

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

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IWA Housing Support Services



For more information please visit:

www.iwa.ie

Housing Support Services

People with disabilities have very specific housing and accommodation requirements and often find it difficult to gain access to their preferred living situation.

The Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) represents the specific housing interests of its members through a range of activities which include direct provision of housing, information and advice, research, lobbying and advocacy.

How we support members

The housing needs of those with disabilities can vary, from independent living or adapted housing through to transitional housing, supported housing or residential accommodation. IWA attempts to address these requirements through a number of initiatives:

- ▶ IWA is a Voluntary Housing Association and, through our centres in Dublin, Kilkenny, Limerick and Galway, we provide a range of housing options including independent living, training for independent living and supported independent living.
- ▶ The Dublin-based Housing Support Service provides information on housing options and works with members to bring about their desired living situation.

This may involve support in making an application for local authority housing or direct negotiation with housing providers to ensure that accommodation is designed to suit individual needs.

- ▶ The IWA Housing Group has published *Best Practice Access Guidelines* including guidance on wheelchair accessible housing. IWA advocates the use of these guidelines by all housing providers in order to increase the provision of good quality housing.

- ▶ IWA actively lobbies the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, local authorities and voluntary housing providers in order to influence the design, availability and location of suitable accommodation. We advise members to register their housing needs with the local authority at the earliest possible stage. IWA also represents members' housing issues through membership of different policy groups including the National Advisory Group on Housing in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and the Disability Federation of Ireland's Housing Issues Group.



Some comments from users of IWA Housing Services...



▶ **Robert Vaughan**
Dublin

“ IWA's Housing Support Service helped me in making the move to independent living. I had an active role in the design of my house, which is close to my family home. ”



▶ **Connie Richardson**
Dublin

“ Living independently has been a huge boost to my self-confidence. IWA taught me the skills to cope and then helped me to find suitable accommodation. ”