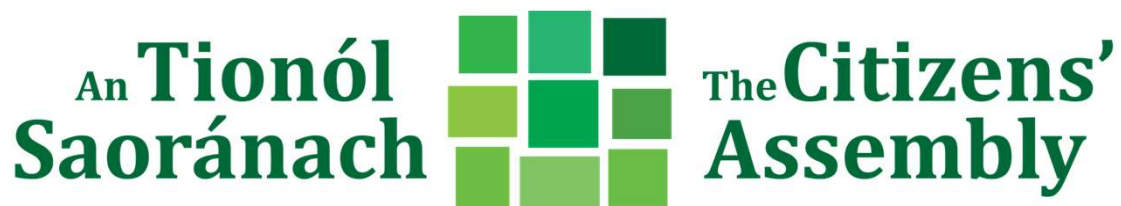


Citizens' Assembly Care

January 16



This paper summarises the suggestions made in the videos circulated in advance of the meeting (see members' page at www.citizensassembly.ie/!SZV0H6) as well as submissions received during the Public Consultation process (see all submissions at www.citizensassembly.ie/!GNZAU1).

It also includes recommendations from three people who you will hear from on the day. Their names are highlighted with a '*'.

This paper is intended as a reminder of what you have read and seen in the material circulated in advance of the meeting. You may want to refer to some of the ideas in it during the breakout group discussion but it is not intended, nor would it be possible, for you to discuss every suggestion in this paper in the breakout group.

Funding and Affordability of Care	
Develop plans to provide care as a public service, funded by the state, that entitles children to a childcare place available to all children. Ensure that costs to parents are based on ability to pay.	Ursula Barry, Nóirín Hayes, Teresa Heeney, National Women's Council, Submissions, Children's Rights Alliance
Increase state investment in childcare in the long term to 1% of GDP (as recommended by UNICEF). In the shorter term, proposals include increasing funding to 0.6% of GDP and increasing ECEC funding to 0.5% of GDP.	Nóirín Hayes, Ursula Barry, Submissions
Refresh the National Carers Strategy including funding for actions ensuring that carers and those who receive care are included in the development.	Care Alliance Ireland, Aisling Glynn*
Decrease reliance on the market for care while maintaining a flexible approach to care.	Ursula Barry
Increase the home care budget to provide financial support for home care.	Brendan Courtney*

Carers	
Improve the pay of (often low-paid) care workers like nurses, social workers and childcare workers through, for example, higher taxation or introducing a Living Wage.	Ursula Barry, National Women's Council, Teresa Heeney, Submissions
Increase state funding to financially support carers to recognise the value of the work done on behalf of the state.	Submissions
Gender-proof supports for carers, including for trans and non-binary family carers.	Care Alliance Ireland
Protect migrant workers in care services.	Ursula Barry
Carry out bi-annual survey on time-use to track unpaid work.	Ursula Barry
Develop and implement a career structure for care workers.	Ursula Barry
All Carers assessed for a Carer's Payment to ensure they are not penalised financially for taking up a caring role.	Damien Douglas*

Carers	
State to stop reliance on family carers to fill gaps in State provision and policy on disability	Disability Federation
Increase respite provision for carers.	Disability Federation
Diversity of Needs and Care Receivers	
Ensure transition from Children to Adult Services for people with severe and enduring physical and intellectual needs is seamless.	Damien Douglas*
Ensure the voices of carers and those who receive care are included in all policy decisions relating to care.	Aisling Glynn*
Increased Personal Assistance hours and care and support services. Provide a statutory right to the Personal Assistance Service for people with disabilities. Provide a person-centred service so that care receivers can remain independent.	Aisling Glynn*, Disability Federation

Diversity of Needs and Care Receivers	
Fully implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to support disabled women's autonomy and choice to care. Ensure the convention informs future policy decisions.	Ursula Barry, Aisling Glynn*, Submissions
Provide a statutory right to home care to support older persons.	Brendan Courtney*, Submissions
Improve the suitability of, and confidence in, social supports and services for disabled women including suitable transport, employment, Personal Assistant hours, accessible and supported housing options.	Submissions
Provide universal social care services for disabled and older people.	National Women's Council
Care system should recognise the different needs and choices of different households.	Ursula Barry
Increased care and support infrastructure to address systemic issues that exclude people with disabilities from society.	Disability Federation

Care, Work and Parental Leave	
Encourage and support men to take leave for caring duties.	Ursula Barry, Submissions
Remove the 'care penalty' imposed on women.	Ursula Barry
Facilitate combining care and paid employment through, for example, increased parental leave and standardised flexible working policies for parents.	Ursula Barry, Submissions
Increase income-supported family leave to cover the first year of a child's life (first two years as a long-term goal) and make legislative amendments to ensure that people parenting alone can access the same level of support by making parent's leave transferrable.	Children's Rights Alliance
Review payment rates that are available for parental leave (maternity/paternity/parental) to ensure they adequately meet the needs of families.	Children's Rights Alliance
Introduce flexible working policies to balance home and work lives.	Aisling Glynn*

Social Protection, Pensions and Budget	
Conduct a gender impact assessment of annual budget.	Ursula Barry
Provide a Universal Pension entitlement.	Ursula Barry
Credit given towards pensions when caring [current credit covers 20 years of caring].	Damien Douglas*
Modify the social protection system by removing the concept of dependency.	Ursula Barry
Increase social protection support for carers and those receiving care. Benchmark payments at 35% of average earnings, and allow those seeking part-time work to access jobseekers payments.	Ursula Barry, Disability Federation

Role Models and Stereotypes	
Acknowledge family carers – who sometimes don't identify as carers – in their contribution to society.	Brendan Courtney*, Aisling Glynn*
Develop a campaign to raise awareness of issues affecting carers.	Aisling Glynn*
Reduce stereotyping of boys and girls in the home – for example in division of chores.	Submissions
Improve visibility of men performing caring roles, including in schoolbooks and media.	Submissions
Address stigma attached to disability needs.	Disability Federation
Constitution (to be discussed in February meeting)	
Amend Article 41.2 (the woman in the home clause) through referendum to reflect gender-neutral language and caring across generations.	Care Alliance Ireland, National Women's Council