

KEY FACTS

- THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AGED OVER 65 HAS INCREASED BY 7.3% SINCE 2002
- THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AGED OVER 65 IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO OVER 800,000 BY 2025 AND WILL HAVE TRIPLED BY 2050
- LIFE EXPECTANCY IN IRELAND IS INCREASING AND NOW EXCEEDS THE EU AVERAGE
- THERE IS ONE PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY NURSING HOME BED FOR EVERY 24.8 PERSONS AGED 65 AND OVER IN IRELAND
- BY THE END OF 2007 THERE WERE 18,883 REGISTERED PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY NURSING HOME BEDS IN IRELAND, AN INCREASE OF 26% SINCE 2003
- STAFF COSTS REPRESENT 60% OF THE TURNOVER OF PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY NURSING HOMES
- PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY NURSING HOMES PROVIDE MORE THAN 65% OF ALL LONG TERM CARE BEDS IN IRELAND
- THE PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY NURSING HOME SECTOR PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT FOR MORE THAN 18,000 PEOPLE
- ACCORDING TO THE ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY OF IRELAND, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA WILL GO FROM 37,000 IN 2007 TO 49,000 IN 2016
- GOVERNMENT SPENDING PER HEAD ON OLDER PEOPLE IS AMONGST THE LOWEST IN THE OECD. IN IRELAND, OVERALL SPENDING ON CARE SERVICES EQUATES TO 0.67% OF GDP, COMPARED TO AN OECD AVERAGE OF JUST UNDER 1%



PROVIDING LEADERSHIP

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE

Nursing Homes Ireland is the representative organisation for the private and voluntary nursing homes sector. This sector, and the care our members provide, are key parts of the Irish health service. Private and voluntary nursing homes provide:

- Care for nearly 19,000 residents
- Account for more than 65% of all long term care beds in the country, and,
- Employ more than 18,000 staff

Nursing Homes Ireland was formed in January 2008. It is the single representative body for the private and voluntary nursing homes sector following the merger of **The Federation of Irish Nursing Homes, The Irish Nursing Homes Organisation, Nursing Homes Association South East and Nursing Homes West.**

Nursing Homes Ireland is committed to providing leadership, supporting members and promoting excellence.

THIS WILL BE FULFILLED BY



- Working in partnership with our members and other stakeholders to achieve best practice in the care of the older person in all nursing homes
- Ensuring that providers have a voice in the strategic direction and development of future nursing homes services
- Achieving adequate and fair funding for nursing homes to enable them to provide high quality care for all
- Working in partnership to ensure that regulation is effective, proportionate and transparent



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

As a nation, Ireland now has the resources to develop the best possible services to meet the needs of a growing older population. Our older people deserve the best.

We, in Nursing Homes Ireland have a significant contribution to make in developing those services, so that residential care for our older people is the best that it can be. We have the expertise, the commitment and the willingness to work alongside the Government and all other key stakeholders in the sector to create a service to be proud of.

Our experience and our ideas will be important in informing the development of public policy on the care of older people. We look forward to leading this important debate, as key providers of a vital part of the health service, and of meeting the challenge of growing and funding the best possible services for our older people.

Our vision, that all residents of nursing homes will receive high quality care, is one which will be realised through meaningful partnership with the Government, the HSE and the National Treatment Purchase Fund as purchasers, HIQA as the regulator, our members and all the stakeholders in delivering that high quality care to those who need it.

Having high quality nursing home care available to those who need it is an essential part of a well-functioning health service which delivers the care people need, in a way that is affordable, accessible, and, of the highest standard. Those who use our services should have the choice and flexibility in selecting the nursing home that most suits their needs.

OUR MEMBERS ARE COMMITTED TO

- Maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of residents
- Preserving the autonomy of residents, guaranteeing free expression of opinion and freedom of choice
- Maintaining a safe physical and emotional environment
- Ensuring that the privacy and dignity of residents is respected
- Being an employer of choice and providing continuous professional development and training

ENSURING HIGH STANDARDS

Our members have consistently and actively sought the introduction of national standards for residential care settings for older people. In this context, we welcome the establishment of the Health Information and Quality Authority as the independent body charged with ensuring that public, private and voluntary nursing homes provide high quality care to their residents.

MEETING THE TRUE COST OF CARE

The current level of public funding of nursing home care does not meet the cost of providing care to the standard that all aspire to. It fails to recognise the role of the private and voluntary nursing homes sector in supporting acute and community care.

Nursing Homes Ireland seeks an independent review of the cost of nursing homes care. The outcome of that review will inform all parties as to how this vital care sector should be funded in the future.

