



NEWS IN BRIEF

JUNE 2025

ISCP
VOICE OF OLDER PEOPLE

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(Hours of work: Tue - Thurs 9.00 - 5.00)
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Annual Parliament Meeting 2025

The ISCP Annual Parliament Meeting was held on Wednesday 14th May in Liberty Hall, Connelly Room. The meeting was opened by Imelda Browne, President.

Standing orders Chair, Margaret MacGuinness confirmed that all Nominations and Motions were found to be in order. Pat Mellon, National Coordinator read the Financial Report. John James McLoughlin commended the ISCP on their ability, and quality of work within such restricted financial margins. Bernard Byrne said this highlighted the need for fundraising and urged people to get involved in this.



Pat Mellon welcomed former international journalist Sean Hillen, who read a letter from President Michael D Higgins. President Higgins, in his two-page letter to the members of the ISCP, quoted figures which show Ireland's ageing population was rising rapidly and called on those in positions of power to "foster a holistic, inclusive and compassionate approach to ageing and shape a society that supports our citizens to remain healthy, independent, and actively engaged".

(Full text of letter available on website www.seniors.ie)

Excerpts from the letter read:

"The number of people aged 65 years and above rose by more than 40 per cent between 2013 and 2023, from 569,000 to 806,000, and is expected to double again to 1.6 million by 2051.

Never before have so many citizens lived for so long. Never before have we too, as a society, been presented with such a powerful opportunity to benefit from the contribution of those who have lived rich and diverse lives.

This places a profound responsibility on all of us to ensure that our ageing population is supported, included, and enabled to live with dignity, independence, and fulfilment, and to ensure that our health and social services evolve to meet the changing and diverse needs of our ageing population."

Key Note Speaker



Pat Mellon introduced Dr. Nat O'Connor, welcoming him to the Annual Parliament Meeting. He referenced the strong and collaborative working relationship ISCP have with Age Action. Dr. O'Connor spoke to the reality of an ageing demographic and the need for Government policy to plan and be prepared for this. He spoke to the impact of

an ageing demographic and the need to see this as a positive development and far from the tsunami of doom, that many referred to it as. Planning is crucial and we need to work to ensure the government are committed to this and can look beyond four years (political term of office) and the next election and truly act in a way that will ensure Ireland is a place that we can all grow old in. All we are seeking is to counteract the ageism we see and work with the government to ensure a rights-based approach. Dr. O'Connor referenced a report throughout, copy is available on our website.

2025 – 2026 Executive Committee

Board Members

President	Tom Gillen
V President	Steve Petherbridge
Treasurer	Mick Casey
Hon Sec	Margaret Cooney
Trustee	Mick O'Reilly

Committee Members

Anne Duffy	Pat Daly
Sean Fahy	Anne Flynn
John Graham	Joe Little
Danny McConnell	John McTernan
Seamus Murray	Pat O'Flynn
Martin Ryan	Tom Ryan
Ann T Winters	

Motions Passed

General Motions

- 🌀 **Commissioner for older People**
- 🌀 **Extreme Weather Events Readiness**

Dept Social Protection

- 🌀 **Living Alone Allowance**
- 🌀 **Cost of Living**
- 🌀 **CIE Salaried Pensioners Ass. Pensions. (Living Alone Allowance)**
- 🌀 **Property Tax**
- 🌀 **Pension Promise Campaign**

Dept Health

- 🌀 **Waiting Lists**
- 🌀 **Shingles Vaccine**

Executive Motions

- 🌀 **Pension Bill**
- 🌀 **Effective implementation of Older person policy. ISCP/AGE Action Collaboration Group.**

Thank you to all the Delegates who



generously supported the APM Cloakroom ticket Raffle on the APM Day.

We acknowledge with thanks the Abbey Theatre who provided a gift voucher prize.



Congratulations Nora O'Donovan

Nora O'Donovan ISCP member, Retired Peoples Network Cork photographed (middle)



The Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Dan Boyle, along with the Chief Executive of Cork City Council, Valerie O' Sullivan recognised the contribution of individuals and organisations to the life of the city.

Speaking at the awards, the Lord Mayor said: "The Lord Mayor's Civic Awards are an opportunity for me to pick just six from the many hundreds I could have chosen, not for any one event or occasion but in the main, for a lifetime of dedication and service in the common good. And for every six I could have chosen, there could have been 600 others"

"We have all been touched or had our lives enriched by the work of one or more of tonight's Community Award winners and this is the location and occasion to acknowledge and recognise that," he added.

Planning Retirement & State payments



'Benefit Payment for 65 Year Old'

This article was kindly provided by executive member, Pat Daly. It provides valuable information about the 'Benefit Payment for 65 Year Olds' in Ireland, introduced in 2021. In

particular, it highlights the PRSI conditions. The main takeaway for those retiring before 65 is the importance of ensuring they meet the paid PRSI contribution requirements by the time they reach 65, to avoid a gap in income until their State Pension (Contributory) at 66.

Do you know people who have retired from work at ages 61, 62, 63? This information could help these people avoid losing out a payment of €244 per week.

How to qualify

Be 65 years of age.

Have stopped working, that includes both employment and self-employment
Live in Ireland.

Social insurance conditions:

If you were an employee, you must:

Have paid at least 104 PRSI contributions at Class A, H or P **OR**

Have paid at least 156 PRSI contributions at Class S.

The next part is the most important for people who retired at 60, 61, 62, 63.



IF YOU DO NOT HAVE 13 PAID CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE GOVERNING CONTRIBUTION YEAR, YOU MUST HAVE PAID 13 CONTRIBUTIONS IN

ANY OF THE FOLLOWING YEARS:

- The current tax year
- The last complete tax year
- The 2 tax years before the governing contribution year

If someone retires at 60, 61, 62, or 63 and then doesn't have sufficient *paid* PRSI contributions in the relevant years leading up to age 65, they will not qualify for the 'Benefit

Payment for 65 Year Olds' of €244 per week, which is payable until you reach old age pension at 66. Their next opportunity for a pension payment would then be the State Pension (Contributory/Non-Contributory) at age 66.

It's a good heads-up for people planning early retirement to proactively check their PRSI records, and potentially make voluntary contributions if needed to ensure they qualify for payments later. The official sources such as Citizens Information and MyWelfare.ie are the best places to get the most up-to-date and personalised information.

- **'Paid Credits'** While credits are vital for maintaining an overall PRSI record and qualifying for the State Pension (Contributory) at 66, for the *specific condition* of having 13 contributions in the governing contribution year (or alternative years) for the Benefit Payment for 65 Year Olds, they must be **paid** contributions.
- **Total amount €12,688:** This amount is calculated by $€244 \times 52 \text{ weeks} = €12,688$. This represents the potential loss for a year if someone misses out on the 'Benefit Payment for 65 Year Olds'.

2025 Raffle – Fund Raising

Please help the ISCP by actively selling Raffle tickets within your networks and area's. This is the only fundraising asked of our members by the ISCP and core to our efforts to give voice to our senior citizens.

2025 RAFFLE
IN SUPPORT OF
Irish Senior Citizens Parliament

1ST PRIZE: Cash Prize of €500
2ND PRIZE: 1 Night B&B for 2 people Hilton Dublin Airport Hotel
3RD PRIZE: Supervalu Voucher €150
4TH PRIZE: Luxurious Drinks Hamper

TICKETS €2 EACH OR €5 FOR A BOOK OF THREE

(Draw to take place on Tuesday 25th November 2025 at the offices of the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament, C/O Office 1 W&B Birmingham Place, Kilmallick Lane, Dublin 8, D08 DP8P before Thursday 20th November 2025. Permit granted to ISCP Office at the above address by State Department Social Welfare)

Meeting with Junior Minister Kieran O'Donnell



**Friday 9th May
Dublin**

Pat Mellon, our National Coordinator representing the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament, met Junior Minister Kieran O'Donnell at

a stakeholder meeting. The gathering brought together a large and diverse range of stakeholders from various sectors, underscoring the widely held desire and need for change and engagement from the Minister's departments.

Minister O'Donnell, currently serving as Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Older People and at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with responsibility for Housing, engaged in very direct discussions on pressing concerns impacting the lives of Irish Citizens.

The meeting provided a platform for direct dialogue between the Minister and those on the ground. Stakeholders used the opportunity to voice their perspectives, highlighting challenges, and offering potential solutions directly to the Minister. The topics covered included:

- **Housing Affordability and Supply:** Strategies to increase the availability of affordable housing, address homelessness, and streamline planning processes.
- **Support for Older People:** Initiatives related to healthcare access, home care services, nursing home provision, and social supports for older people.
- **Community Development:** The role of local authorities and community groups.

Citizens Information

A lot of people had thought that there was a mass closure of Citizens Information Centres but we are here to tell you that they are OPEN and in a location near you.

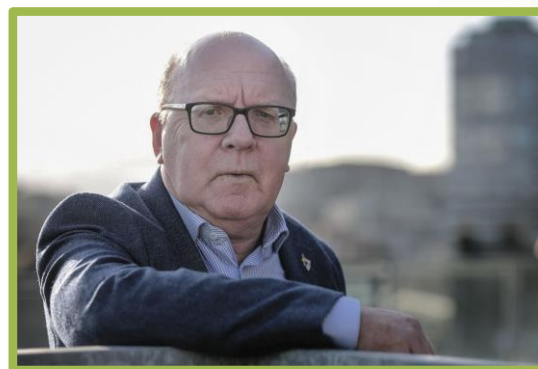
We rely on Citizens Information Services for our own queries from anything to entitlements, means-testing thresholds and help with applications.



If you do not have the ability to attend a centre in person, you can

call **0818 07 4000** from **9am to 8pm Monday to Friday**.

In the Spotlight:



Pat Daly

Executive Committee member

Pat Daly brings over **35 years of experience** from a leading American multinational medical company in Galway, where he served as a **Senior Union Representative for 15 years** and was a member of the company's European Works Council.

After taking early retirement at 63, Pat continued his commitment to employee welfare by working part-time with Me2you Irish Vouchers. In this role, he travels extensively, attending union conferences nationwide to educate members on the tax-free benefits of vouchers in pay negotiations.

A dedicated advocate, Pat was also heavily involved in the **"STOP 67" campaign** with SIPTU. Since retirement, he has volunteered with SIPTU-run classes, assisting migrants with basic English. Pat currently serves as President of the District Council in Galway and is an executive member of the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament.



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail

