

Care Alliance Ireland

Exchange

Summer 2016 Issue 51

Celebrating 10 Years of National Carers Week 2007 – 2016

New developments this year included the lighting up of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, an online 'Ask Me Anything - I'm a Carer' on boards.ie and a short video reflecting on 10 years of National Carers Week in Ireland.

As ever, events for Family Carers organised across the country by our colleagues in Family Carers Ireland and by other national and local groups were enjoyed by thousands of Family Carers. These events serve many purposes, not least being an opportunity for Family Carers to meet others and to become more aware of the supports that might be available to them. In recent years, our NationalCarersWeek Facebook page has become a significant resource. Now with in excess of 14,000 followers, it is a key resource for general carer information, sharing of member organisations' posts and eliciting Family Carers views and experiences. This in turn helps to inform various submissions and discussion papers that we in Care Alliance Ireland prepare.

Ten years on, Ireland has more Family Carers, providing more care. The 2016 Census will likely show a further significant increase in the prevalence of Family Caring. The most recent research on young carers suggests the prevalence of young carers to be a multiple of what it was originally estimated to be. An ageing population and in particular the mushrooming of the 85+ cohort will pose further challenges to us as a community. We are confident that more public resources will be made available over the coming years to better support home care provision. Research published in recent weeks by a number of our member organisations in collaboration with the Irish Association of Social Workers points to insufficient home care provision. Our own upcoming discussion document will serve to shed more light on the topic and pose some further as yet unanswered questions, including what an optimum level of home care should be and who decides this?

In this issue

National News	3
Governance Corner	8
Member News	9
Research & Policy Officer Report	11
Irish Research	12
International Research	14
International News	16
About Us	17



National Carers Week continued

In any event, Ireland's 200,000+ Family Carers can be proud of their achievements, of their dedication and of their contribution. We look forward to National Carers Week continuing into the future and thank all those who have given their time, energy and resources to make it happen. Particular thanks to the various Care Alliance staff and volunteers over the years who have worked on the week and all the people from the partner organisations who have organised the events. Thanks also to the National Lottery for its ongoing support with merchandise and the ubiquitous trolley coins! You can view the Ten Years of National Carers Week video and the stream of the launch at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSpGV-B15h88rjRiYyOITJQ>



Pictured during National Carers Week, clockwise from top left:
Cork Male Carers; Nuala Carey, Kate Enright & Monica Corish; Joanna Joyce & Judy Williams;
North Leitrim Carers; Red Cross volunteer, Agnes, offering hand massage to a Family Carer;
Rosemary Kratschmar & her granddaughter; launch of research at UCC.

National News

Second in Series of Family Carer Training Seminars Well Received

The second of our series of three seminars took place in The Carmichael Centre on 16 May. The seminar was attended by a majority of the Dormant Fund - Carers Measure recipients, and by others from hospices, hospitals and community groups who are delivering new training initiatives for Family Carers.

Following on from the very successful initial seminar in Athlone in February, this second seminar focussed more intensively on measuring outcomes. In a session delivered by Sandra Velthuis from Whitebarn Consulting, issues such as the relationship between planning, implementation and evaluation were discussed. Changes in knowledge, skills and attitude were also discussed. Zoe Hughes facilitated some innovative group work sessions and there was a short presentation on our plans for the delivery of a new Family Carer Training website. Representatives from Pobal made themselves available to meet individually with recipient organisations to provide guidance and advice on reporting mechanisms. A selection of feedback is presented below. The third in the seminar series will take place on 17 November.

(The 2016 Dormant Accounts Action Plan includes a commitment to resource supports and training for former Family Carers, to the tune of €500,000. We look forward to these resources coming onstream — for further details see page 5.)



In the evaluation, many participants spoke about how useful the group work and networking was and how good it was to have representatives from Pobal there to talk to and to clarify issues.

"Really enjoyed reflective sessions. Very meaningful sharing the experiences of other people – how much passion people have for working with carers"

"Very good seminar and the website looks great!"

"Found the groupwork really beneficial in being able to identify similar successes and frustrations"

"It has been a brilliant opportunity to network and reflect on our work"



National News

New Government Programme

In early May, the newly formed government published its Programme for Government (available in full [here](#)). Our colleagues in Family Carers Ireland have outlined the main commitments relevant to Family Carers, available at this [link](#).

Along with Family Carers Ireland we are pleased to see a number of commitments which will have a positive impact on people's lives. These include increases in relevant social welfare allowances, increases in home care packages and a commitment to the full implementation of the National Carers Strategy.

We look forward to working with our colleagues in Family Carers Ireland and all of our member organisations to ensure that these commitments by the new government are brought to fruition in the next few years.

"Carers are the backbone of care provision in this country. In 2012, the first ever Carer's Strategy was published. We are committed to implementing it in full. We wish to see greater involvement of family carers in the preparation of care plans, aiding the provision of care, together with more accessible training and respite care, to facilitate full support. We also support an increase in Carer's Allowance and Carer's Benefit as well as improved access to counselling supports for carers."

Programme for Government, May 2016.

EPYC — A New European Project on Young Carers



We in Care Alliance are delighted to be part of a consortium of five applicants across Europe under the Erasmus+ scheme, which will fund a two-year project to support young carers entitled Empowering Professionals to Support Young Carers (EPYC). The project will be coordinated by the German organisation Diakonisches Werk Berlin Stadtmitte e.V. and involves several organisations that are members of Eurocarers including: Care Alliance Ireland, Carers Trust from the UK, and Anziani e non solo from Italy. The partnership also includes the Austrian Red Cross and the Italian school "Versari Macrelli".

The project will cover a period of 24 months, during which the partnership will adapt, develop and pilot intervention aimed at supporting young carers aged 13-25 in their respective local contexts. Another goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of professionals (youth workers, teachers, social workers) to recognise young carers and respond to their needs.

National News

Two Care Alliance Papers Accepted for International Conference on Long-term care

In a further reflection of the strength of our research function, two papers have been accepted for the International Conference on Long-term Care in London in September 2016 (hosted by the London School of Economics and Political Science). Paper one, prepared by our Executive Director, Liam O'Sullivan, looks at our recent attempts to accurately capture the quantum of publicly funded home care in Ireland over the period 2008 – 2016 and the implications of this evolving provision for Family Carers. Paper two, prepared by Zoe Hughes, our Research and Policy Officer, builds on the discussion paper 'Intellectual Disability, Caring and Role Reversal' published late last year. The conference organisers had expressed a particular interest in receiving papers relating to Family Carers, a topic that their previous conferences had largely overlooked.

For more information on the conference see <http://ilpnetwork.org/ilpn-international-conference-2016/>

New Dormant Accounts Funding to Support Former Family Carers

The 2016 Dormant Accounts Action Plan for 2016 has allocated €500,000 towards 'Training and Support Services' (centred on coping with the transition from care).

"This measure is intended to provide funding for locally based training programmes and information provision/support services for Family Carers following the end of their caring role. The purpose of this measure will be to focus on the transition from caring and to help Carers cope with the emotional and psychological aspects of the transition and to plan for a life after caring. The measure will also will support the dissemination of resource information and initiatives that reduce the social isolation experienced by carers at the end of their role."

Source: <http://www.environ.ie/community/community-and-voluntary-supports/dormant-accounts/dormant-accounts-action-plan-2016>

This is an area that we in Care Alliance Ireland have been active in both in terms of primary research (TCD, 2011) and practical resources (Life After Care Booklet). This new funding also is consistent with the 2012 National Carers Strategy:

"It is also acknowledged that the transition to life after caring, once the need for care has ended, can be difficult for some carers. It is expected that the implementation of this Strategy will assist in this transition process." (p6)

Based on previous experience, it could be quite a while before the call for applications is made and the funding is actually dispersed. We have made representations to the Department of Social Protection to ensure a timely progression to invitations for applications to enable interested organisations to deliver on this important initiative.

National News

St Francis Hospice Developing New Initiative to Support Family Carers



Kate Diamond (Senior Social Worker) and Emer Honan (Staff Nurse) of St Francis Hospice Dublin, report below on a new initiative that they have developed to support Family Carers. Carers' experiences of isolation, pressures of caring and inability to relax and consider their own care needs led to the development of a four-week carers' group which takes place in the Day Care Centre of St Francis Hospice, Raheny. The group members are the Family Carers of patients who attend Hospice Day Care. All patients are living with a terminal illness. Three groups have taken place in the past six months, with 20 carers completing the programme. Only one carer did not complete the programme, as that person's relative died. There was an attendance rate of over 95%.

The aim of these groups is to facilitate opportunities for carers to share their stories of care and resilience and the impact of the illness on the family and wider relationships, and to open up communication about illness, death and dying. The group also provides a space to enable Family Carers to ask about medical or practical concerns they have regarding the patient, and to plan for the future. Facilitated peer support and self-care tools are also key parts of the programme.

Prior to commencing each group, an assessment is completed by telephone with each participant. This allows the group content to be tailored to meet the needs of participants. Feedback is invited from the group during each session and a post-group evaluation form is completed by each member.

When their lived experience is validated, their confidence in their role increases and Family Carers are more receptive to acknowledging their own needs for care and respite. This allows carers to engage more fully in conversations and interventions that reduce fatigue, stress, anxiety and guilt.

Carers reported feeling judged by health care professionals for not "getting patients to take medication or accept care." We aim to assure carers that as professionals we understand that patients retain the ability to control the amount of care they will accept. This can reduce the sense of sole responsibility the Family Carer feels. Opening up conversations and tending to family relationships are an important aspect of the self-care programme. There are also a lot of 'fun' moments in the 'receiving of care' and the 'self-care tool kit' practised during the weekly two-hour session.

The feedback to date has been very positive. Carers have spoken of knowing 'you can only do your best' and of how having an awareness of others in similar situations makes them feel less isolated and that their own role is less burdensome. Many of the simple self-care and stress reduction techniques have become part of their everyday practice. Patients have commented on a decrease in tension in their relationships with family carers. They also appreciate this support being offered to their loved ones, as they have an awareness that their illness impacts on others. Patients note that carers appear to have a better understanding of specific symptoms after the programme, for example, a decrease in appetite. From a professional perspective, the groups have enabled us to build connections and trust with family members that have benefited them during difficult times of transition on the journey through illness and bereavement.

A monthly carers' support group developed as a result of feedback from the first programme, as carers identified the need for ongoing facilitated peer support and self-care. Both groups are facilitated by specialist palliative care professionals: a nurse, senior social worker and health care assistant. An overall evaluation of this new service provision is currently being undertaken and we hope to further

National News

Third Discussion Paper Published

Following on from the successful launch of the [Care Alliance Discussion Paper Series](#) in October of 2015, in early June we published Discussion Paper 3 entitled "[Online Supports for Family Carers – Options & Experiences](#)".

Summary

One of the key developments of the late 20th and early 21st centuries is the development of the internet as an everyday tool used by the majority of citizens. By 2015, 80% of the Irish population, across all age groups, had used the internet in some way in the three months preceding the survey. Ninety-five percent of those aged between 16 and 29, and nearly half of those aged between 60 and 74, had done so. It is clear, therefore, that the internet is increasingly becoming a tool that must be understood and utilised as a viable way to increase supports for Family Carers – perhaps even going beyond, in terms of usefulness, the more usual organisational and informational website.

Continuing in the tradition of previous papers in this series, this paper details some of the key issues on this topic – introducing the various types of online supports for Family Carers currently available and in development, both nationally and internationally, and going on to outline some of the benefits and challenges facing organisations who provide such supports. How can Family Carers harness the breadth of information and support available on the internet, and how can the services and organisations which support them do so safely and responsibly? Like previous papers in this series, the purpose of this paper is not to present an exhaustive piece of research, but to stimulate discussion.

Since its publication three weeks ago there have been over 300 downloads of this discussion document.

As always we in Care Alliance welcome feedback on this discussion paper, and suggestions for future topics in the series. Please contact Zoe (zoe@carealliance.ie).

(Previous papers in the series have discussed how Family Carers are defined by services, policy and themselves ([click here](#)), and the impact of people with intellectual disabilities becoming Family Carers for their ageing parents ([click here](#)).



Governance Corner

New Members

We welcome our two new members whose applications for membership have been approved by our board of directors in recent months:

- Villiers Housing Association
- Dromcollogher Respite Centre

Two New Directors Co-opted to the Board

We are delighted to announce the co-option of two new board members, Phil Dunne and Donal McKenna. In accordance with good governance they will both be proposed by the board.

Phil since 2011 has established herself as a Private Practitioner Occupational Therapist. Prior to this she worked as a senior manager for most of her career within the health services – including in the areas of mental health, acute care, community care and strategy/development planning. Phil is a director of Meehan Associates and the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland. She is also a volunteer with St. Francis Hospice and Dogs Trust.

Donal is a company director involved in clinical laboratory supplies and services. He graduated in Biological Sciences from DIT, Kevin Street and is currently pursuing an MBA in Trinity College Dublin. In the past he has worked in St Michael's House, in a group home for adults with intellectual disabilities. He has also been involved in the East Clare Chernobyl Project, fundraising for children's institutions in Belarus and visiting the country on seven occasions.

The Carmichael Centre Launches the Good Governance Awards for the Not-for-Profit Sector

The Carmichael Centre, supported by the Charities Regulator, Volunteer Ireland, ICTR and the Davy Group recently announced the launch of the Good Governance Awards. The Awards Ceremony, which will take place on the 18th October, will highlight governance excellence in the not-for-profit sector in Ireland. These awards will facilitate the promotion and recognition of good governance practice and help to increase public trust in the sector. Charities and other voluntary and community organisations play a vital role in our lives and they command enormous public trust and confidence. This is reflected in the generosity with which people in Ireland give their time and money to the charities they support.

The website www.goodgovernanceawards.ie, which will act a central hub for this initiative, will be launched shortly. This will contain the entry criteria and categories, the panel of judges and guidance on how to take part in this important initiative.

Dates for Remaining 2016 Board Meetings

5 July

20 September
(Followed by AGM)

15 November

Lobbying Update

We recently submitted our returns to the Register of Lobbying for the period January to April 2016. See www.lobbying.ie

Audited Financial Statements

Our 2015 Directors Report and Audited Financial Statements have been approved by our board.

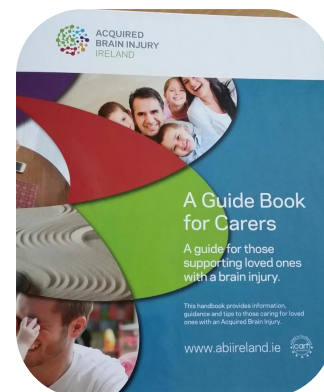
They are available to **download here** and will be formally presented to our members at our AGM on 20 September.

Member News

New Guidebook for Carers of People with Brain Injury

ABI Ireland has developed a new resource for Family Carers. The Guidebook for Carers provides families and carers of those who have been affected by brain injury with information, guidance and support. It will assist carers to understand and manage the challenges they may face. Mostly importantly, the Guidebook is a source of help in their home and community.

For a free copy of the ABI Ireland Carer's Guidebook please contact Nuala Collins at ncollins@abiireland.ie or call 01 2804164 ext. 207.



Young Carers in West Cork Get a Boost

National Carers week saw the launch of a new service specifically aimed at young carers of 18 and under living in the West Cork area.

West Cork Carers Support Group were successful in a bid for funding to initiate a young carers support and information service to meet the needs of young carers in West Cork. The aim of the project is to identify young carers who would benefit from the project and for those young carers to become involved in developing a range of supports and in shaping services to meet their needs.

A young carers development worker, Steve Cameron, was appointed and his role thus far has been to liaise with relevant schools and other organisations to identify young carers and increase our knowledge of their needs. Thereafter, the role is to work alongside the young carers to raise awareness of these needs with support agencies and organisations.

The first phase of the project is well on the way to identifying young carers in West Cork by raising awareness of the project with schools and relevant organisations and agencies. Alongside this, a new online resource has been developed with input from many of the initial young carers identified. This includes a website and confidential chatroom.

A priority for the project is to create more opportunities for young carers to take a break from their caring responsibilities by spending time with other young carers in a social setting, e.g. cinema trips, making use of sports clubs etc.

For further information on the project please contact Steve 9am-2pm on 087-1507347 or youngcarers@westcorkcarers.com



Member News

The Irish Hospice Foundation is Planning for the Future with COPD

2008 saw the publication of the “Palliative Care for All: Integrating Palliative Care into Disease Management Frameworks” report that outlined the rationale and benefits of palliative care for people living and dying with illness such as COPD. This was followed in 2012 by the publication of an action research report that devised, implemented and evaluated appropriate palliative care responses for people with advanced respiratory disease. Since publication of these reports, COPD Support Ireland was formed (in 2013) and their members have reported an information gap with regard to conversations on end of life and planning for the future with COPD.

To address this information gap COPD Support Ireland and the Irish Hospice Foundation established a project group with the COPD Support Ireland National Members Group, made up of both carers (n=3) and people living with COPD (n=7). Between March and September four workshops will take place to determine the information gaps that exist in relation to conversations about end of life and planning for the future with COPD and to identify the practical measures that can be developed and disseminated to fill the identified gaps. To date, two workshops have taken place where open discussion about the benefits and challenges that exist regarding discussing the future and end of life with family, friends and healthcare professionals has occurred. The group have agreed that an information resource would be useful and this resource is currently being prepared.

The final resource should be available by December 2016. For more information, contact Deirdre.shanagher@hospicefoundation.ie.



Policy and Research Officer Reporting

Zoe Hughes continues to work with member organisations to increase collaboration across the policy and research brief of Care Alliance Ireland.

If you would like to raise any issues with her, please don't hesitate to get in contact (zoe@carealliance.ie).



Work undertaken on research and policy issues recently includes:

- Continuation of the Discussion Paper Series with Paper 3, "Online Support for Family Carers – Options and Experiences" published.
- Continued involvement with the National Carers Strategy Monitoring Group.
- Submissions made on a number of topics including the WHO "WHO-GATE" Global Survey on assistive technology and the National Medical Card Unit Draft Strategy.
- Continued support and collaboration with University College Dublin on the topic Family Carers and Dementia (HRB-funded project).
- Abstract for presentation at the 4th International Conference on Evidence-based Policy in Long-term Care (London School of Economics, September 2016) accepted.
- Publication of paper entitled "Intellectual Disability, Caring and Role Reversal" published in *The Irish Social Worker* (Spring 2016).
- Continued coordination of the Family Carer Research Group with meetings taking place in April and June (next meeting June 27th).
- Continued availability to member organisations to consult on key policy & research issues.

For more information on these, or any other policy & research matters, please contact Zoe (zoe@carealliance.ie).

Irish Research

Meeting Older People's Preference for Care: Policy, but what about practice?

"I'd prefer to stay at home but I don't have a choice"

Donnelly, S., O'Brien, M., Begley, E. and Brennan, J. (2016). Dublin: University College Dublin.

Background

This report outlines the results of a collaborative research project undertaken by the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW), Age Action, the Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) and the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin. The research gathered information on the experiences and views of social workers working across the country with older people, including people living with dementia. The purpose of the study was to investigate how the health and social care system is responding to the care needs, required supports and preferences of older people. The specific objectives were to investigate:

1. Access and availability of care and support services for older people in Ireland, including those of people living with dementia.
2. Older people's involvement in decision-making relating to care planning to meet their needs, particularly focusing on those with a cognitive impairment/dementia.
3. What community supports and services could enable older people to continue/return to live in their own home?



**"I'D PREFER TO STAY AT HOME
BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE"**

**MEETING OLDER PEOPLE'S
PREFERENCE FOR CARE:
POLICY, BUT WHAT ABOUT PRACTICE?**

The research gathered the experiences of social workers working with older people across the country.

Main Findings

The findings of this study echo previous Irish research studies, which show the preferences of older people are to remain living at home for as long as possible, receiving care when it is needed in this setting. Despite this, one of the striking findings was the lack of consistency across geographic areas and professional disciplines in both the provision of services and in how older people are involved in decision-making about their care. A difficulty due to the reliance of the Irish system on family members to provide care is balancing the older person's preferences and those of Family Carers.

It is evident from this research that older people's preference for receiving care and support in their home and community is not being realised. The present social care approach has not been resourced adequately to meet the actual needs of older people.

The HSE are spending less now on home support services than they did in 2008, despite the increase in numbers of people aged 85 and over and those living with complex conditions such as dementia. Older people cannot access safe, compassionate, individualised and quality care when they need it.

The full report is available to download [here](#).

Irish Research

Other Irish Research Published Recently

- "A Fine Balance: Mental Health and Family Caring"
<http://familycarers.ie/release-of-a-fine-balance-mental-health-and-family-caring/>
- "Caring for grandchildren in kinship care: what difficulties face Irish grandparents with drug-dependent children?" *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*, 15(4) , pp. 352-372.
O'Leary, Megan and Butler, Shane (2015)
See <http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/24949/>
To read print media summary see <http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/state-adds-to-kinship-carers-stress-388735.html>

International Research

Computational Modeling of Caregiver Stress

William G. Kennedy, Emily S. Ihara, Catherine J. Tompkins, Megumi Inoue, & Michael E. Wolf-Branigin, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

To be published in the Journal on Policy and Complex Systems, 2016

Researchers applied computational modeling methods to better understand the impacts of policy alternatives intended to help reduce stress among caregivers providing support to family members with Alzheimer's disease. Potential options to reduce caregiver stress include increased respite care, tax incentives, flexible workplace policies, and adult day services. Researchers found that policy options providing programs, services, and support for caregivers can reduce their stress by providing a minimum of 16 hours per week of respite care.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/William_Kennedy5/publication/298735550_Computational_Modeling_of_Caregiver_Stress/links/56eff8f908aeae9f93e7febf.pdf

Norms of Filial Obligation and Actual Support to Parents in Central and Eastern Europe

Muresan, C. et al. Published: December 2015

This study is a cross-national comparison regarding the relationship between norms of filial obligation and actual giving of care and financial support in several Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries as compared to Western Europe (WE). The authors examine to what extent norms of filial obligation are consistent with helping behaviour, whether the responsiveness to norms varies by country context, and whether CEE countries differ from societies benefiting from more generous public support to ageing people. The data used in this article come from the Generation and Gender Programme. The authors illustrate that actual support to ageing parents is not more prevalent in CEE than in WE countries, even if norms of filial obligations are more strongly expressed in CEE. However, the connection between filial responsibility and instrumental care is stronger in CEE, while the connection between financial help and norms of filial obligation is stronger in WE.

To read more visit [ProQuest](#).

International Research

New Report Commissioned on Cancer Caregiving in the United States

In May 2015, the US-based National Cancer Institute and US-based National Institute of Nursing Research convened stakeholders to discuss the science of cancer caregiving. Patients, caregivers, health care providers, researchers, and thought-leaders met to identify the unique challenges facing family caregivers and gaps that remain in the science. Now some of those stakeholders are continuing to work to further understand those challenges through a new paper on family caregivers for people living with cancer.

“Although we know many people are affected when a loved one has cancer, much more research is needed on the specific challenges that cancer caregivers face and the most effective interventions to support cancer patients and their families” explained Dr. Erin Kent of the National Cancer Institute. “The growing number of adults living long-term after a cancer diagnosis is a success story, but it is also expanding both the length and burden of care on families.”

The paper will compile cancer-specific data from a 2015 report, *Caregiving in the U.S.*, a joint project by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP Public Policy Institute. The *Caregiving* report surveyed more than 1,200 family caregivers and identified common challenges facing the caregiving community, including difficulty conducting medical and nursing tasks, challenges with balancing career and caregiving responsibilities, and financial strain. In addition to the Caregiving data, the white paper will suggest additional analyses and resources that can help researchers continue to address gaps in family caregiving support and science for individuals with cancer.

"Much of the national discussion on family caregiving has focused on aging and long-term disability," noted Gail Gibson Hunt, President and CEO of the National Alliance for Caregiving. "Many people aren't aware that after dementia, cancer is the second most prevalent condition that requires the assistance of a family caregiver. It's time to dig deeper into the needs of these caregivers and better understand that they may benefit from more tailored supports than what the traditional caregiving community has offered."

International News

IACO Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will take place on October 5th with the AGM following on October 6th. For more details on the work of IACO see [here](#).



More about IACO

Vision

IACO will establish a global understanding and recognition of the essential role of carers with respect to care recipients, health and social care systems and society.

Mission

Through collaborative engagement IACO will improve the quality of life and support the needs of carers, through international partnerships and advocacy that strengthens and honors the voice of carers.

Goals

The goals of IACO are to:

- Engage members to share and increase knowledge, expertise and experience.
- Act as a resource for carer organizations globally.
- Facilitate international advocacy to advance programs, policies and legislation that support caregivers.
- Increase awareness of the role and value of the Alliance.

Eurocarers

The latest Eurocarers newsletter is available to read [here](#).



The Eurocarers AGM and took place on 14 June followed by the Research Working Group (RWG) on 15 June. Care Alliance Ireland was represented at the RWG by Zoe Hughes. See [here](#) for more details.



About Us

Care Alliance Ireland is the national network of Voluntary Organisations supporting family carers. Our vision is that the role of Family Carers is fully recognised and valued by society in Ireland.

We exist to enhance the quality of life for family carers. We achieve this by supporting our member organisations in their direct work with family carers through the provision of information, developing research and policy in the field, sharing resources, and instigating opportunities for collaboration.

There are approximately 274,000 family carers in the Republic of Ireland. Family carer support is provided by a number of organisations, including those dedicated solely to carer support and others who support carers as part of their response to individuals with specific conditions.

We work with our 104 member organisations and other agencies to support them in their work with family carers. Our membership includes all the carers organisations and virtually all the condition-specific organisations currently providing services to many of Ireland's family carers.

To apply for membership of Care Alliance Ireland, please [click here](#).

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Charity Registration No 20048303

10 Reasons To Join Us

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