



NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE  
of IRELAND



He has a  
neurological  
condition.

He faces a huge  
struggle ahead...

And that's just to  
get the care he needs.

We Need  
Our Heads  
Examined

**There is a massive gap in the services provided to the 25,000 people in Ireland per year who need rehabilitation for neurological conditions such as stroke, acquired brain injury, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.**

Neuro-rehabilitation is the norm in other countries but Irish people struggle to get the basic essential services they need.

Without rehabilitation hundreds of people are;

- **UNABLE TO SPEAK OR COMMUNICATE PROPERLY**
- **UNABLE TO RETURN TO WORK**
- **LIVING WITH DISABILITIES THAT ARE PREVENTABLE**
- **AND MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO LIVE IN NURSING HOMES**

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**There is a dire shortage of rehabilitation services in the Irish healthcare system.**

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## **A Decade of Broken Promises**

In 2005 there was a nationwide call for rehabilitation services for people with neurological conditions.

**But NOTHING was done.**

In 2007 the Programme for Government committed to providing rehabilitation services and to increase bed capacity at The National Rehabilitation Hospital.

**But NOTHING was done.**

In 2011 the Government published the long awaited Neuro-rehabilitation Policy.

**But still NOTHING has been done.**



# What we need

Ireland should have 270 inpatient beds for our population.

**We have LESS THAN HALF of that and NONE outside Dublin.**

We should have 4 regional inpatient specialist rehabilitation centres.

**We have NONE.**

We should have 9 community rehabilitation teams.

**There are only 3 IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY – and they are only partially staffed.**

**We Need Our Heads Examined**

# 3

## Steps to better care

**There are 3 simple commitments the Government MUST make.**

- 1** Develop inpatient rehabilitation services at both national and regional level to ensure timely access to rehabilitation.
- 2** Establish all of the overdue Community Neuro-rehabilitation Teams (CNT) in each of the nine Community Health Organisations by the end of 2016.
- 3** Invest in long term rehabilitation specific services in the community, to provide lifelong support in appropriate settings.

**Too much time has been wasted.  
Too many lives have been affected.  
We need rehabilitation services NOW.**



People with neurological conditions urgently need proper rehabilitation services. And they need them today.

We are calling on the Government to urgently prioritise investment in the provision of neuro-rehabilitation services for the 25,000 people per year who need it.



Find out how you can support this campaign by visiting:

[nai.ie/go/campaign\\_centre](http://nai.ie/go/campaign_centre)  
#rehab4ireland

The Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) is the national umbrella for over 30 neurological charities.

‘We need our heads examined’ campaign by NAI is supported by:



ACQUIRED  
BRAIN INJURY  
IRELAND



Ataxia  
IRELAND



Chronic Pain  
Ireland



MS Ireland  
THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND



Brain Injury Services & Support



Investing in People, Changing Perspectives



Parkinson's  
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