

Draft recommendations

In advance of our next meeting on March 13 we would like to get your input in shaping the recommendations on care for the draft ballot paper. This survey will give you the opportunity to make your contribution to the ballot paper in three ways:

1. On each individual recommendation - below you will be asked whether you feel it should be included. There is also space for you to explain your view on each recommendation if you wish.
2. Your view on the relative importance of each recommendation - after getting your view on each recommendation, on the next page we will ask you to rank each of the recommendations in order of importance.
3. If we have missed anything - on the third page you have the opportunity to suggest any additional recommendations that you feel we are missing.

To make our recommendations impactful, it is important to prioritise and only include the most important recommendations. Remember that this survey is only covering recommendations in the area of care as this is what you will discuss on 13 March. We will cover all of the other topics (work, social protection, leadership and gender norms and stereotypes) at our April meeting. We would ask that you keep this in mind as you provide your thoughts throughout this survey.

This survey will remain open until 2pm on Monday 1st March so that we can reflect your views in a revised draft recommendations paper that we will post in advance of the March meeting. If you have any questions or queries please contact the Secretariat on info@citizensassembly.ie or by telephone at 01 619 4110 or 086 7794361.

* Member name

Name

Below are each of the recommendations contained in the draft recommendations paper. Please review each recommendation and indicate whether you think the recommendation should be included in the final ballot paper. If you have any thoughts on the recommendation, please comment in the text box below it (up to a limit of 800 characters or approximately 140 words).

Carers

To recognise and value the work of those who care for us, their terms and conditions should be improved. They should have a pay structure and benefits (such as sick pay and pensions) that reward their level of skill and training, similar to those of teachers and nurses. They should have a career structure which enables them to progress in their chosen area.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

Yes

No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

The level of the income disregard for Carers' Allowance should be significantly increased (for those providing care in the home for an older family member or a person with an illness or disability). The costs associated with caring should be recognised in the deductions allowable for Carer's Allowance.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
 No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

The State should develop a pensions solution for carers to ensure they have an adequate income once they reach retirement age.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
 No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Carers in receipt of Carers' Allowance who work part time should not be subject to a ceiling on the number of hours they can work outside the home. Those seeking part time work to accommodate their caring role should be eligible for job seekers payments and State employment and training programmes. The State should increase the income threshold for the home carers tax credit for part time workers to support carers in the home who wish to work part time.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
 No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

All carers for an older family member or a person with an illness or disability should have access to paid respite leave. The level of the Carers' Support Grant should be increased to €2000 in the next Budget and kept under review to ensure it keeps pace with other increases in social protection payments.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
- No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Greater efforts should be made to improve gender balance in caring by attracting more men to work in the sector.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
- No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Childcare

Ireland should move over the next decade to a public model of quality, affordable early years and out of hours childcare. This should be increasingly publicly funded including by increasing the share of GDP spent on childcare, from the current 0.37% of GDP to 1% by 2030 in line with the UNICEF target.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
- No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Private sector childcare should be regulated more efficiently by the State with reform of the current fragmented regulatory model. Staff working in private sector childcare organisations should have the same statutory rights as people working in the public sector such as primary school teaching.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
- No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

The current model of parental leave, both maternity and paternity leave, should be extended to cover the first year of a child's life. Non-transferable paid parental leave should be brought closer to the parents' salary level, to encourage sharing of childcare responsibility between parents. Lone parents should be able to avail of the same total leave period as a couple.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
 No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Care for older people and those who are disabled

Care for older and disabled people should be based on a social (aimed at removing barriers to their life choices) not a medical model. Financial support should be individualised to serve each person's needs.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
 No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

People receiving care should have a say in how they are cared for and, if they wish to be cared for at home, this wish should be facilitated by the State.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
 No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

The Fair Deal scheme should be expanded to include a statutory right for payment for home care packages as well as nursing care. The annual home care budget should be increased to meet growing demand and eliminate waiting lists.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

- Yes
 No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Lifelong care for people with disabilities who need it should be seamless and there should not be any break in services provided or need to reapply for supports when a person turns 18.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

Yes

No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

The principle of independent living should be actively supported and resourced in relation to people with disabilities and older people.

Should this recommendation be on the ballot paper?

Yes

No

Do you have any comments on this recommendation?

Prioritisation

To make our recommendations impactful, it is important to prioritise and only include the most important recommendations. To do this, we would like you to rank the options currently in the draft recommendations paper in the order of importance as you see it. We will gather the results of this ranking and redraft the recommendations paper and send it to you in advance of the meeting on 13th March.

Please rank the following recommendations in order of preference using the arrows or dragging and dropping into your preferred position



To recognise and value the work of those who care for us, their terms and conditions should be improved. They should have a pay structure and benefits (such as sick pay and pensions) that reward their level of skill and training, similar to those of teachers and nurses. They should have a career structure which enables them to progress in their chosen area.



The level of the income disregard for Carers' Allowance should be significantly increased (for those providing care in the home for an older family member or a person with an illness or disability). The costs associated with caring should be recognised in the deductions allowable for Carer's Allowance.



The State should develop a pensions solution for carers to ensure they have an adequate income once they reach retirement age.



Carers in receipt of Carers' Allowance who work part time should not be subject to a ceiling on the number of hours they can work outside the home. Those seeking part time work to accommodate their caring role should be eligible for job seekers payments and State employment and training programmes. The State should increase the income threshold for the home carers tax credit for part time workers to support carers in the home who wish to work part time.



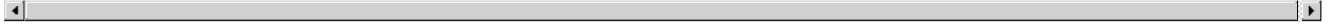
All carers for an older family member or a person with an illness or disability should have access to paid respite leave. The level of the Carers' Support Grant should be increased to €2000 in the next Budget and kept under review to ensure it keeps pace with other increases in social protection payments.



Greater efforts should be made to improve gender balance in caring by attracting more men to work in the sector.



Ireland should move over the next decade to a public model of quality, affordable early years and out of hours childcare. This should be increasingly publicly funded including by increasing the share of GDP spent on childcare, from the current 0.37% of GDP to 1% by 2030 in line with the UNICEF target.



Private sector childcare should be regulated more efficiently by the State with reform of the current fragmented regulatory model. Staff working in private sector childcare organisations should have the same statutory rights as people working in the public sector such as primary school teaching.



The current model of parental leave, both maternity and paternity leave, should be extended to cover the first year of a child's life. Non-transferable paid parental leave should be brought closer to the parents' salary level, to encourage sharing of childcare responsibility between parents. Lone parents should be able to avail of the same total leave period as a couple.



Care for older and disabled people should be based on a social (aimed at removing barriers to their life choices) not a medical model. Financial support should be individualised to serve each person's needs.



People receiving care should have a say in how they are cared for and, if they wish to be cared for at home, this wish should be facilitated by the State.



The Fair Deal scheme should be expanded to include a statutory right for payment for home care packages as well as nursing care. The annual home care budget should be increased to meet growing demand and eliminate waiting lists.



Lifelong care for people with disabilities who need it should be seamless and there should not be any break in services provided or need to reapply for supports when a person turns 18.



The principle of independent living should be actively supported and resourced in relation to people with disabilities and older people.

Additional recommendations

If you feel we have missed an area of particular importance, please list below any additional recommendations you would like to see included. These will be considered for inclusion in the revised recommendations paper to be circulated before the meeting.

To make our recommendations impactful, it is important to prioritise and only include the most important recommendations. We would ask that you keep this in mind if you provide additional recommendations.

Please list below any additional recommendations you would like included