



NEWS IN BRIEF

APRIL 2025

ISCP
VOICE OF OLDER PEOPLE

c/o Office 1 Willie Bermingham Place,
Kilmainham Lane, Dublin 8 D08 DP8P
Email: office@seniors.ie Office: 085 260 4957
(Hours of work: Tue - Thurs 9.00 - 5.00)
National Co-ordinator 087 430 3342

2025 Spring Time- Be Active



It is good to know we are officially into Springtime, and we get out more, take walks, sit in the park and enjoy the longer evenings. We might even have a mini heat wave, if the media are to be believed. It helps create a balance with all the talk of tariffs and how it will affect our economy. There is no doubt that we are in for a bumpy few months until we see the real impact of the tariffs and how the EU and indeed our government respond to developments.

We would remind the Government as they contemplate the work of 'balancing the books' and making adjustments, of the need to be mindful of those people who have absolutely no 'wiggle room' with their income. This largely refers to those dependent on social transfers and state support.

Older people dependent on the state pension, including those with a small retirement pension, these people can least afford any change in what the Government parties promised during the elections. We recall that both FF & FG committed to a minimum of €350 to state pensioners. This is now being modified to 'over the lifetime of the government'. We are also aware that this government committed in the last Programme

for Government to index the state pension so that its rate will always be at least equal to 34% of total average earnings. Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael now make no reference to benchmarking and indexation. This is crucial to ensure an adequate secure income for older people.

We hear talk also of the need to 'pull back' on many promises made based on a changing economy. The reality is, that if the economy is faced with a downturn, then cost of living will get higher and people on the state pension can ill afford any change to the promised increases.

2025 Intergenerational Week



Intergenerational Week 2025
24th to 30th April 2025

www.generationsworkingtogether.org has some great ideas on how you can host an event.

The WHO reports that "Interventions for intergenerational contact are among the most effective for reducing ageism against older people". (WHO, 2023)

Let's put on our thinking caps on how we as an organisation can contribute to increasing the visibility of our members. Our MDO Sharon would be delighted to hear any ideas you would like us to consider, contact at development@seniors.ie or 085 2604955.

Fair Deal - Discussion

Pat Mellon the ISCP National Co-ordinator has received increased interest from groups on the Nursing Home Support Scheme (Fair Deal). Pat has facilitated discussion with some groups on this topic.

We outline an overview of the scheme, which we hope will be of assistance to members.



The Fair Deal Scheme:

A Summary

The Fair Deal scheme, officially known as the **Nursing Homes Support Scheme**, is a government initiative designed to help people with the cost of long-term nursing home care. It operates on the principle that individuals contribute towards the cost based on their financial means, while the state pays the remaining balance.

Here's a breakdown of how it works:

1. Application and Assessment:

Anyone who is ordinarily resident in Ireland and requires long-term nursing home care can apply.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) conducts two assessments:

Care Needs Assessment.

Financial Assessment

2. Financial Contribution:

Income: Generally, the applicant contributes up to 80% of their assessable income (e.g., pensions, social welfare payments, rental income)

Assets: The applicant also contributes a percentage of the value of their assets. This includes savings, investments, and property. For a single person, it's up to 7.5% per year of the value of their assets (above a certain threshold). For a couple, it's up to 3.75% per year of their combined assets (above a higher threshold).

Principal Private Residence (Home): The contribution based on the value of the

applicant's home is capped at 7.5% per year for a maximum of three years.

3. State Contribution:

The HSE pays the balance of the nursing home fees directly to the approved nursing home.

4. Nursing Home Loan (Optional):

If the applicant has assets like property, they can apply for a Nursing Home Loan.

Example - Mary's Situation

Imagine Mary older person who needs to go into long-term nursing home care.

Example of a single person's contributions!

Income: Mary receives a pension of €400 per week.

Savings: Mary has savings of €100,000.

Home: Mary owns her home, valued at €400,000.

Under the Fair Deal scheme (simplified):

- Income Contribution:** Mary would likely contribute 80% of her weekly pension:
 $0.80 \times €400 = €320$ per week.
- Savings Contribution:** After a threshold of €36,000 for a single person, her contribution of $7.5\% \times €64,000 = €4800$, which works out to approximately €92.30 per week
- Home Contribution:** For the first three years, 7.5% of her home's value would be considered. The annual contribution would be $7.5\% \times €400,000 = €30,000$, which is approximately €577 per week. This contribution based on her home would cease after three years.

Total Weekly Contribution (for the first

three years): €320 (income) + €92.30 (savings) + €577 (home) = **€989.30**.

2025 Affiliation Fees



REMINDER - 2025
Affiliation Fees are due.

THANK YOU to the groups and members who have paid.

We remind all Groups that registration of Delegates for the ISCP APM in May requires the nominating group to be affiliated by paying the yearly membership fee.

In the Spotlight:



Joan Gorman Individual Member

A little bit about yourself

Retired from British
Telecom (BT) as
office

administrator/manager. I loved the job and the people I worked with, unfortunately company policy said it was time to go.

What are your favourite hobbies and interests?

I sing in a choir at The Royal Irish Academy of Music. I attend dance for wellness. I have and still travel extensively. Just bought a keyboard so that will be my next learning experience.

Why did you decide to join the ISCP?

I came across ISCP quite by accident, I'm so very happy I did. I was looking to give my time freely to a group that would be actively involved in highlighting seniors' issues that by today's count stand at 700,000 approx. of people over the age of 60/65 ish.

Super Seniors seem to be left behind, forgotten, not seen as contributing to the economy yet the government when seeking our vote increase the state pension by €12. They wanted us to help get them over the line by buying our vote.

Super Seniors still contribute to society/economy we are taxpayers, property tax, tax on utilities, white goods i.e. fridge or freezer. Some pay tax from their pensions. I was so impressed when our Super Seniors protested outside the Dail re: medical card, reversing the government decision. How powerful that was.

What do you see is the role of the ISCP

I feel ISCP provided a platform for Super Seniors to show the government that we do have a voice, not only our own but that of our children as they see we will not allow consecutive government to cast us aside. We will keep alive the valuable contribution we made to society. We are active, vocal and will not allow the government to silence us as we

bring to their attention the concerns, injustice, unfairness of the people. I hope in time I can be active within the ISCP.

Annual Parliament Meeting

WHEN: Wednesday 14th May @ 10.30am

WHERE: Liberty Hall, Dublin City Centre



Closing dates for return of completed documentation as follows:

Motion Forms & Nomination Position Forms

Thursday 17th April 2025

Delegate Nomination

Friday 25th April 2025 APM

For any queries in relation to the APM, please contact Grace on 085 260 4957.

Guest Speaker

We are delighted to announce that the Guest Speaker at the APM will be:

Dr Nat O'Connor.



Nat is Assistant Professor of Social Policy UCD and a Fellow of the Geary Institute for Public Policy. Prior to joining UCD, Nat worked with Age Action (2021-24), the Labour Party (2018-

20), Ulster University (2015-18), TASC (2009-2015) and the Homeless Agency (2006-09). Nat was also an occasional lecturer of social policy at Maynooth University (2005-2023). He is currently the chairperson of the Irish Social Policy Association, a member of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC), a member of the HSE Population Based Planning Expert Advisory Group, and Senior Policy Adviser to Age Action.

Information for Members

Free Events

How about making use of your free travel pass to widen your interests in history or world events. We will try to include a regular slot in NIB, please contact me with suggestions for your fellow members.

Trinity College Dublin's Long Room Hub (TLRH) holds free in-person events throughout the year.

Link to website: [Trinitylongroomhub - Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Research Institute | Trinity College Dublin](https://www.trinitylongroomhub.com)

Contact: tlrh@tcd.ie They also offer online events and provide access to recordings of previous events, listening back on Soundcloud or watching on YouTube.

A Series is underway Trinity Talk: Dublin's Hidden Histories. They are held on various Tuesdays from 12pm – 1:00pm. There are 5 remaining events being held until 27th May 2025. You will need to Register but there is no cost.



ISCP & Age Action working in Collaboration

Introduction

The Irish Senior Citizens' Parliament and Age Action are engaging in a joint project with the aim of building a stronger voice for older people in Irish public policy.

This project is to explore how both organisations can work effectively to increase the participation of older people in social and economic discourse in Ireland, to achieve greater influence by older people on public policy deliberation and decisions in relation to ageing and older people.

The collaborative structures currently available within the older people's sector are not achieving the desired political and policy influence.

This project aims to address this challenge by exploring models of working to support increased and more meaningful participation of older people in the formation and delivery of public policy, strengthening advocacy to build an inclusive and age-positive society.

Impact

The project aims to increase the participation and impact of older people in public social and economic discourse and thereby achieve a greater impact on public policy considerations relevant to ageing and older people.

Both Age Action and the Irish Senior Citizens' Parliament have extensive experience in engaging older people in the public policy system; both organisations have a common agenda and a history of collaboration in various forums and alliances over the years.

In addition, the project aims to demonstrate a model of professional, consultative and collaborative work to increase representative impact, which can be replicated by NGOs in other sectors.

Outline Timeline

The first meeting of the Project Steering Group took place in March 2025, the Steering Group will meet every six weeks or so, to monitor progress and provide direction. Members of the group will keep their own organisations informed throughout, keeping them briefed on developments as appropriate.

It is anticipated that an external Facilitator will be in place to commence the main work of the project by April 2025, working through to the autumn of 2025.

