of our Senior Occupational Therapists.
- 2. Assessment:** If appropriate, the participant will then be offered a face-to-face vocational assessment in either our Dublin, Cork, or Midlands centre.
- 3. Rehabilitation:** If appropriate, participants may then be offered group or one-to-one vocational rehabilitation via video call or phone call.



This project was approved by Government with support from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

About our STEP AHEAD PLUS Vocational Assessment

A detailed assessment is carried out by a Senior Occupational Therapist, highlighting each STEP AHEAD PLUS participant's work skills, knowledge and experience.

The STEP AHEAD PLUS 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 PLUS will give the individual an opportunity to complete a work-focused assessment. This will identify the person's strengths and challenges.



STEP AHEAD PLUS will provide assistance in setting vocational goals and development of a personal vocational plan (PVP).



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



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



Who can take part in STEP AHEAD PLUS?

All STEP AHEAD PLUS participants must meet the following criteria:

- Primary diagnosis of an Acquired Brain Injury
- Be medically stable
- Be willing to engage in a vocational assessment with the aim of returning to work, training or education

Participants can be referred by any healthcare professional or relevant organisation who can confirm an acquired brain injury diagnosis.

OR

If you are self-referring, you must provide a document confirming you have an acquired brain injury diagnosis (e.g. a medical or therapy report).

If participants do not meet all the above criteria they may not be suitable, please contact the service to discuss the referral.

Please Note

The service is not suitable for people with degenerative conditions, with progressive organic disorders or with Alcohol Related Brain Injury.