



# Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality

## Questions on Care for Ballot Paper

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Chair to the Assembly

# Question 1

## Revised text

To improve the terms and conditions of those in paid employment as carers (for children and adults):

- (a) they should have a pay structure and benefits (including sick pay and pensions) that reward their level of skill and training, similar to those of teachers and nurses.
- (b) they should have a career structure, including access to training and professional registration, which enables them to progress in their chosen area.

## Previous text

~~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.

## Question 2

### Revised text

Reform Carer's Allowance by:

- (a) increasing the level of the income disregard
- (b) reimbursing the costs associated with caring
- (c) increasing the ceiling on the number of hours in paid work outside the home.
- (d) providing access to State employment and training programmes.

### Previous text

2. The level of the income disregard for Carer's 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.~~
4. Carers in receipt of Carer's 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 carer's tax credit for part time workers to support carers in the home who wish to work part time.~~

## Question 3

### Revised text

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

### Previous text

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

## Question 4

### Revised text

Improve respite provision for carers by:

- (a) Increasing the level of the Carer's Support Grant in the next Budget and keeping it under review to ensure it keeps pace with other increases in social protection payments.
- (b) Providing adequate access to a range of respite services to meet individual needs.

### Previous text

~~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 Carer's 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.

## Question 5

### Revised text

Ireland should:

- (a) move over the next decade to a publicly funded and regulated model of quality, affordable early years and out of hours childcare
- (b) increase the State share of GDP spent on childcare, from the current 0.37% of GDP to 1% by 2030 in line with the UNICEF target.

### Previous text

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.

## Question 6

### Revised text

Paid Leave for parents should:

- (a) cover the first year of a child's life.
- (b) be non-transferable to encourage sharing of childcare responsibility between parents.
- (c) provide lone parents with the same total leave period as a couple.
- (d) be incentivised by increasing payment levels to encourage increased take up

### Previous text

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.

## Question 7

### Revised text

Older people and persons with disabilities should:

- (a) be actively supported and resourced to live independently.
- (b) have access to person centred financial supports to serve their individual needs.
- (c) be enabled to participate as fully as possible in decisions on their care needs.
- (d) be facilitated if their choice is to be cared for at home.

### Previous text

~~10. 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.~~

~~11. 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.~~

~~14. The principle of independent living should be actively supported and resourced in relation to people with disabilities and older people.~~

## Question 8

### Revised text

Provision for those who wish to be cared for at home should be improved by:

- (a) providing a statutory right for payment for home care packages as well as nursing care.
- (b) increasing the annual home care budget to meet growing demand and reduce waiting lists.

### Previous text

The ~~Fair Deal~~ 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.

## Question 9 - no major changes

### Revised Text

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