




Family Carers Ireland

No one should have to care alone

# MAKE CARERS COUNT in General Election 2024

## WHO CARES?

**500,000+** PEOPLE PROVIDE CARE

 **61%** FEMALE

**67,000** YOUNG CARERS 10-17 YRS

 **39%** MALE

**1 in 8** people in Ireland are carers

**57%** juggle employment with caring

## VALUE OF CARE

 **€20 Billion**

How much carers save the State **EVERY YEAR**. Close to the annual budget of the HSE.

 **19 Million HOURS**

of unpaid care provided **EVERY WEEK**.

## COST OF CARE

**€244** the additional weekly costs faced by high-level carers

**2 in 5** have a household income less than €30,000 p.a.

**69%** find it difficult to make ends meet.

## WHAT FAMILY CARERS NEED FROM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT



### Carers NEED Financial Support

Of the carers struggling financially, 29% are cutting back on essentials such as food and heat.



### Carers NEED Suitable Housing

34% live in unsuitable housing.



### Carers NEED a Break

72% have never received respite.



### Carers NEED Wellbeing Support

16% have bad health and 48% experience severe loneliness.



### Carers NEED Their Children to Be the Highest Priority for Government

8,900 children are overdue an AON and thousands are without an appropriate school place.



### Carers NEED Better Services

49% have had to pay privately for services that should be publicly available.

[familycarers.ie](http://familycarers.ie)

Freephone Careline  
1800 24 07 24



Figures sourced from FCI's State of Caring Research Report 2024; CSO Irish Health Survey 2019; Census of Population 2022; WHO - Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children 2018; Care at Home: Costs of Care Arising from Disability - Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice and FCI 2022.

# FAMILY CARER CANVAS CARD

## Make your voice count in the General Election 2024



**What will you do to support Ireland's 500,000+ family carers if you're elected to the next Dáil?**



### Abolish Means Test

Will you introduce a new non-means-tested Family Carer Payment?



### Carer Guarantee

Will you ensure carers have access to sustainable supports and services across the country by fully funding the Carer Guarantee?



### Respite

Will you guarantee access to regular and appropriate respite?



### Transport

Will you overhaul the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme and introduce the Transport Support Scheme committed to in 2013?



### Assessment of Need

Will you end waiting times for Assessment of Need and give children a right to the interventions identified in their assessment report?



### Home Support

Will you deliver demanded, high-quality and affordable home care for all adults?



### Education

Will you realise every child's right to an education in a place and manner appropriate to their needs?



### Independent Living

Will you ensure people with disabilities can live independently with the support they need?



### Carers in Employment

Will you support family carers to enter or remain in employment or education if/when they can?



### Voluntary Organisations

Will you commit to providing appropriate funding to voluntary organisations delivering vital services on behalf of Government?

## No one should have to care alone.

Visit [www.familycarers.ie](http://www.familycarers.ie) to read our General Election 2024 Manifesto.