



Supporting brain injury survivors to navigate the path from hospital to home

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABI Ireland) as a leading provider of community rehabilitation is seeking a €2m allocation in the 2025 budget and a commitment to:

1. Fund a national **brain injury case management service** that will reach every person with a brain injury, regardless of where they live by providing an additional 20 posts
2. Support young people with brain injuries to **move out of nursing homes**, through the ongoing implementation of the recommendations in the Ombudsman's 'Wasted Lives' report

URGENT PRIORITY

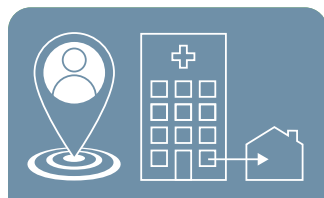
The Government must urgently prioritise funding for ABI Ireland and all Section 39 organisations by instituting pay parity with the HSE and resolving the funding crisis facing the sector.

BRAIN INJURY CASE MANAGEMENT

Specialist brain injury case managers play a vital role in the provision of integrated care, ensuring that survivors are supported to live more independently in their community and as close to home as possible. **Right care, right place, right time.** Currently access to this service is based on geographical location. A national service will:



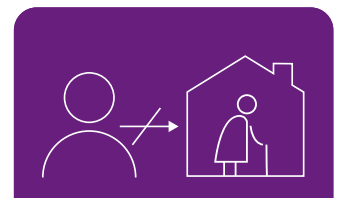
Create a team of highly skilled professionals trained specifically to work with people with brain injury and their families



Provide a single point of contact to help those with brain injury navigate the pathway from hospital to home



Inform and educate the family on ABI



Put a stop to the inappropriate placement of young brain injury survivors in nursing homes for older people¹

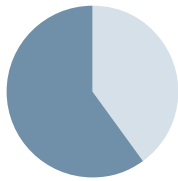
Moving younger people with brain injury out of nursing homes

The Ombudsman's 'Wasted Lives' report (2021) identified some 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 more appropriate services and suitable housing in the community. We are working with the HSE to support people with an acquired brain injury to move out of nursing homes and back to their communities, using a rehabilitation model. **However, progress has been slow.**

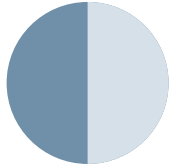
Notwithstanding the challenge of finding suitable community-based housing, with an investment of €2m in budget 2025 we can begin to identify and support young brain injury survivors to move out of nursing homes to more appropriate settings. Crucially, we can also prevent further admissions.

1. Supporting implementation of recommendation 5.2 of the Ombudsman's 'Wasted Lives' Report (2021).

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.



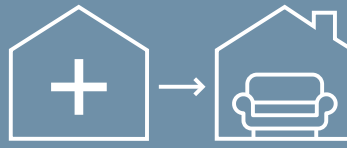
More than 60% of our residential rehabilitation clients have come from nursing home settings.



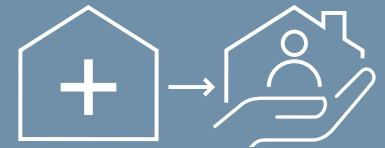
50% of those referred to our residential services ultimately move back to the community with lesser supports.

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**.

*Data as of December 2022.

SUSTAINING OUR ORGANISATION

ABI Ireland is a Section 39 funded organisation. We are a vital part of the delivery of neuro-rehabilitation policy.

Due to the Section 39 funding model, many organisations, including ours, are significantly underfunded and are at real risk of service closure. While the October 2023 WRC pay parity agreement was welcome, the reality is that the current agreement still leaves the sector some 6% behind current HSE pay scales. The new public sector pay deal recently agreed will see the HSE and Section 38 organisations move a further 10% ahead of Section 39 organisations. In this context, **staff recruitment and retention are impossible**.

We are under inordinate pressure, as we are required by HIQA, the HSE, the Charities Regulator, and other funding agencies to provide safe, quality-driven, person-centred services to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. We have survived for many years in this precarious situation, but we have reached the point where it is no longer tenable. **This requires immediate action if we are to continue to be part of the community neuro-rehabilitation service landscape in Ireland.**

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



BRAIN INJURY CASE MANAGEMENT



FAMILY SUPPORTS



VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION



ACQUIRED
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