



Programme for Government 2025

Securing Ireland's Future

NHI Scorecard 2026

Tracking Government's commitments to strengthen nursing home care.

February 2026



In January 2025 the Government published the Programme for Government.

NHI welcomed the express commitments and particularly the statement: “We are committed to advancing our social care model which supports older people to live full and independent lives, with the correct wraparound supports.”

This Scorecard provides an assessment of the Government’s progress on its commitments as they specifically relate to strengthening nursing home care. It tracks actions as much as possible , highlights gaps, and promotes transparency and accountability.

What is being measured

The Scorecard monitors the four commitments set out under “**Strengthen our nursing home sector**” in the Programme for Government:

- 1. Increase funding for the Fair Deal Scheme and ensure the waiting list does not exceed four weeks.**
- 2. Build more public nursing home beds.**
- 3. Publish the NTPF review of pricing systems in early 2025 and work towards an equitable funding model for the nursing home sector.**
- 4. Provide a career pathway for healthcare assistants**

This Scorecard uses an A to F grade.

A : commitment largely or fully delivered with sustained improvements

B: strong progress with some important gaps remaining

C: partial implementation, significant gaps or delays

D: very limited progress, major targets unmet

F: no meaningful progress or regression

Commitment	Grade	Headline summary
<p>Increase funding for the Fair Deal Scheme & ensure waiting list does not exceed four weeks</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There was an increase in Fair Deal funding in 2025 but the benefit and impact was limited due to cost increases outpacing increases in funding further impacting sustainability of current and future provision. The timelines for waiting list have been maintained at under 4 weeks</p>
<p>Build more public nursing home beds</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>Based on HIQA register there are 57 less public beds under NHSS/ Fair Deal in 2025</p>
<p>Publish the NTPF review of pricing systems in early 2025 and work towards an equitable funding model for the nursing home sector.</p>	<p>F</p>	<p>The long awaited publication of the NTPF Review of Pricing has not been published despite express commitment to early 2025. There have been no developments to work towards an equitable funding model for the nursing home sector</p>
<p>Provide a career pathway for healthcare assistants</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>We are aware that research is being undertaken to progress this. However, as a key stakeholder, we haven't been formally engaged consulted or informed of progress or steps being taken to progress this crucial commitment.</p>

Limitations and interpretation

The Scorecard is constrained by the quality and completeness of publicly available data. Not all indicators are reported on a consistent basis and there can be time lags in publication.

Grades indicate the level of progress on specific Programme for Government commitments.

Priorities for 2026

The 2025 results highlight several areas where further action is required. In 2026, NHI will place particular emphasis on:

- Securing sustainable, equitable funding for nursing home care, informed by the publication and follow-through of the NTPF pricing review recommendations
- Ensuring capital investment keeps pace with demographic change and supports modern, fit-for-purpose public, private and voluntary nursing home capacity
- Embedding Equitable Fair Deal funding and waiting-time performance that reflects the cost of person-centred care
- Advancing a national, recognisable career pathway for healthcare assistants across public and independent nursing home care

These priorities align with NHI's broader call for a national nursing home care policy and the findings of the [Supporting Ageing in Place Insights Paper](#).

NHI will continue to:

- Highlight** evidence on how policy decisions affect residents, families and providers
- Organise** data and insight, including this Scorecard and further policy work
- Motivate** action by demonstrating the consequences of underinvestment and delay
- Engage** with Government, regulators, advocates and members to co-design solutions
- Shape** the future of nursing home care through credible, resident-focused advocacy

NHI remains committed to working collaboratively with Government and partners to ensure that nursing home care is recognised, planned and supported as an integral part of Ireland's health and social care system.



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Caring together. Collaboration and community.