**Human Rights of Older Persons**

**Submission of Ireland**

***Normative standards and obligations under international law in relation to the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons***

December 2021

The Department of Health has the following policies, strategies and guidelines in place to ensure the human rights of older persons are supported and implemented cross government;

1. *Palliative Care Policy (2001)*

National policy on palliative care for adults is contained in the Report of the National Advisory Committee on Palliative Care (2001)[[1]](#footnote-1), and the HSE's 2017-2019 Palliative Care Development Framework [[2]](#footnote-2) sets out the actions required to achieve a comprehensive and equitable palliative care service. In line with the 2019 Sláintecare Action Plan [[3]](#footnote-3) and the 2020 Programme for Government [[4]](#footnote-4) commitment, the Department has started preparatory work on an update of adult palliative care policy.

1. *National Dementia Strategy (2012)*

Irish National Dementia Strategy [[5]](#footnote-5) was launched in December 2014. This delivers on a commitment in the Programme for Government to develop a national Alzheimer’s and other dementias strategy to increase awareness, ensure early diagnosis and intervention and develop enhanced community based services.

1. *National Carers Strategy (2012)*

National Carers’ Strategy [[6]](#footnote-6) sets the strategic direction for future policies, services and supports provided by Government Departments and agencies for family carers. Currently implementing the National Carers' Strategy, the main focus is on providing a more standard package of supports to family carers in every region.

1. *National Positive Aging Strategy (2013)*

Ireland’s current policy around ageing, is the National Positive Aging Strategy.[[7]](#footnote-7) It sets out a whole-of-society approach to health and wellbeing which adopts and incorporates broader determinants of health, it sets out to address the following priority areas;

* Healthy ageing
* Health and personal social services
* Carers
* Employment and retirement
* Education and lifelong learning
* Volunteering
* Cultural and social participation
* Transport
* Financial security
* Housing
* The built environment
* Safety and security
* Elder abuse

Other health commitments that are relevant for the welfare of older persons include;

* Social Welfare Act (2020)[[8]](#footnote-8)
* The Dying with Dignity Bill (The Assisted Decision Making Act 2015)[[9]](#footnote-9)
* HSE - Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse - National Policy and Procedures [[10]](#footnote-10)
* Sláintecare (long-term programme to transform health and social care in Ireland)[[11]](#footnote-11)
* National Disability Inclusion Strategy (2017 – 2021)[[12]](#footnote-12)
1. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/06aecd-report-of-the-national-advisory-committee-on-palliative-care/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/palliative-care-services-development-framework.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/109e2b-slaintecare-action-plan-2019/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7e05d-programme-for-government-our-shared-future/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/healthy-ireland/publications/irish-dementia-strategy-1-.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a1e44e-national-carers-strategy/#:~:text=The%20National%20Carers%27%20strategy%20sets,for%20as%20long%20as%20possible>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/737780-national-positive-ageing-strategy/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/act/2020/30/eng/enacted/a3020.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/act/2020/30/eng/enacted/a3020.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2015/125/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/slaintecare-implementation-strategy/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8072c0-national-disability-inclusion-strategy-2017-2021/> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)