



Urgent

We call on **all candidates** in the upcoming elections to **support nursing home care** as an essential part of a well-functioning health service providing care to our ageing population in communities throughout Ireland.

We **urgently** need your support with the following:

- In order to sustain local nursing home services and to stabilise the sector in the coming years, **private and voluntary nursing homes require an immediate “Stabilisation Fund” of €265 million.** This equates to increased Fair Deal funding of **€270 per resident per week.** The funding given to HSE nursing homes that are providing the same service is currently, on average, over **€700 per resident per week more** than that given to residents in private and voluntary nursing homes. A mechanism to **index link future State-imposed costs** is also required.
- Residents in nursing homes **must not be discriminated against** in respect of provision of services including physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and aids and appliances. Support equal access to primary care services, equipment & appliances for all older people regardless of whether they are living at home or in a public, private, or voluntary nursing home.
- Stand with us in advocating for the recognition of nursing home care staff by CORU, the regulator for Ireland’s health & social care professionals. **The role of the Healthcare Assistant needs to be recognised as a professional occupation** and nursing homes need to be **properly resourced through the Fair Deal scheme** to enable them to appropriately remunerate care staff. Our care staff deserve to receive fair pay comparable to their HSE counterparts.



Facts!

- Over **70 nursing homes have closed since 2017** with a loss of over 1,800 nursing home beds in local communities throughout the country. Even if private & voluntary nursing homes received this increase of €270 per resident per week, **HSE homes will still be getting €430 more per resident per week through the Fair Deal scheme.**
- Residents in private & voluntary nursing homes are discriminated against as they do not have the same access to primary care services, essential equipment & appliances as residents in public nursing homes. Residents and families are regularly **required to purchase services and equipment that would be supplied by the HSE** if the resident was living at home or in a public nursing home.
- The State values the care provided by Healthcare Assistants in private & voluntary nursing homes **less than the same work being done in HSE nursing homes.**
- Many nursing homes in local communities throughout the country are **struggling to survive.** They are being allowed to close and the residential care service for older people will never be replaced in many local towns & villages. **The service will be gone from these locations forever.**
- **Healthcare Assistants are not registered as Healthcare Professionals** with the governing body, CORU.
- Private & Voluntary nursing homes want to remunerate their care staff to a similar level of salary that is available in HSE nursing homes. This can only be done if the funding provided to these nursing homes is increased. **The administration of the Fair Deal scheme through the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) actually perpetuates lower salaries for carers.**