

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's Manifesto for change in dementia care

When candidates call to your door, demand they pledge to:

Renew The National Dementia Strategy

Reform The National Dementia Strategy

Resource The National Dementia Strategy

Vote to Remember

Use your vote to demand better dementia care

To ensure that dementia-specific home and community care, timely diagnosis and post diagnostic support is provided to the 48,000 people living with dementia.

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Reasons to Remember

We are calling on election candidates to make dementia a political priority and to pledge support for the following actions:

- 1 Implement the National Dementia Strategy.
- 2 Develop a follow-up strategy to meet growing needs.
- 3 Provide ring-fenced funding for dementia.
- 4 Ensure access to dementia-specific home care.
- 5 Ensure access to timely diagnosis and post-diagnostic support.

www.votetoremember.ie
#VoteToRemember
#GE2016



THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY of IRELAND

Renew, Reform, Resource

Renew

There are 48,000 people living with dementia in Ireland. By the end of the next Government, in 2021, that number will have increased by 40%. Over the next 25 years it will have trebled.

In 2014, Ireland's first National Dementia Strategy was published to address this growing issue in dementia care. The strategy, with its six priority areas¹ was the first step in changing the lives and hopes of people with dementia in Ireland.

Now that strategy is due to have a crucial mid-term review in 2016.

Reform

We know that the current strategy doesn't cover the full dementia journey. The findings from this mid-term review must be used to develop a revised and reformed dementia strategy. An improved strategy that listens to the

voices of people living with dementia and that prioritises particularly dementia care support in communities and within the home.

Resource

Critically, this new Strategy must be properly resourced with ring-fenced funding for dementia. The initial joint investment by Atlantic Philanthropies and the Government has a limited lifespan. Globally, dementia continues to lag behind other chronic and growing diseases – like cancer or heart disease – in terms of budget allocation and research. If we are to plan and provide for the growing number of people living with dementia in Ireland, we need long term thinking and investment.

47,744 PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY LIVING WITH DEMENTIA IN IRELAND

30,359
WOMEN



17,385
MEN



Cahill, S. & Pierce, M (2013) The Prevalence of Dementia in Ireland. Genio Dementia Learning Event



¹ These six areas are: Better Awareness and Understanding of Dementia; Timely Diagnosis and Intervention; Integrated Services, Supports and Care for People with Dementia and their Carers; Training and Education; Research and Information Systems; Leadership.

Home and Community First

There is no cure for dementia. But there is care. Simple, effective and practical care that saves money and improves quality of life for those living with dementia.

The majority of people with dementia – over 63% – live in the community² and wish to continue to live at home as a first option³. The Alzheimer Society of Ireland has been providing services for over 30 years. We have found that dementia-specific home care is critical to ensuring that people with dementia can live well in the community.

Dementia-specific home care consists of person-centred, consistent and continuous care, dementia trained staff and working in partnership with the person with dementia and their family carer, while promoting independence and inclusion.

With the right information and support, people can live with independence and dignity with dementia. Timely diagnosis is identified internationally as best practice; however, a shockingly large proportion of people remain undiagnosed. Without a diagnosis a person cannot get the information they need, access timely supports and interventions, or make decisions about their future care. We believe that it is every person's right to receive a proper and timely assessment.

We regularly hear from those with dementia and their family carers about the lack of support they received following their diagnosis.

Community-based Dementia Advisers are a valuable early intervention for people living with dementia. Since July 2014, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland has funded eight Dementia Advisers who cover specific parts of the country, but this is nowhere near enough. Now we need a comprehensive dementia adviser network in each region.

A graphic with a teal and green brushstroke background. The text "Vote to Remember" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. "Vote to" is on the top line and "Remember" is on the bottom line.

**Vote to
Remember**

**Use your vote to
demand better
dementia care**

2 Pierce, M. Cahill, S. and O'Shea, E. (2014) Prevalence and Projections of Dementia in Ireland.

3 Quince, Chris (2011) Support, Stay, Save: Care and support of people with Dementia in their own homes. Alzheimer's Society, UK.

Cases of dementia are growing.

Dementia is one of the most serious health and social care challenges facing Ireland today. It affects every community, every family.

It must be a priority in the new Programme for Government. The ever-growing number of people living with dementia are not just a

statistic. They are our fathers. Our mothers. Our husbands and wives. Our teachers. Our mentors. Our guardians. We can support them by voting for candidates who will remember to prioritise dementia care, not only for those living with dementia today, but for those of us who will develop dementia in the future.

The Truth About Dementia

- There are nearly 48,000 people living with dementia in Ireland.
- This number will increase to 68,216 in 2021 and 132,828 by 2041⁴.
- About 4,000⁵ people develop dementia each year.
- There are an estimated 4,000⁶ people aged under 65 in Ireland living with younger onset dementia.
- There are 50,000⁷ family carers in Ireland providing care to someone with dementia.
- The annual cost of dementia is approximately €1.69⁸ billion per annum: 48% of this is attributable to family care; 43% to residential care; and formal health and social care services contribute only 9% to the total cost.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland works across the country in the heart of local communities providing dementia specific services and supports and advocating for the rights and needs of all people living with dementia and their carers. Our vision is an Ireland where no one goes through dementia alone and where policies and services respond appropriately to the person with dementia and their carers, at the times they need support. As a national non-profit organisation, we are person centred, rights-based and grassroots led with the voice of the person with dementia and their carer at its core.

Support the fight against dementia and demand your candidates pledge to renew, reform and resource the National Dementia Strategy.

VISIT www.votetoremember.ie

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PHONE Alzheimer National Helpline 1800 341 341



4 'Department of Health (2014) The Irish National Dementia Strategy. <http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/30115-National-Dementia-Strategy-Eng.pdf> .

5 Cahill, S. O'Shea, E. Pierce, M. (2012) Excellence in Dementia Care. TCD and NUIG.

6 Pierce, M. Cahill, S. and O'Shea, E. (2014) Prevalence and Projections of Dementia in Ireland.

7 Cahill, S. O'Shea, E. and Pierce, M. (2012) Excellence in Dementia Care. TCD and NUIG.

8 Ibid.