



Providing a solution to inappropriate placement of young people with disabilities in nursing homes

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is seeking a **€4m allocation in Budget 2024** to take the first steps to begin to move 90 people with disabilities under the age of 65 out of nursing homes.

The Ombudsman's *Wasted Lives* report, published in 2021, identified 1,300 people under 65 living inappropriately in nursing homes largely designed for the care of older people. Many are there because of the lack of appropriate services and suitable housing in the community. There is no pathway for them from hospital to home.

THE CHALLENGE: An Under-Resourced and Under-Developed Pathway

For people with an acquired brain injury (ABI) and other neurological conditions, there is a big difference between the ideal pathway of care and the current reality. According to the HSE's Implementation Framework (2019) the ideal pathway for the person should be agile and flexible, based on the individual's needs.

IDEAL REHABILITATION PATHWAY



Currently, due to a lack of services on the pathway and the way in which those services are funded, the reality is a geographical lottery, where each individual experiences the pathway differently. In practice, the pathway looks like the diagram below.

ACTUAL REHABILITATION PATHWAY



OUR SOLUTION: An End to Wasted Lives

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland already has many of the components of the pathway in place to help resolve the issues in *Wasted Lives*.

Our proposal would see us extending our reach to other diagnostic conditions and working collaboratively with other organisations while managing the resources. We would become a one-stop-shop to help under 65s in nursing homes navigate the pathway back to the community, where they can rebuild their lives.

With an allocation of €4m we propose to:

1. Develop three Assessment Teams to respond to individuals inappropriately placed in nursing homes nationally.
2. Assess their needs, regardless of diagnosis.
3. Set out a pathway to support this group to move from the nursing home to community living, and prevent them from going back in.



When established, the proposed pathway will also prevent people under 65 entering nursing homes in the first place, by providing an **alternative route**.



We can provide **value for money** through economies of scale, both in the short and long term, and support the HSE to achieve its targets.

OUR TRACK RECORD

With over 20 years' experience and expertise, we have a proven track record in the national provision of a range of person-centred, internationally accredited rehabilitation programmes for people with an ABI. These include:



ASSISTED LIVING



TRANSITIONAL



HOME AND COMMUNITY



CASE MANAGEMENT



VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

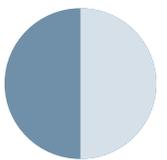


FAMILY SUPPORTS

We have the evidence that our case management and inter-disciplinary clinical work, using a person-centred approach, has delivered results for people with an ABI.



More than 60% of our residential rehabilitation clients have come from nursing home settings.



50% of those referred to our residential services ultimately move back to the community with lesser supports.

Currently, there are **21 people** in our Assisted Living services who were previously placed inappropriately in nursing homes.

Since 2000



16 people have successfully transitioned from nursing homes to more appropriate settings via our **Case Management service**.



25 people have successfully transitioned from nursing homes to more appropriate settings via our **Assisted Living service**.



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We already work closely with disability services in each HSE CHO area, including in the development of bespoke plans and budgets in response to local need. We are positioned now to address the needs of people with a range of disabilities living in a nursing home setting.