



INCLUSION IRELAND

National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability

Pre-Budget Submission 2022

**To the Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage**

June 2021

**This document is written in font 12 Verdana in line with Inclusion
Ireland plain English guidelines**

Key Messages

- People with intellectual disabilities and their families identified housing, the extra costs of disability and education as their most important issues for Budget 2022
- Article 19 of the UNCRPD reaffirms the right of people with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community with the supports needed.
- Ring-fence funding for accessible homes and support services to be made available for people with disabilities who have been allocated housing through local authority or Approved Housing Body (AHB's), or those who may need support to rent privately.
- Develop a clear pathway to apply for supports to live in your own home.
- Invest in building accessible social housing units, and require that any new build housing for use by local authorities will be universally designed and accessible to all
- Increase funding to accelerate the move of the 2841¹ remaining residents from institutions to homes in the community with the appropriate supports, within the next 5 years.

About Inclusion Ireland

Established in 1961, Inclusion Ireland is a national, rights based advocacy organisation that works to promote the rights of people with an intellectual disability.

The vision of Inclusion Ireland is that of people with an intellectual disability living and participating in the community with equal rights.

Inclusion Ireland's work is underpinned by the values of dignity, inclusion, social justice, democracy and autonomy and we use the United Nations

¹ HIQA Annual Report 2020.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to guide our work.

Introduction

Inclusion Ireland believes that persons with intellectual disabilities should live self-determined lives and Budget 2022 provides an opportunity to invest in people. Budget 2022 must be a platform to create a more equal & just society and to further develop pathways into a life in the community for people with intellectual disabilities.

In putting together this submission we consulted with people with intellectual disabilities and their families. We received 311 responses to a survey and found that one of the most prominent issues from that survey was housing.

Our overall Pre-Budget submission identifies 4 key action areas informed by our consultations and the relevant UNCRPD Articles. These are to:

1. Provide accessible homes and supports so people can live in the community
2. Address poverty and the extra costs of disability
3. Invest in community inclusion
4. Support equality and participation

This submission for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has a specific focus on housing issues.

1. Provide accessible houses and supports so people can live in the community

Article 19 of the UNCRPD reaffirms the right of people with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community with the supports needed.

Issues affecting people with disabilities include the lack of available accessible houses, being at an increased risk of poverty, difficulties navigating the social housing application process due to its inaccessible nature, and also issues regarding decision-making when they enter into tenancy agreements.

Pathways to supports

One of the biggest barriers is access to support services that facilitate independent living, and the absence of a defined and transparent pathway to applying for these supports. When asked about housing in our survey, 26% of responses said they needed housing and supports. Many people report being unable to get access to a social housing home due to the unavailability of support services, while others who need supports in their home have no way of applying for these supports².

This points to a clear breakdown in collaboration between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, The Department of Health and the HSE regarding coordination and funding of support services, and this must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Accessibility of houses

People with disabilities have reported that in their interactions with local authorities and disability service providers, there is a difficulty in acquiring accessible homes. This is not helped by a lack of data on accessible properties. 25% of responses to our housing survey question highlighted the need for accessible housing for them and their families.

Through our advocacy work, Inclusion Ireland is aware of people being placed highly on the priority waiting list for a house, only to then find there are no available homes that are accessible to their requirements. This is despite a commitment from the NDIS on accessible housing and universal design and the publication by the National Disability Authority (NDA) of Universal Design Guidelines for Homes in Ireland³.

To address this, Part M of the Building Regulations needs to be reviewed so that the accessibility standard for new builds will be higher.

Deinstitutionalisation and community living

The UNCRPD is clear in its opposition to institutional living and on the right of persons with disabilities to a life in the community. Article 19 reaffirms the “equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others’ and to “full inclusion and participation in the community”³.

It is therefore imperative that the Irish State ceases with the continued use of institutions which are a clear breach of domestic and international

² Inclusion Ireland (2019) Housing for People with Intellectual Disabilities, The lack of supports for Independent Living

³ Article 19, UNCRPD

rights, and increases funding to accelerate the deinstitutionalisation process that should have been completed by the end of 2018.

Recommendations

- Ring-fence funding for accessible homes and support services to be made available for people with disabilities who have been allocated housing through local authority or Approved Housing Body (AHB's), or those who may need support to rent privately.
- Develop a clear pathway to apply for supports to live in your own home.
- Invest in building accessible social housing units, and require that any new build housing for use by local authorities will be universally designed and accessible to all
- Increase funding to accelerate the move of the 2841⁴ remaining residents from institutions to homes in the community with the appropriate supports, within the next 5 years.

#Inclusion Ireland receives support from the Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO) for this work. The SSNO is government funding administered by Pobal.



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⁴ HIQA Annual Report 2020.