

## Welcome

September was World Alzheimer's Month, an opportunity to renew our commitment to people living with dementia and their families. This year's theme, "Ask About Dementia, Ask About Alzheimer's", encourages us all to continue raising awareness, reducing stigma, and supporting open conversations.

A significant milestone from earlier this year was the launch of the Irish Dementia Registry in May by Minister Kieran O'Donnell at the Memory Assessment Services Symposium in Trinity College Dublin. The Irish Dementia Registry will be developed by the National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA) in collaboration with the HSE National Dementia Services, Enhanced Community Care Programme, and National Centre for Clinical Audit, the registry will capture reliable, anonymised data to improve care, inform policy, and support research. By building better care through better data, it will ensure services respond to what matters most to people with dementia and their families.

Planning is also underway for the third Irish National Audit of Dementia (INAD 3). INAD is scheduled to commence in 2026, this audit will once again help us assess and improve the quality of care for people with dementia in acute hospitals, highlighting good practices and identifying areas for improvement.

Our Brain Health work has advanced, with research presented internationally and the launch of the Brain Health Guide, a practical resource outlining modifiable risk factors and steps people can take to support cognitive wellbeing. Meanwhile, the Dementia: Understand Together campaign continues to grow its national partner network, inspiring inclusive initiatives from parkrun Ireland to dementia-friendly Tidy Towns and local community alliances.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication. I look forward to working with you all as we continue to strengthen dementia services in 2026 and beyond.

- Paul Maloney

Programme Manager, National Dementia Services

## QUICK UPDATES

### Irish National Audit of Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals - Phase 3

Planning is now underway for the third edition of the Irish National Audit of Dementia (INAD 3), which Amy Collins is coordinating on behalf of the National Dementia Service. INAD 3 will build on the progress of previous audits to assess and improve the quality of care provided to people living with dementia in acute hospitals across Ireland. The audit will examine key aspects of dementia care, identify good practices, and highlight areas for improvement. Engagement with hospitals and stakeholders is beginning, with data collection planned for 2026. INAD 3 offers a significant opportunity to drive meaningful change.

## Conferences and presentations

In May Fiona Foley presented the Brain Health research findings at the Engaging Dementia International conference, and with a poster presentation at the Integrated Care Conference in September. The research was aimed at understanding the public's awareness and knowledge of dementia risk factors and the importance of maintaining a healthy brain in order to reduce the risk. To highlight the findings they also formed the basis for presentations for Alone's staff members, the HSE's Programmes & Campaigns team in May and a Public Health Lunch & Learn session in June.

## Special Interest Groups:

### Advancing National Dementia Pathways

Significant progress has been made over the past year through the work of three Special Interest Groups (SIGs) established by National Dementia Services. These groups, focusing on Post Diagnostic Support, Brain Health, and Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST), were convened to strengthen the delivery of consistent, evidence-based supports and to design nationally agreed exemplar pathways for implementation across all Regional Specialist Memory Clinics (RSMCs) and Memory Assessment & Support Services (MASS).

The core objective of the SIGs is to ensure that people living with dementia, regardless of geographical location, have equitable access to high-quality post-diagnostic care and interventions. Each pathway will be supported by practical resources to guide clinical teams in embedding best practice consistently across services, and will directly complement the RSMC and MASS clinical pathways developed under the Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland (2023).

The SIGs are made up of a diverse membership, including clinical staff from RSMC and MASS sites, academics, and voluntary sector colleagues from The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) and Family Carers Ireland. This breadth of expertise has been central to shaping pathways that are both evidence-based and person-centred.

Since their inception, the SIGs have convened regularly and, most recently, including in-person workshops. These sessions provided opportunities to share knowledge, identify local innovations, and develop approaches that can be scaled nationally. The combination of clinical insight, academic evidence, and lived experience perspectives has enriched discussions and strengthened outputs.

A significant suite of materials has been developed across the three priority areas. These range from templates to support diagnosis, post-diagnostic interventions, and onward referral processes, to guidance for implementing structured programmes such as Brain Health promotion and Cognitive Stimulation Therapy. Together, they will support a more standardised approach to service delivery across the country and will be invaluable as new MASS become operational.

All resources will shortly be available on the Dementia Pathways website, ensuring teams have access to nationally aligned tools that can be adapted to local contexts. We extend our sincere appreciation to all SIG members for their time, expertise, and commitment. Their collaborative work represents an important step towards ensuring consistently high-quality dementia supports nationwide.

### Brain Health

One of these resources is the Brain Health Guide which was developed with input of the Brain Health working group and special interest group members, as well as colleagues and programme leads HSE Health & Wellbeing.

The guide outlines the modifiable risk factors for dementia, and gives guidance on the steps we can take to keep our brain healthy and reduce the risk of developing dementia. You can order your copy free of charge from [www.healthpromotion.ie](http://www.healthpromotion.ie) (select dementia from the dropdown menu).

### Dementia: Understand Together

The HSE's Dementia: Understand Together campaign is a public support, awareness and information campaign that aims to inspire people from all sections of society to stand together with the 500,000 Irish people whose families have been affected by dementia. Marking World Alzheimer Month the campaign continues to inspire people to "Ask about dementia, ask about Alzheimer's". A partner pack with information and social media messages was created.



The national partner network is continuing to grow and take dementia inclusive actions.

### Boots Ireland

Boots Ireland in partnership with the HSE's Dementia: Understand Together campaign hosted free Brain Health and Dementia Awareness events in Cork, Castlebar and Portlaoise in June. The one-hour workshop offered customers and community members the chance to hear from local health experts about dementia, how to support loved ones with dementia, and practical steps everyone can take to help keep their brain healthy. A member of the Irish Dementia Working Group was there on the night to share their personal experience of living with dementia (in all three locations) joined by a member of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network (Portlaoise) and the dementia advisors from The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, and Western Alzheimer's (Castlebar).

### Tidy Towns Tipperary

Tipperary County Council and Age Friendly have been working on a variety of projects across the county to raise awareness for dementia and include people with dementia. As a next step representatives of the county's Tidy Towns participated in dementia training workshops and are now aiming to provide sensory planting and accessible spaces which can be used for walks, talks and reminiscence. The message Tidy Towns groups in Tipperary are sending, is that they are community led groups that invite volunteers, including people affected by dementia to join and partake. This is an inspiring example of community inclusivity which can spread across all Ireland.

### Parkrun Ireland

In June parkrun Ireland officially launched their "Your parkrun and dementia" manual. Speaking at the launch, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Emma Blain commended parkrun and the HSE's Dementia: Understand Together campaign for

partnering on this important initiative. Dr Sean O'Dowd, Consultant Neurologist, Tallaght University Hospital and Clinical Lead, HSE National Dementia Services highlighted that staying active and connected is vital for brain health and general wellbeing. For people living with dementia and those caring to support them, this can have a real impact on their day to day lives and short and long-term health outcomes. Initiatives like "Your parkrun and dementia" manual demonstrate how simple, practical actions can help to make a big difference in encouraging people to continue with hobbies and interests, and also to try something new. This resource, which is a great example of how partnerships can promote understanding, and create environments that are truly welcoming for all, can be ordered free of charge from [www.healthpromotion.ie](http://www.healthpromotion.ie) (select dementia from the dropdown menu).



Sean O'Dowd Clinical Lead NDS, Jenny Brannigan, Territory Manager for parkrun Ireland, Fiona Foley, Senior Project Manager NDS

### Health & Wellbeing

The HSE Talking Health and Wellbeing podcast aims to help people and communities achieve their best possible health. It includes interviews and discussions about what HSE Health and Wellbeing and partners are doing. In September guests Roisin Nevin and Matthew Gibb from St. James' Hospital Memory Clinic and MISA and Catherine Keogh Daly from the Memory Harbour in Clonskeagh talk about the effect creativity can have on people living with dementia. You can listen to the Health & Wellbeing podcast about Dementia and the Arts here <https://hsepodcasts.podbean.com/>

### Community Champions

With the network of community champions growing, the campaign is focussing on connecting champions in local communities, supporting alliances in their work of building inclusive communities and sharing their local stories.

### Dementia Inclusive Listowel

The businesses and communities of the North Kerry heritage town Listowel have partnered with Dementia: Understand Together to become one of Ireland's Dementia Inclusive towns.

For people living with dementia in the area and for their families, this means they can feel reassured that when they visit the supermarket, go to lunch or to the bank, they will receive support, kindness and understanding from staff and the wider community. Together with staff from the HSE South West in Tralee, 27 local services, businesses and organisations have worked collaboratively over the last three years to help increase awareness and improve support for those living with dementia and their families to feel welcome and connected to community life. You can watch their story [HERE](#)

### West Cork Dementia Alliance

The West Cork Dementia Inclusive Project is a three-year initiative working to make West Cork (Network 10), a dementia-inclusive community, focusing initially on Bantry and Clonakilty. Following the work and success of the Bantry Dementia Alliance, this project is also guided by national dementia strategies and community development principles. The aim of the project is to support the development of dementia-inclusive practices and services, working collaboratively with local Dementia Alliances, including community groups, businesses, education, faith, sports, arts & culture groups, and other local organisations, to enable them to identify and carry out actions to become dementia inclusive. A main principle underlying all actions in Bantry and beyond is that people with dementia and their families are included as key participants in all of the work to develop dementia inclusive communities.

### Dementia Inclusive Mohill

The Mohill Town team are making huge strides in enlisting local support to making their community dementia inclusive. After a well-attended dementia awareness evening which the team hosted in partnership with Dementia: Understand Together, two training sessions for community organisations and businesses took place. They were delivered by campaign partner the Dementia Services Information and Development Centre. At the training community participants heard about how dementia can affect a person and the things we can all do to support them and their family to stay included in their community. The historical old station house is undergoing renovations, ensuring that it is dementia inclusive. This will become a community building with space available for community groups. The Enterprise Centre is continuing to become inclusive with new signage in place.

### Dementia Inclusive Carrick-on-Shannon

The community of Carrick-on-Shannon came together on 1st October 2025 at the Landmark Hotel for a Dementia Awareness Evening, marking an important first step in creating a dementia-inclusive community. The evening had a range of guest speakers who highlighted the importance of building understanding and support for people living with dementia. Topics included dementia and brain health, as well as practical steps towards a more inclusive community. Attendees also heard from the Dementia Advisor, who shared information about local services and supports available, with a number of stands displaying a range of information on the evening. As a follow up from the awareness evening, dementia awareness training has been arranged, which will be delivered by the Dementia Services Information & Development Centre (DSIDC). These sessions will continue the conversation and provide attendees with the practical knowledge to continue to help make Carrick-on-Shannon a dementia-inclusive community.



L/R: Cllr Sean McGowan, Dr. Catherine Dolan (Consultant in Psychiatry of Old Age, Sligo Memory Assessment Support Service, Dementia Brain Health), Cathaoirleach Paddy Farrell, Maria Farry (Community Member of Working Group), Sinead Murphy (Senior Community Assistant - Breifni FRC), Cllr Paddy O'Rourke, Laura Dunlop, Sharon Richardson (HSE), Jackie Cardiff (Community Member of Working Group), Kathleen Flanagan (Community Member of Working Group), Olwyn O'Toole (Healthy Ireland - Leitrim County Council), Mary Glancy (Community Member of Working Group).

### Dementia Inclusive Tubbercurry

In partnership with Dementia: Understand Together, the community of Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo came together on September 4th, for a dementia awareness evening aimed at supporting greater understanding and inclusivity in the town. Speakers on the night included Sharon Richardson (HSE), Teresa Keegan (Dementia Advisor for Sligo/Leitrim, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland), and Sophie Alookaran (Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Memory Assessment Support Service, Sligo/Leitrim).

Helen Rochford-Brennan, who is living with dementia and is a member of the Irish Dementia Working Group spoke about the importance of building dementia-inclusive communities and how awareness can make a real difference to people's everyday lives. The evening highlighted the value of community support, shared knowledge, and practical steps that can help create a more inclusive society for those living with dementia and their families. The community are now working on forming a steering group who will meet to identify next steps for Dementia Inclusive Tubbercurry.



L/R: Kate Gibbons - Sligo Age Friendly Programme Manager, Emily Griffin - Sligo Support Coordinator for ALONE



L/R: Sophie Alookaran, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Memory Assessment Support Services in Sligo Leitrim, Sharon Richardson HSE West/ North West, Helen Rochford-Brennan, Irish Dementia Working Group, Maria Brouder (MC on the evening), Teresa Keegan, Dementia Advisor, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE

### Siobhan Johnston brings us through a day in her working life as the National Coordinator for the Dementia Adviser Service with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI).



My name is Siobhan Johnston and I work as the National Coordinator for the Dementia Adviser Service with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI). The service has 34 Dementia Advisers based across Ireland. We are very funded by the HSE and ASI are delighted to be able to deliver the Dementia Adviser Service countrywide as a result of this funding.

The Dementia Adviser team provides a post-diagnostic service to people diagnosed with and living with dementia and their family and carers at any stage of

their dementia journey as part of the Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland. Working throughout every county in Ireland, our Dementia Adviser team provides individualised information and advice, emotional support, and practical assistance, as well as signposting to appropriate services and supporting the person and their family to navigate the health and social care system to ensure they receive the right support at the right time.

The Dementia Adviser (DA) service is personalised and tailored to each person to support them to live well and take control of their lives. DAs also support people who are navigating their diagnosis and experiencing changes in their memory, mood, and ability to manage day-to-day life. Our team works closely with health and social care professionals in diagnostic services such as Memory Assessment Support Services, Regional Specialist Memory Clinics, Memory Technology Resource Rooms (MTRRs) and other memory clinics; HSE teams; and GP's.

The ASI and our DA team advocate for improvements in services, and with the development of the Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland and improved diagnostic services, our team is increasingly working with people with dementia who are being diagnosed at an earlier stage of the condition and people who are younger. Providing appropriate responses to the needs of these cohorts continues to be a driving force for service development within the DA team and for The ASI.

In 2024, our DAs worked with more people than ever, including 4,712 new service users. We held 11,992 meetings to support new and existing people with dementia and their families who avail of the service. 2024 also saw the team work with 211 people under 65 years of age with young-onset dementia. The team had a specific focus to work with individuals and groups to understand their needs and develop supports, a truly person-led approach.

As National Coordinator for the service, my role involves supporting the team of 34 DAs to deliver a high quality national service which provides a dedicated point of contact on an outreach basis for people who are concerned about their cognitive health and or have a diagnosis of dementia, and for their family and friends, at all stages of their journey, from diagnosis through to end of life.

To achieve this, I support DAs to integrate with existing and developing services within the HSE and community in line with the Model of Care for Dementia and the National Dementia Strategy.

On a daily basis, I am available to the DAs for support around complex concerns they may have, such as safeguarding issues, access to services or specialist knowledge.

The DA team work with a variety of clients of all ages and abilities who are living with dementia, and as part of my role, I work with them and The ASI Operations team to identify the need for community-based post diagnostic supports such as activity groups, support groups, Alzheimer café's, young onset groups.

My role also involves supporting the team to meet agreed service KPI's, while managing a varied and demanding workload. These KPIs include client activity, presentations, talks, community engagement and working alongside The ASI Mobile Information Service which travels through towns, villages and cities to provide information and support to people living with dementia, their families and carers and those concerned with their cognitive health. I also conduct reviews and audits of our client management system records and completion of service user feedback, to ensure a consistently high-quality service is being provided. I then prepare activity reports for our ASI Senior Management team and key external stakeholders including the Department of Health, HSE and National Dementia Services.

As part of my role, I also work with other departments in The ASI, such as Advocacy, Community Engagement, Operations and with the HSE and Understand Together programme, to raise awareness and reduce stigma of dementia and I regularly engage with the HSE National Dementia Services who work with ASI to support implementation of the Model of Care.

Being the National Coordinator requires that I have an understanding of all services/ diagnostics in each area and how to support the DA to engage and promote the service within their regional health area.

I meet with my team regularly to discuss progress, identify areas of concern and future plan. For the most part, Dementia Advisers are lone workers, and these meetings are useful to provide team support and learn from each other's experience.

My role also involves some travel around Ireland, and I enjoy meeting so many people who have a passion for working with and improving the lives of those living with dementia. No two days are ever the same and I work with the most amazing team of people who are passionate, informed and dedicated to their clients. It is a time of positive change in the area of care for older persons and dementia care, and it is an amazing time to be working in this field.

## CATHERINE KEOGH DALY WINS THE 21ST ANN BECKETT AWARD



Catherine Keogh Daly, Senior Primary Care Occupational Therapist, based at the Memory Harbour, Clonskeagh, one of the HSE National Memory Technology Resource Rooms, has won the 2025 Ann Beckett Award for her project 'Yellow Days' - a poetry group and published collection by the Harbour Poets. Catherine was presented with her award at the AOTI National Conference on 2nd October and gave a presentation at the plenary session of the conference about the importance of Occupational Therapy, creativity and brain health.

Ann Beckett was the first professionally qualified occupational therapist to work in Ireland. She set up Occupational Therapy departments, was instrumental in the teaching of students when she joined the first Occupational Therapy College, then in St Joseph's in Dun Laoghaire and was co-founder of the Association of Occupational Therapists. Ann left her considerable mark on the Occupational Therapy profession. Now in its 21st year, the Ann Beckett Award was established to acknowledge excellence and innovation in the Occupational Therapy profession.

Yellow Days was a collaboration between the Memory Harbour and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Arts Office. What began as a conversation about creativity and brain health, grew into a funded programme where a published poet (Grace Wilentz) and Catherine supported clients with memory impairment to write poetry. Over the course of the programme, they completed close readings of poems and wrote their own based on prompts and themes for each session. In addition to the poetry making, attending the group meant their brain health was promoted, their executive function and cognitive reserve strengthened, and meaningful connections were made through occupation.

From this reflective nurturing space, the Harbour Poets wrote poems they didn't think they could write, which allowed them to see themselves in a new way. This shift in their occupational identity, empowered the poets and promoted confidence. The poetry pamphlet 'Yellow Days' was formally launched by the Cathoirleach in January 2025, with the poets' increased confidence evident when they proudly read their poetry to a gathering of family and friends.

You can download a copy of the Yellow Days poetry collection [here](#).

The writing group returned for their second collection this summer, with new members joining. The collaboration between the Memory Harbour and the DLR arts office is further strengthened by the addition of volunteers from the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Volunteer Centre and valuable support from primary care Speech and Language therapist Ciara McWeeney. The group are turning their talents towards playwriting, with Michelle Read, playwright, facilitating the group with Catherine. Their second collection - 'Fondest Regards' is a series of letters from fictional characters created and written by the group and is ready to be performed and launched in November 2025.

## NGC 21 EDUCATION PROGRAMME NEARS COMPLETION - A MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT

As 2025 draws to a close, the National Clinical Guideline (NCG) No.21 "Appropriate prescribing of psychotropic medication for non-cognitive symptoms in people with dementia" education programme is entering its final phase, with completion scheduled for December.

This milestone represents a significant step towards embedding NCG No.21 as a key resource for ensuring consistency and best practice in prescribing psychotropics for people with non-cognitive symptoms of dementia within our Acute Hospitals and Community Nursing Units.

Since its launch, the NCG No.21 education rollout has reached an impressive scale. To date, 106 out of 148 sites have received the programme, with over 750 facilitators trained and more than 1,700 healthcare professionals participating in person-centred and prescriber education sessions. Audit data is already being submitted from both acute and CNU sites, creating an emerging picture of how NCG 21 is being translated into practice at the front line of care.

The programme has included all six HSE Healthcare regions, providing education across a wide range of services and settings. In HSE West and North West, the team delivered sessions to Galway University Hospitals, Portiuncula Hospital, Roscommon University Hospital, and 18 CNUs. Meanwhile, in HSE South West, facilitator days were conducted at Mallow and Bantry General Hospitals, South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Mercy Hospital, and all 23 CNUs in the Cork/Kerry region. The Mid-West region advanced with sessions at University Hospital Limerick, St. John's Hospital, and Nenagh Hospital. In the Dublin and Midlands region, there was strong engagement from Naas Hospital, The Royal Eye and Ear Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital, Portlaoise, and St. James's Hospital, with 21 CNUs also participating. In Dublin and the South East, sites such as St. Vincent's University Hospital, St. Michael's Dun Laoghaire, St. Columcille's Hospital, Tipperary University Hospital, and Wexford General Hospital, along with eight of the regional CNUs, completed the programme. The Dublin and North East region saw high participation from Cavan & Monaghan, Beaumont, Connolly, and Louth facilities, with six CNUs involved.

A key factor in this success has been the commitment, energy, and collaboration shown by staff at local level. Central to driving and coordinating this national programme have been Rachel Ward and Sheena Farrell, whose dedication has been instrumental in bringing NCG 21 to life. Over the past year, they have personally facilitated training in dozens of sites, showing remarkable resilience and adaptability in swiftly switching to virtual delivery to maintain momentum. Supporting them throughout has been Grace Bergin, NCG 21 Staff Officer, whose dependable coordination of resources and follow-ups has ensured logistics ran smoothly nationwide and excellent communication channels were always maintained.

In addition to site-based training, Rachel and Sheena have worked closely with the Dementia QI Assistant Directors of Nursing (ADONS) across the six regions, fostering a strong national network of leadership support. This collaboration has been vital for ensuring regional alignment, troubleshooting implementation challenges, and building local capacity to sustain NCG No. 21 beyond the life of the rollout.

As we look ahead to the final months of the programme, the focus will be on completing the remaining scheduled sites, gathering and analysing audit data, and consolidating the network of trained facilitators who will sustain NCG No. 21 into the future.

**NGC 21 is on track for completion in December 2025 - a remarkable achievement and a shared success.**

## LAUNCH OF THE IRISH DEMENTIA REGISTRY - BUILDING BETTER CARE THROUGH BETTER DATA

### Memory Assessment Services Symposium

On Friday, 23rd May 2025, National Dementia Services (aligned with the Enhanced Community Care Programme) hosted a Memory Assessment Services Symposium in partnership with the Dementia Services Information and Development Centre (DSiDC) at Tangent, Trinity College Dublin.

The event brought together HSE clinicians, researchers, voluntary organisations, and people living with dementia to reflect on progress to date, share current developments, and explore the future vision for dementia services in Ireland.

The symposium highlighted how the Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland (2023) is shaping the national pathway for memory assessment, diagnosis, and post-diagnostic support.

Speakers included Dr Seán O'Dowd, Consultant Neurologist and Clinical Lead of HSE National Dementia Services, who spoke about the importance of timely diagnosis and preparing for the introduction of disease-modifying therapies. Professor Seán Kennelly, Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine and Director of the Institute of Memory and Cognition at Tallaght University Hospital, outlined how both the National Intellectual Disability Memory Service and the Regional Specialist Memory Clinic provide timely, accurate diagnoses and ensure families receive the right supports as early as possible.

Professor Tony Foley, Professor of General Practice at UCC, provided a highly informative update on research in general practice and the preparations underway for the arrival of disease-modifying treatments.

Matthew Gibb, Director of DSiDC, and Paul Maloney, Programme Manager, National Dementia Services, offered a valuable historical perspective on memory services in Ireland - reflecting on progress to date and looking ahead. Their contributions emphasised the significant strides already made in building accessible, person-centred services and the collective commitment to continued development.

Crucially, the patient voice was at the heart of the event. Charlie Drake, who has lived with dementia since 2019, spoke movingly about the importance of timely diagnosis: "People who think they may have a dementia need to be seen as quickly as possible, they need the support and their family need the support too." Contributions from clinicians such as Dr Catherine Dolan and Majella O'Donnell from the Sligo Memory Assessment and Support Service further underlined the value of collaborative, person-centred approaches.

Together, the presentations reinforced the importance of early diagnosis, innovation, and collaboration in shaping the future of dementia care in Ireland.

The symposium also marked a very significant milestone: the official launch of the Irish Dementia Registry by Minister of State at the Department of Health and at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People, Kieran O'Donnell TD.

### Launch of the Irish Dementia Registry

Dementia is one of the most pressing health challenges facing Ireland, with an estimated 65,000 people currently living with the condition and numbers projected to double by 2045. Yet, Ireland has until now lacked a systematic approach to the collection and analysis of dementia data. Without reliable information, it is difficult to understand how dementia is diagnosed, treated, and supported nationwide.

From a policy perspective, Priority Action 8 of the National Dementia Strategy (2014) highlighted the importance of a dementia registry, while the Model of Care for Dementia in Ireland (2023) reinforced the need for an agreed minimum dataset to be used by specialist services. The registry delivers directly on these commitments.

### Aim of the Irish Dementia Registry

The aim is to establish a dementia registry for the people of Ireland that provides an effective framework for the collection of reliable, accurate, valid, complete, and timely data. This will guide service delivery, support research, inform policy, and align with the recommendations of the 2023 Model of Care.

### Objectives of the Registry

The registry will capture information on the prevalence and incidence of dementia and Mild Cognitive Impairment, including subtypes, across age, sex, and location. It will help improve access, equity of care, and outcomes for people with dementia, while also providing quality assurance and measurable quality indicators for those diagnosed. Importantly, it will inform service planning and policy development and create a strong platform for dementia research within the Irish healthcare setting.

### Building Better Care through Better Data

The Registry will be developed by the National Service of Clinical Audit in partnership with the HSE National Dementia Service, the Enhanced Community Care Programme, and the National Centre for Clinical Audit, the registry will ensure data collection is secure, robust, and aligned with international best practice.

By collecting consistent, high-quality information, the registry will deliver a clearer national picture of dementia. Clinicians and services will be able to identify trends and gaps, policymakers will have the evidence they need to plan effectively, and researchers will gain the tools to evaluate treatments and supports. Equally, the registry will capture the lived experiences of people with dementia and their families, ensuring that services reflect what matters most to them.

### Looking Ahead

The Memory Assessment Services Symposium celebrated significant progress since the launch of the Model of Care in 2023 and looked confidently to the future. The expansion of memory services, the continued roll-out of audits such as INAD, and now the establishment of the Irish Dementia Registry all represent tangible steps towards evidence-based, person-centred care. Together, these initiatives will help ensure that every person with dementia - and every family affected - can access the right care, at the right time, in the right place.



Charlie Drake



Paul Maloney



Dr Sean O'Dowd



L/R: Mairead Creed, Paul Rowe, Alice McGinley, Kieran O'Donnell TD, Dr. Sean O'Dowd, Paul Maloney



L/R: Dr. Tony Foley, Dr. Louise Hopper, Prof. Sean Kennelly, Dr. Siobhan Hutchinson, Kieran O'Donnell TD, Dr. Marwa Elamin



L/R: Amy Collins, Emma Johnston, Paul Maloney, Dr Sean O'Dowd, Kieran O'Donnell TD, Kate Brennan, Sinead O'Reilly, Fiona Foley.



L/R: Cathy Reynolds, Kieran O'Donnell TD, Dr. Mary McCaron



L/R: Matthew Gibb, Alice McGinley, Charlie Drake, Minister Kieran O'Donnell, Dr Sean O'Dowd, Paul Maloney



L/R: Paul Maloney, Brid Moran, Marina Cronin, Kieran O'Donnell TD, Dr. Sean O'Dowd, Alice McGinley



L/R: Dementia Services Information and Development Centre team: Diana Burghi, David O'Rourke, Darko Zirnic, Gillian Teague, Matthew Gibb

## DUBLIN TO HOST PRESTIGIOUS ALZHEIMER EUROPE CONFERENCE IN 2026

National Dementia Service are delighted with the news that the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference will take place in Dublin's Convention Centre from 27-29 October 2026. This major event offers a unique opportunity to spotlight dementia on both national and European policy agendas.

Under the theme "Sláinte: Building Momentum in Dementia through Policy, Research and Partnership", the conference is expected to welcome more than 1,200 delegates from across Europe, including a strong representation from Ireland. The event will bring together people living with dementia, family carers, researchers, clinicians, and policymakers to share knowledge, shape policy, and drive innovation in care and treatment.

A central feature of the conference will be the active participation of people living with dementia and family carers, whose voices are integral to discussions on Person and Public Involvement (PPI) in research and advocacy.

Delegates will explore emerging research opportunities, new approaches to treatment, and the challenges of translating scientific

advances - such as digital and e-health interventions - into everyday practice. The conference will also provide a valuable platform for networking and collaboration among researchers, clinicians, advocates, and community partners from Ireland and across Europe.

The event proudly champions inclusivity, intersectionality, and advocacy for better care, while working to reduce stigma and ensure that diverse voices are heard and valued.

We extend our congratulations to Andy Heffernan, CEO of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, whose leadership was instrumental in bringing this prestigious event to Ireland. This is a significant achievement, and we are thrilled that the people of Ireland will have the opportunity to experience this world-class conference on home ground next October.



To keep up-to-date on National Dementia Services and related dementia news follow us on   
[dementia.office@hse.ie](mailto:dementia.office@hse.ie)

