

Nationwide Survey of Neurological Carers Highlights Impact of Budget Cuts

Cuts to the respite grant, changes to medical card provision and other cutbacks are having a significant impact on family carers of people with neurological conditions according to a nationwide survey published this week by the Neurological Alliance of Ireland in association with Care Alliance Ireland. .

In a survey of over 170 family carers, 82% reported being impacted by cuts to home care packages over the past three years, 77% by cuts to respite services and 70% by cuts to home help. Over one fifth of carers could not access respite at all.

42% of family carers had given up work to look after the person with a neurological condition while 64% reported a significant fall in family income since the onset of the condition.

Speaking about the findings, Executive Director of Care Alliance Liam O Sullivan noted “It is clear from this survey that successive cuts to supports for family carers are creating a climate of worry, uncertainty and distress. This is very disappointing in the light of the publication of the National Carers Strategy in 2012 which commits to valuing the role of family carers in Ireland”.

Mags Rogers, Development Manager with the Neurological Alliance of Ireland said” We are calling on the Government to use the improving economic situation to reverse the cuts to these vital supports for family carers”.

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Neurological Conditions of the Brain and Spinal Cord affect over 700,000 people in Ireland. National Brain Awareness Week takes place all this week to promote awareness of neurological conditions. For a full list of events nationwide visit http://www.nai.ie/go/brain_awareness_week/events