

# Mission Statement

The Irish Wheelchair Association is a national organisation dedicated to the achievement of full social, economic and educational integration of people with disability as equal, independent and participative members of the community.



## Supporting our work

You can support our work by becoming a volunteer, making a donation or remembering us in your will. With your generous support, we will continue to provide essential services. Thank you.

## Contacts

### National Headquarters

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## What we do



For more information please visit:

[www.iwa.ie](http://www.iwa.ie)

# Who we are

The Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) was founded in 1960 by a small group of wheelchair users committed to improving the lives of people with physical disabilities in Ireland.

IWA has gone on to become an important provider of quality services to people with limited mobility throughout the country.

Today, our association is made up of a vibrant network of 20,000 members and over 2,000 staff, as well as many dedicated volunteers.

Together we work to achieve greater independence, freedom and choice for people living with a disability.

As a member, you will receive our quarterly magazine, *Spokeout*, which includes many personal stories about living with a disability as well as useful information on issues such as accessible holidays, sport, motoring and aids and appliances.

You will also be invited to input into the running of the association through the Annual General Meeting and other forums.

Membership is free-of-charge and open to all people with limited mobility (whether or not you are a wheelchair user) or with an interest in the association.

IWA's strength is in its people. We are a diverse organisation, involving people of all ages and with many different types of disability. Whatever your skills or interests, we encourage you to become actively involved in our association.



# Why join IWA?

Although it is estimated that ten percent of the Irish population has some form of disability, it can be surprisingly easy to feel isolated and alone. By coming together as an association, we can support each other in dealing with the many issues facing people with disabilities and their families.

As an association, we become a stronger force in advocating for positive changes in society. We can organise national campaigns around key issues and also share information and ideas.

## Our services

- ▶ **Assisted Living Services**  
Personal assistance with daily tasks
- ▶ **Resource and Outreach Centres**  
Local centres for IWA activities and services
- ▶ **Transport**  
A fleet of adapted buses
- ▶ **Motoring**  
Motoring advice, assessment and tuition
- ▶ **Parking Permits**  
Administration of the Disabled Person's Parking Permit
- ▶ **Housing Support Services**  
Support in investigating accommodation options
- ▶ **Independent Living Apartments**  
Training for independent living
- ▶ **Youth Services**  
Programmes that facilitate inclusion in youth and community activities
- ▶ **Wheelchair Services**  
Sales, repair and rental
- ▶ **Sport**  
Opportunities to participate in recreational or competitive sport
- ▶ **Holiday Services**  
Supported holidays and breaks
- ▶ **Peer Counselling**  
Support from counsellors with personal experience of disability
- ▶ **Information**  
Relevant information on topics such as access and travel
- ▶ **Publications**  
Our lifestyle magazine, *Spokeout*, and a range of information leaflets
- ▶ **Advocacy**  
Supporting individual advocacy and organising national campaigns
- ▶ **Rehabilitative Training**  
Educational and personal development programmes