

# The Home Care Sector in Ireland

2025 Quarterly Snapshot  
August 2025



# Overview of Home Care in Ireland

## Sector Recap



The Irish Home Care Sector continues its growth trend, meeting the needs and desires of Ireland's older person population to stay at home and age in place. The sector also provides valuable services to our most vulnerable members of society to include those with challenging disabilities who require support, both young and old.



Since 2016, the Government has committed to introducing a Statutory Home Support Scheme (originally targeted for 2021) to establish statutory entitlements and a regulated framework for home care. However, the scheme remains in development and has experienced ongoing delays with no definitive timeline currently in place for its completion.



### Since our last quarterly update:

- ▶ The HSE has approved a 4% uplift to the authorisation rate which is due to be in effect from August 2025<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ There has been no significant developments regarding the Statutory Home Support Scheme, with HCCI (a members representative body) continuing its call for the introduction of the Scheme.

Sources: 1. [HCCI Pre Budget Submission 2026 - Care for Your Future - HCCI - Home and Community Care Ireland](#)



# Latest Updates in Home Care in Ireland



## Latest Update on Waiting Lists<sup>2</sup>

Nearly 5,000 people waiting for a carer to provide home care support as of July 2025.



## InterRAI Assessment Tool Update

As part of the National Service Plan (NSP) 2025, the Government aims to “implement interRAI assessments across home support services”.<sup>3</sup>

However, HCCI is calling on the Government to conduct further trials of the interRAI assessment tool – that includes independent providers – to inform and produce an action plan for the full roll-out of interRAI.<sup>1</sup>



## Current Status of the Statutory Home Support Scheme<sup>4</sup>

- ▶ The first legislative element is the health (amendment) (licensing of professional home support providers) Bill 2024, which will establish a licensing framework for professional home support services. The general scheme was approved by Government in May 2024 and has been referred to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for final drafting with a view to presenting the Bill to Cabinet in quarter 2 of 2025. This Bill will provide for the regulation of the sector by HIQA. Final amendments have been made to draft regulations for home support providers following public consultation.
- ▶ Alongside this legislation, the Department is working to address the future financing of home care, the reform of the model of service delivery and the breadth of issues relating to recruitment and retention in this sector, all in the context of a substantial expansion of the State-funded home support service.

Sources: 1. [HCCI Pre Budget Submission 2026 - Care for Your Future - HCCI - Home and Community Care Ireland](#)  
 2. [HCCI CEO Joseph Musgrave on Déise Today with Damien Tiernan: 5,000 on waiting list for home care. - HCCI - Home and Community Care Ireland](#)  
 3. [about.hse.ie/api/v2/download-file/file\\_based\\_publications/hSE-National-Service-Plan-2025.pdf/](#)  
 4. [Ceisteanna Eile - Other Questions - Dáil Éireann \(34th Dáil\) - Tuesday, 13 May 2025 - Houses of the Oireachtas](#)

# Latest Demand Projections









## Meeting the needs of Ireland's ageing population

### Sector Demand

In June 2025, the Economic and Social Research Institute published its Projections of national demand and bed capacity requirements for older people's care in Ireland, 2022-2040.<sup>5</sup>

Using baseline 2022 data and applying a range of scenarios, the report outlines projected increases in demand for both short stay and long stay residential care (LTRC), as well as projected substantial growth in demand for home support hours required to meet the needs of Ireland's ageing population.

The key outputs of the report are summarised below.

Baseline Data		Projections*
 <b>2022 Population</b> 0.78 million 15% of the total population		<b>Projected 2040 Population</b> <b>1.3 million+</b> 21% of the total population 
 <b>2022 Short Stay Beds</b> 3,745		<b>Projected 2040 Short Stay Beds</b> <b>6,431-7,265</b> 72% - 94% from 2022 
 <b>2022 Long Stay Beds</b> 29,579		<b>Projected 2040 Long Stay Beds</b> <b>47,588-53,266</b> 61% - 80% from 2022 
 <b>2022 Home Support Hours</b> 28.7 million		<b>Projected 2040 Home Support Hours</b> <b>44.9-54.9 million</b> 57% - 91% from 2022 

\*The range within the projections results stated above vary, depending on four projection scenario (status quo, low pressure, high pressure, progress [policy related]).

The report concludes that meeting the needs of Ireland's ageing population will require a significant increase in LTRC bed capacity and home support hours by 2040.

While initiatives promoting healthy ageing and the adoption of new care models may help alleviate some pressures, these alone will not offset the home support demand impact of our ageing population. As a result, robust policies on financing, workforce development, and infrastructure will be essential to address these challenges.

## Outlook

It is clear that demand for home care will increase into the future and on the assumption the Government and the sector react accordingly, this will lead to both better health outcomes for our citizens along with lower health care costs.

Inequities in home support supply along with staffing shortages make the efficient allocation of home support supply challenging. However, this can be alleviated via the introduction of formal regulation and the introduction of an

integrated home support scheme which addresses sector needs and funding.

BDO reiterates that given the demand outlook for home care services, continued investment is required so as to ensure our older population can age in place to the extent feasible and prior to advancing to other care options within the continuum of care. This will also ensure maximum value for money is achieved for the State in addition to better health outcomes for our citizens.

**BDO have assisted many home care operators with their growth plans**

Contact any member of the BDO Home Care team to discuss access to capital or routes to achieving growth.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:



**STEPHEN O'FLAHERTY**  
Partner  
Corporate Finance  
087 056 8156  
[soflaherty@bdo.ie](mailto:soflaherty@bdo.ie)



**SHONAGH SHEAHAN**  
Director  
Corporate Finance  
[ssheahan@bdo.ie](mailto:ssheahan@bdo.ie)



**SANJULA SAHADEVAN**  
Assistant Manager  
Corporate Finance  
[ssahadevan@bdo.ie](mailto:ssahadevan@bdo.ie)

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