

Supporting brain injury survivors to rebuild their lives

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, as the leading community neuro-rehabilitation provider, is seeking €2.3m in the 2027 budget to achieve the following:

1. Fund a national brain injury case management service with 20 additional posts to reach every person with a brain injury, regardless of location.
2. A commitment to provide multi-annual funding to Section 39 organisations to ensure sustainability and viability of vital disability services.

The measures would support the implementation of the government's neuro-rehabilitation policy and commitments in the Programme for Government.



An acquired brain injury (ABI) can happen to anyone. The injuries may be traumatic, caused by a sudden blow or jolt to the brain, for example, because of a fall or road traffic accident. They may also be non-traumatic, caused by a stroke, brain haemorrhage or viral infection.

Brain Injury Case Management

Right care, right place, right time

When a brain injury happens, survivors and their families often feel overwhelmed and don't know where to turn. The role of an ABI case manager is designed for these times of distress.

Specialist brain injury case managers play a vital role in the provision of integrated care, ensuring that brain injury survivors are supported to live more independently in their community and as close to home as possible. They link survivors to a variety of health and social services and assist with navigating systems such as social welfare and housing.

A national case management service will:



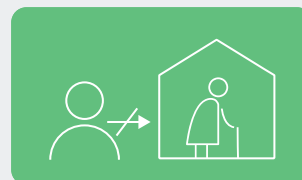
Create a team of highly skilled professionals trained specifically to work with people with brain injury and their families.



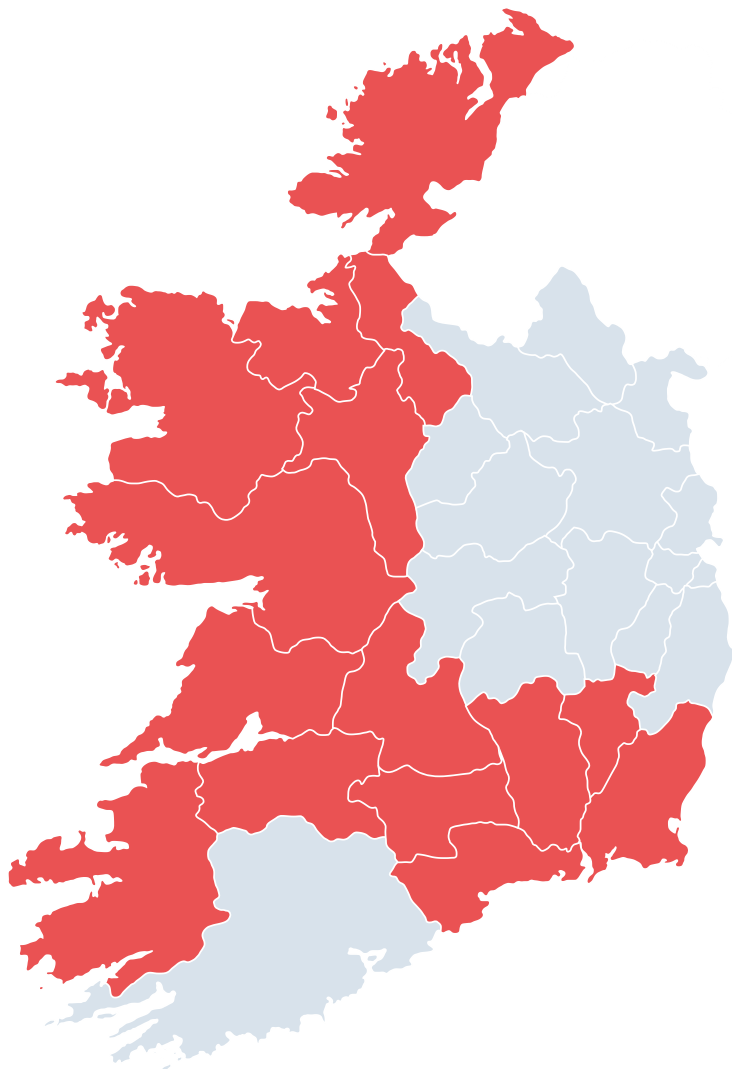
Provide a single point of contact to help those with brain injury navigate the pathway from hospital to home.



Inform and educate the family on ABI.



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



‘Postcode Lottery’

Currently, access to this service is based on geographical location.

Counties with no (or very limited) case managers (red):

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| ■ Carlow | ■ Kilkenny | ■ Sligo |
| ■ Clare | ■ Leitrim | ■ Tipperary |
| ■ Donegal | ■ Limerick | ■ Waterford |
| ■ Galway | ■ Mayo | ■ Wexford |
| ■ Kerry | ■ Roscommon | |

Approximately 19,000 people experience a new brain injury each year. Only about 400 have access to a specialist brain injury case manager, leaving the vast majority without expert support.

It is deeply inequitable to refuse people access to a case manager simply because no service exists in their area.

With 20 additional ABI case management posts, every person with a brain injury could have access to the service, regardless of where they live.

Case Management works

We have evidence that ABI case management works; research from Trinity College Dublin¹ highlights the value of the service, especially in supporting someone to get from hospital/nursing home to home:



More than 60% of residents at our assisted living rehabilitation services have come from nursing home settings.



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

Section 39 organisations

Section 39 organisations are facing a sustainability crisis as they experience persistent funding insecurity, staffing challenges, and rising operational costs. ABI Ireland is calling for:

- a multi-annual funding model that reflects the full cost of service delivery, including inflation, and
- a formal partnership approach between the government and Section 39 disability providers with an agreed framework to enable our sector to provide effective and efficient person-centred services.

1. The role of Acquired Brain Injury Case Managers in the rehabilitation pathway in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, 2025



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