





Irish Wheelchair Association
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Irish Wheelchair Association

Irish Wheelchair Association has a vision of an Ireland where people with disabilities enjoy equal rights, choices and opportunities in how they live their lives, and where our country is a model worldwide for a truly inclusive society.

Our Vision

Cover image: Abby Segrave-Daly (9) from Loughlinstown, Co Dublin and Irish Wheelchair Association CEO Rosemary Keogh launch our Angels fundraising campaign at Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre in Marino in November.

Pictured left: Children play wheelchair sports at an Irish Wheelchair Association summer camp in Clontarf sports centre.

People are at the heart of everything that we do and this is enshrined in all of our values.

Integrity

Excellence

Leadership

Respect

Equality

Positivity

Our Values

Our Mission

Irish Wheelchair Association works with, and on behalf of, people with physical disabilities to drive positive change in Ireland through the influencing of public policy, the provision of quality services and enabling accessibility to all aspects of society.

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Pictured right: Irish Wheelchair Association members play dominos at the Resource and Outreach Centre in Clontarf.



 Irish
Wheelchair
Association.

President & Chairman's Message

Irish Wheelchair Association's 59th year signalled a time for change and progress.

This year is the 59th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Wheelchair Association. In celebrating this milestone, we recognise the positive impact that the organisation has had on the lives of so many people with disabilities.

It is an honour to be involved in such a vibrant organisation and on behalf of the board, we thank all of our members, supporters and volunteers for dedicating so much effort into making Irish Wheelchair Association such a positive force for change.

In 2018 we achieved some notable highlights. The Workable Conference held in March 2018 successfully highlighted issues in relation to employment of people with disabilities. Our 'Back in 5' campaign, held by our centres in towns around the country, received national profile. The calibre of our services was recognised at the Irish Healthcare Centre Awards with our Clontarf centre

winning General Healthcare Centre of the Year, and our founder, Oliver Murphy, deservedly awarded Irish Healthcare Centre Person of the Year.

The past 12 months have also been challenging. Irish Wheelchair Association has struggled financially in recent years and during 2018 the board and senior management team oversaw a rigorous process to improve the financial health of the organisation. This involved delivering efficiencies, reducing costs, and making difficult decisions.

We are pleased to report that Irish Wheelchair Association is now in a much better position to continue to deliver a world-class service to people with disabilities and deliver on our strategic objectives. We would like to thank management and staff for the huge efforts made in achieving 2018's financial turnaround.

Irish Wheelchair Association has always led the way in a sector that has seen significant challenges. We recognise that we cannot do all of this on our own

and offer a special thanks to everyone who has given support, whether through fundraising, our branches, volunteering, advocacy campaigns, or our many other activities. You continue to be the backbone of our organisation and an important part of our DNA.

We also acknowledge with thanks the collaboration of the HSE during 2018. This helped ensure the continued delivery of over two million hours of service to people with physical disability.

As we look forward to our 60th anniversary in 2020, we remember the vision of our founder members of a world in which people with disabilities are a real part of the community.

We must remember that there is a lot of work yet to be done, but thanks to you, we are now in a much better position to deliver on our commitments.

Eileen O'Mahony
President

Martin Kelly
Chairman

CEO's Year in Review



Rosemary Keogh, CEO, Irish Wheelchair Association

People are at the heart of Irish Wheelchair Association and remain our best asset for the future.

Throughout 2018, Irish Wheelchair Association continued to deliver on our strategic plan 2017-2020 to be a thriving, independent organisation, advocating for an inclusive society and providing quality services that enable people with physical disabilities to live the life they choose.

Following 10 years where the costs of delivering essential services to people with disabilities exceeded the funding received from the HSE for those services, our financial results for 2018 show total net income of €0.1m for the year, compared to a deficit of €1.0m in 2017.

Irish Wheelchair Association's Assisted Living Service (ALS), is our largest service delivering 1.3 million hours of service annually. For many years, the funding received from the HSE for ALS, has not met the cost of delivering the service. Consequently, Irish Wheelchair Association had drawn from its own funds to ensure there was no impact on those in receipt of this service. This had led to cumulative deficits and depletion of our reserves, which threatened the organisation's long-term financial sustainability.

During 2018, the HSE carried out an extensive verification process on Irish Wheelchair Association's ALS service delivery and related costs and concluded that a significant gap existed between HSE funding for the service and the cost

of its delivery. The HSE confirmed additional ALS funding of €940k for 2018 and confirmed that this funding would be repeated for 2019.

Our senior management team implemented a series of measures to generate cost efficiencies that delivered a financial contribution of €390k in 2018. A voluntary leaving/early retirement programme saw 28 employees leave the organisation, an initiative that will deliver €967k of annual payroll savings from 2019 onwards.

Despite these challenges, we have ended 2018 in a stronger position financially and operationally. Substantial progress was made in making positive impacts on the lives of thousands of people with disabilities right across Ireland.

None of this could have been achieved without the commitment of our dedicated staff, board, members and volunteers. People remain at the heart of everything we do and remain our greatest asset for the future.

In 2019, Irish Wheelchair Association will begin to plan for 2020 and beyond. We will further develop the relationship with our partners in the HSE to deliver best quality services to people with physical disabilities.

The recommendations arising from the recently published report of the Minister for Health commissioned Independent Review Group (IRG), established to examine the role of voluntary organisations in publicly-funded health and social services provision, presents an opportunity for us to input into the evolution of an effective relationship between the State and voluntary organisations.

And along with our colleagues in the wider not for profit sector, we will continue to lobby Government for full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Rosemary Keogh

CEO, Irish Wheelchair Association

OUR WORK IN 2018



Provided **1.3 million hours** of Assisted Living Service to 2,246 adults and children.



Encouraged participation in sport through our **26 sports clubs**.



Connected people with their communities through our fleet of **119 accessible buses**.



Provided 538 driving assessments and **2,077 driving lessons** to 320 people.



Issued **28,764** disabled person's parking permits.



Managed **43 wheelchair accessible** and affordable homes.



Offered vital services through our **57 community centres** nationwide.



Provided almost **80,000 days of service** in our centres to over 2,000 people.



Supported **6,006** respite and accessible holiday nights in Kilkenny, Roscommon and Dublin.

Pictured Right: Young girl playing wheelchair sports at Irish Wheelchair Association's sports centre in Clontarf.



HOW WE WORK

Strategic Objectives

Irish Wheelchair Association's strategic plan (2017 – 2020) sets out the direction of our work over three years to support the achievement of our mission and our vision of a country where people with disabilities enjoy equal rights, choices and opportunities. Our strategic objectives are:



PROFILE:

Raise our profile so that Irish Wheelchair Association is recognised as Ireland's leading representative organisation and service provider for people with physical disabilities.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES:

With a focus on excellence, maximise efficiency and effectiveness of people, infrastructure, assets and resources.

ADVOCACY:

We advocate for the rights, choices, opportunities and independence of people with disabilities, to achieve international best standards of service provision and full social inclusion.

SERVICES:

Irish Wheelchair Association delivers a range of quality accredited services that meet the requirements of people with disabilities and reflect, through a process of continuous improvement, international and sectoral standards of excellence.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT:

People are at the centre of everything we do. We value and prioritise communications with staff, members, volunteers and customers, to enable and empower everyone to contribute directly to the success of Irish Wheelchair Association.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Ensure Irish Wheelchair Association's long-term financial sustainability and resilience.

*Pictured Left: Eileen O' Mahony holds Irish Wheelchair Association's Strategic Plan 2017-2020.
Graham Merrigan, Irish Wheelchair Association member.*



OUR SERVICES



IN 2018 WE DELIVERED
OVER TWO MILLION
HOURS OF SERVICE TO
PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL
DISABILITIES.

ASSISTED LIVING SERVICE

Through our Assisted Living Service (ALS), our largest service, we provide skilled personal assistants to support people with physical disabilities in their homes and communities, thereby facilitating independence, improved quality of life, access to education, employment and community participation. The service supports people with disabilities to carry out tasks they might find difficult or impossible to do in their daily lives.

Support varies depending on how each person chooses to use the service and can include: personal care, cooking and domestic support, social trips and shopping, overnight/weekend services, and assistance for access to employment or education. Each service is tailored to meet the unique requirements of every individual.

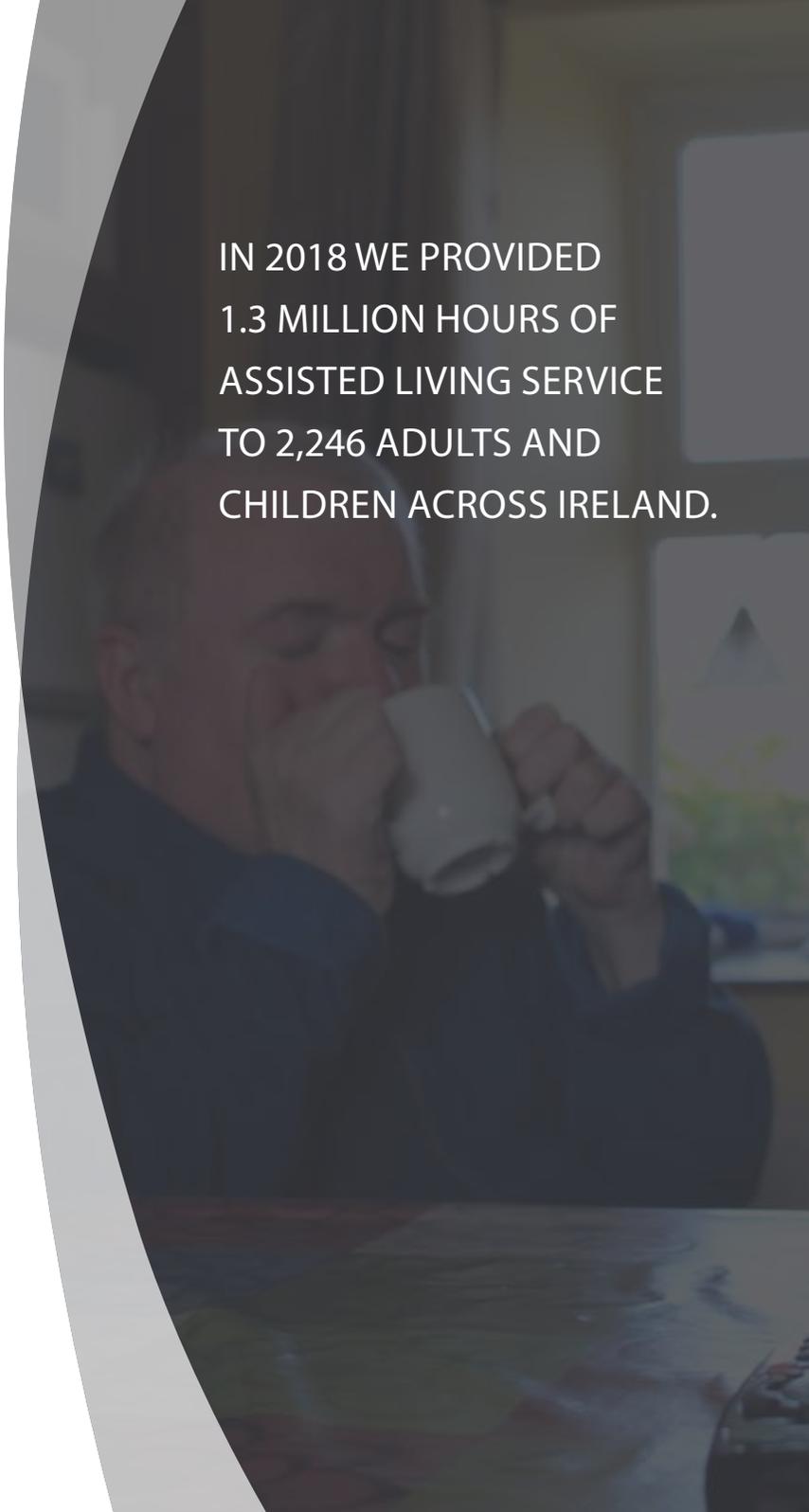
Almost 1,700 personal assistants worked in our Assisted Living Service during 2018. Support ranges from a few hours per week to full 24/7 assistance.

We also provide the option of a unique, self-directed 'Leader' package, whereby the individual fully controls their package from recruitment and direction of personal assistants to scheduling of the service, with our support.

In recent years, we have broadened the Assisted Living Service to provide Enhanced Homecare Services for Older People with our staff trained to support the specific needs of this group. Through IWA at Home we offer the opportunity for individuals or their families to privately purchase a personal assistance service. Customers currently include court awards, colleges, other charities, private individuals, and people holidaying in Ireland.

All these services are delivered by a professional and highly motivated group of managers, coordinators and support staff working in partnership with our dedicated team of personal assistants.

IN 2018 WE PROVIDED
1.3 MILLION HOURS OF
ASSISTED LIVING SERVICE
TO 2,246 ADULTS AND
CHILDREN ACROSS IRELAND.



ASSISTED LIVING SERVICE

Speaking Swahili in Six Mile Bridge

It's a sunny day near Six Mile Bridge and Michael Joe Cox (61) is sitting outside his cottage practising Swahili in his Clare brogue. It's not the typical banter you expect to hear in these parts, but Michael is a colourful character who loves learning new languages.

"My personal assistant, who comes to me at the weekend, is teaching me bits and pieces of Swahili. He's from Somalia," he says.

Michael grew up on a farm in the countryside of Co. Clare with his two grandparents. He was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1983 and has been a wheelchair user for the past twenty years. He attributes his love of travel and culture to his social life within Irish Wheelchair Association's community.

"I never really expanded my wings until I was in a wheelchair," he says. "There was nobody to really do

things with, but with Irish Wheelchair Association I get to travel to all these new places now. It's like I have a completely different life."

Michael Joe receives forty personal assistant hours a week offering support with anything he needs such as shopping, personal care, cooking and cleaning.

The relationships with his personal assistants are an important way to connect with the world around, be it Clare or indeed Somalia.

"To a person like me, it's a vital source of doing anything. There is a girl from Newmarket, who helps me in the evening. She only lives down the road and is the wife of the man who comes up with his ponies to cut my grass."

"A girl from Derry phones for my appointments and gets prescriptions for me. Next week I will be going to

St Patrick's Well for a week and she will get my tablets and clothes ready. She's been with me for 16 years.

"If I wasn't getting the personal assistant service, I would have no choice but to live in a nursing home. Having these services makes life worth living. If I didn't, I would be totally cut off from the community."

Michael Joe describes his local Irish Wheelchair Association centre as: *"Your own little family. It feels like a family."* The centre bus brings Michael to and from his home.

Michael even travelled to the Netherlands with a retired Irish Wheelchair Association bus driver. No doubt he has a few words of Dutch too.

Pictured Right: Michael Joe Cox, Irish Wheelchair Association member enjoying a spring morning in his kitchen.



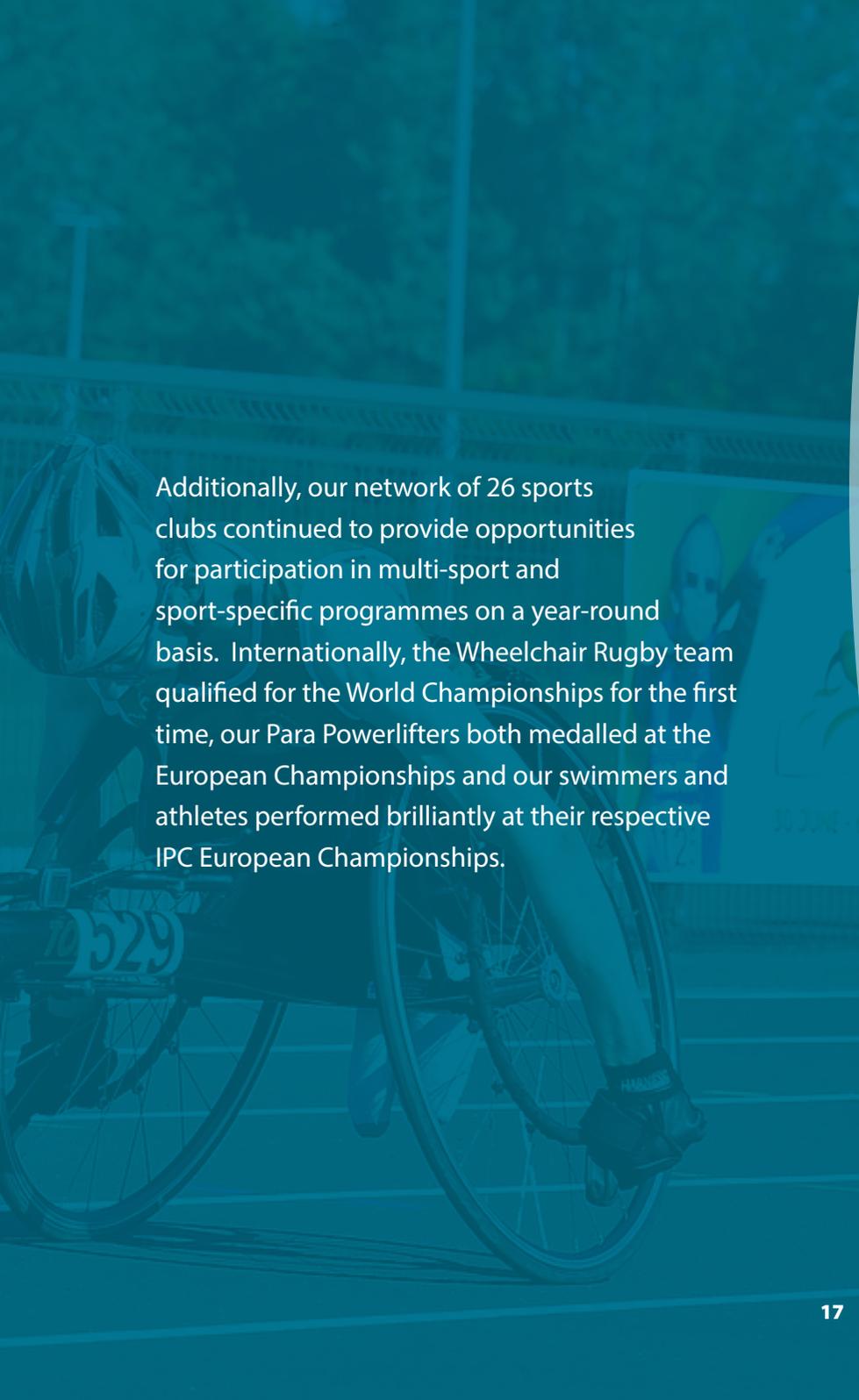
IWA-SPORT

IWA-Sport is the National Governing Body in Ireland for a variety of sports for people with physical disabilities. With a team of Sports Development Officers and a growing network of voluntary sports clubs, we encourage wide participation in sports for children and adults across all age groups and activity levels and we support high-performance athletes nationally and internationally.

Our superb sports facility in Clontarf continues to be the training ground for some of the top Paralympian teams and athletes in the country.

IWA-Sport offers competitive sports including Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Basketball, Para Athletics, Para Powerlifting, Para Swimming, Para Archery, Para Table Tennis, Boccia and many more.

In 2018 we held a wide-ranging programme of sports activities, both competitive and non-competitive, in all parts of the country catering for all levels of involvement. This included our Irish Wheelchair Basketball Senior and Junior Programmes, the Irish Wheelchair Rugby League, Para Athletics Grand Prix, and our members competed in Para Archery, Para Swimming, Para Table Tennis and Para cycling championships.



Additionally, our network of 26 sports clubs continued to provide opportunities for participation in multi-sport and sport-specific programmes on a year-round basis. Internationally, the Wheelchair Rugby team qualified for the World Championships for the first time, our Para Powerlifters both medalled at the European Championships and our swimmers and athletes performed brilliantly at their respective IPC European Championships.

IN 2018, WE
ENCOURAGED
PARTICIPATION IN
SPORT THROUGH
OUR 26 SPORTS
CLUBS.

IWA-SPORT

Aiming for success: Top archer Kerrie shares her sporting journey

Kerrie Leonard (28) comes from a farming background and has been a wheelchair user since 1997 after a farming accident. From working for the London Olympics, completing a degree in Equine Business, working for Dell, and now undertaking a master's degree in Marketing, Kerrie is an accomplished woman. All of this on top of her exciting archery career.

Kerrie was first introduced to para sports when she was 20 years old. *"I first got involved in archery because my uncle knew someone in a wheelchair who did archery. He brought me to a training session and I did it for a little while. When I went to college for the first time, a friend of mine was running an archery club, so I signed up."*

Initially Kerrie studied film and broadcasting in DIT, but after a short time decided to choose a different path. *"When I dropped out of college I needed something to keep my mind sane. Archery*

was on twice a week and I continued to go. I was asked by one of the para coaches if I would compete in a competition in England in 2012. That's how it all started.

"I went to my first competition, while I was with IWA Sport. I don't think I would have stayed in the sport as long as I have if hadn't have had that experience or interaction with people.

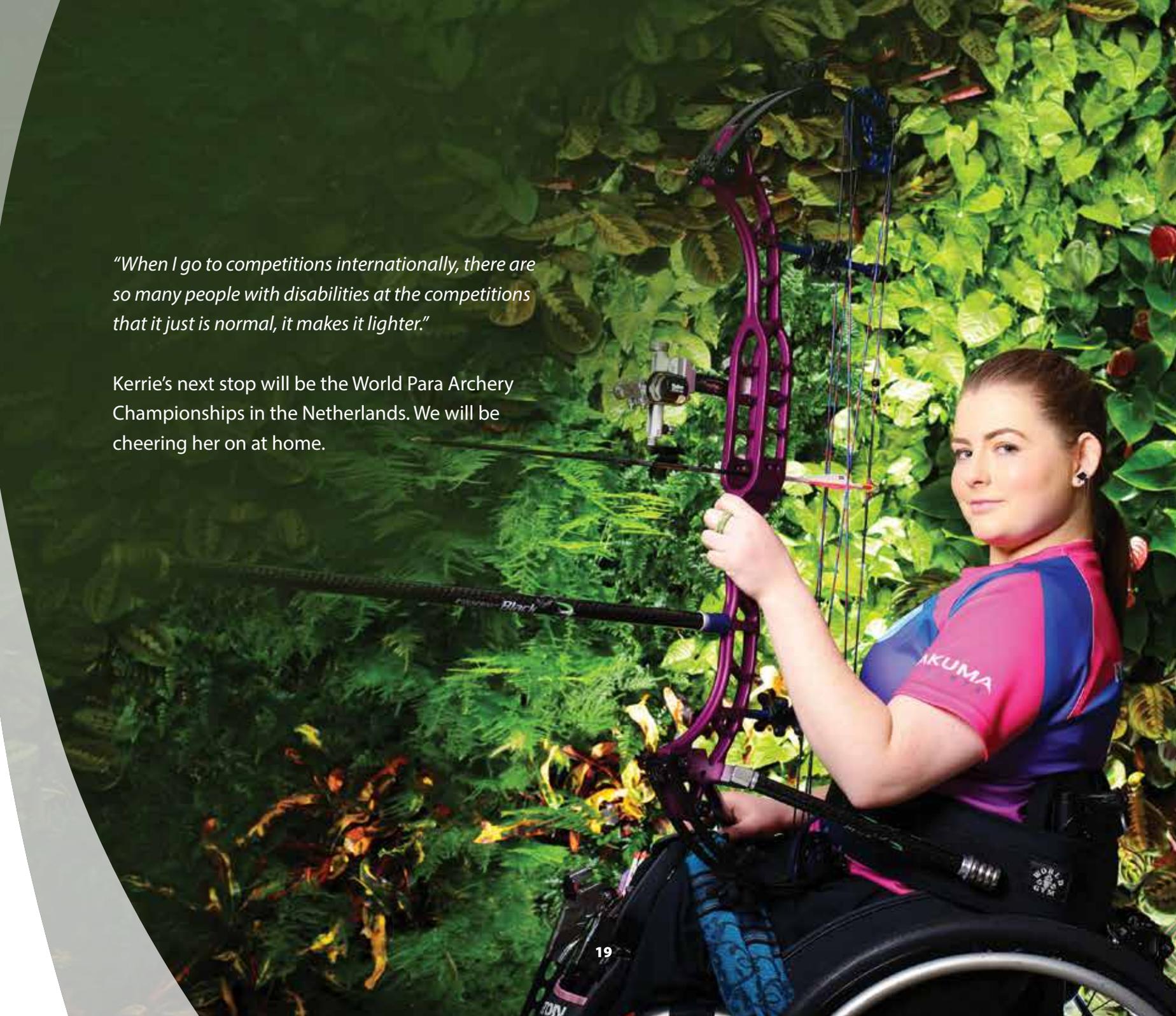
"I really enjoy competing internationally and with something like archery, not many people are participating in it with a disability at my level, so I don't have that outlet here at home.

"People ask, 'what is the best thing about going away with people with disabilities?' And honestly it is not having to say anything, you don't even need to explain yourself.

Pictured Right: Kerrie Leonard with her bow preparing to compete in an archery competition.

"When I go to competitions internationally, there are so many people with disabilities at the competitions that it just is normal, it makes it lighter."

Kerrie's next stop will be the World Para Archery Championships in the Netherlands. We will be cheering her on at home.



TRANSPORT

Irish Wheelchair Association is the country's leading expert in accessible transport, advocating on a wide range of issues affecting our members by working in partnership with national transport providers, government and other organisations. Our nationwide fleet of 119 accessible buses is a vital support for people using our services and for connecting people with social and sports activities.

In 2018, following successful grant applications and wonderful fundraisers, seven new vehicles were added to the fleet and a further 11 new buses are on order for delivery in 2019 for community centres.

Our motoring advice, assessment and tuition service assists people with disabilities to learn to drive, so that they can take part in everyday activities, such as employment and social activities.

In 2018, two new driving school cars were purchased for our driving tuition and assessment services in the National Rehabilitation Hospital and the Midlands area. Both vehicles were fitted with an extensive range of adaptations to ensure that the vehicles can meet the varied needs of our clients.

Overall, our nine driving instructors located nationwide provided 538 assessments and 2,077 lessons to 320 clients. We continued to work closely with the RSA /RCPI Office of Traffic Medicine to ensure our assessment and tuition standards are to the highest possible standard. Traffic Medicine refers to methods such as fitness to drive certification, traffic safety policies and education.

We also provide training to taxi drivers on behalf of the National Transport Authority and are a Department of Transport approved agency for the issue of Disabled Drivers' Parking Permits.

Our National Mobility Centre, based in Clane, Co. Kildare issued 28,764 disabled person's parking permits in 2018.

We worked very closely with the Gardaí nationwide in the delivery of Operation Enable, which has led to a considerable increase in fines associated with illegal parking in disabled parking bays. Operation Enable is a multi-agency initiative between An Garda Síochana, Dublin City Council, Dublin Street Parking Services, the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland and Irish Wheelchair Association that reminds motorists to respect disabled parking bays in Dublin City Centre.

WE PROVIDED 538 DRIVING ASSESSMENTS AND 2,077 DRIVING LESSONS TO 320 PEOPLE.



TRANSPORT

New bus from Microsoft keeps wheels turning in Lucan

“We’re on the road 24/7 transporting young athletes to training, older members on a shopping outing, or young friends heading to a concert...in many cases the Irish Wheelchair Association bus is a lifeline without which people would be isolated and confined to their homes,” says Ciaran McLoughlin, Resources and Outreach Service Coordinator at our Lucan centre.

Ciaran has been working for Irish Wheelchair Association for many years and managing the wheelchair accessible bus fleet has been a part of his job. But it was the recent delivery of a new bus donated by Microsoft that reminded him of the special place our buses hold in the lives of so many.

“The delivery of the new Renault Master bus, purchased with Microsoft’s donation, was a day that will live long in my memory. At the official handover from Microsoft in Lucan, our members expressed their delight and thanks to Microsoft for the donation.

“Some people found it difficult to express the impact that the bus would have on their lives and their ability to reach our services. It has given us the chance to organise more day trips, and for example, our boccia team can travel to inter-centre competitions.

“It was during this time that I fully realised the effect that transport truly has on people’s lives,” says Ciaran.

The small Lucan fleet covers many miles in any year transporting people across south Dublin and into east Kildare, keeping people on the road and bringing them into the heart of community life.

“We have been so lucky over the years to have always had an adequate number of buses for transportation, but last year some of the fleet had aged and had to be scrapped.” The new bus came just in time, enabling Ciaran and the Lucan centre to continue transporting members to wherever they need to go.

“Companies like Microsoft, which have made a conscious decision to respond to social needs within our community with these donations make a huge difference to our members, volunteers and staff. We cannot thank them enough,” says Ciaran.

Pictured right: Irish Wheelchair Association member, Johnathan Hennessy, Noelle Walsh, Eoin Doherty, Paul English from Microsoft and Ciaran McLoughlin Irish Wheelchair Association Service Coordinator launch the new accessible bus in Lucan.

Pictured below: Ciaran McLoughlin, Irish Wheelchair Association Service Coordinator and member Sean Regan are joined by Noelle Walsh and Eoin Doherty from Microsoft to launch new accessible bus in Lucan.



HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCESS

In 2018, as an Approved Housing Body, Irish Wheelchair Association provided 43 wheelchair accessible and affordable homes to tenants in Dublin, Kilkenny, Carlow, Tipperary, Mayo, Roscommon and Galway. We also purchased an additional five wheelchair assessible apartments in Kilkenny with funding from the Department of Environment Capital Assistance Scheme.

Irish Wheelchair Association is also a leading expert in environmental accessibility for people with physical disabilities and reduced mobility.

Irish Wheelchair Association Access Guidelines advises Approved Housing Bodies in Ireland encouraging them to use this standard in

designing wheelchair accessible social housing and inviting them to contact us for guidance and support. We use the standards in many ways such as: inclusion in disability awareness training for companies and individuals, during training for staff, members and families and in working with local authorities, private companies, architects and builders to advise on standards of accessibility in new builds and refurbishments.

In 2018, we worked with many organisations including Fidelity Investments, PayPal, The National Gallery and The Mansion House.

We carried out housing stock condition surveys in 2018 which will form the basis for putting an appropriate sinking fund in place as part of the Irish Wheelchair Association Housing Strategy and Asset Management Plan to be completed in 2019.

We advocated for the right to wheelchair accessible social housing for people with physical disabilities to meet the identified need in every county and met with Eoghan Murphy, TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on this matter. We also lobbied the Minister for a reduction in the current criteria and means testing for Housing Adaptation Grants and called for an agreed Accessible Housing Design Specification for social housing in Ireland.

WE PROVIDED
43 WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE AND
AFFORDABLE HOMES
IN 2018.

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCESS

The freedom to struggle and flourish

"I looked at moving out when I graduated, but because I didn't have a lot of money, I found it difficult to get affordable housing that was actually accessible," says Bren Sinclair (31).

Getting on the rental or housing ladder can be a challenge for any young person, but when your accommodation needs particular adaptations, it adds a whole new level of complexity.

For the last four years, heavy metal fan Bren, has been living in Irish Wheelchair Association's Leo Close apartments in Clontarf. The transitional accommodation supports people to live independently, while waiting for an accessible social house. 4,500 people with disabilities are currently waiting for homes on social housing lists.

Bren was born with a rare condition called osteogenesis imperfecta or brittle bone disease, but his condition has not held him back.

His parents and brother are also wheelchair users with a long involvement with Irish Wheelchair Association.

The animation and media communications graduate uses a motorised wheelchair. *"I need level access entry or a ramp, a wet room bathroom, enough space to turn the chair in every room, and kitchen counters and sinks that can raise and lower."*

Moving into Leo Close was *"a natural stepping stone"* for Bren. *"The idea is that you stay there for a limited amount of time, while you are on the housing list, with a view to moving on to your own family home in the future. In order to get in here you need to already be on the Dublin City Council housing list or your relevant housing body."*

Since moving into the Leo Close, Bren's life has changed significantly. He says the impact Irish Wheelchair Association has had on his life is *"incredible"*.



“When I think about how I was, how I felt, and my thought process was when I was 27, it is dramatically different. I would not have had any of the opportunities that I have now if I was still living at home.

“Living independently and living alone means I can be accountable to myself. I come and go as I please, I pay my own bills, I provide for my own needs in every way. I am totally self-sufficient and self-reliant.

“I don’t depend on anyone but myself and I like that. It has given me the freedom and the independence to know what it is like to struggle alone and to overcome struggles and flourish.”

Pictured right: Brendan Sinclair, Irish Wheelchair Association member, Clontarf.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & SUPPORTS

In 2018, we provided vital community services and supports through our 57 Resource and Outreach Centres nationwide. These locally-based centres provide a diverse range of recreational and educational programmes supporting members in their personal development and community life. These services include independent living supports and accommodation, holiday and respite breaks, rehabilitative training and a range of activities for young adults within and outside of Irish Wheelchair Association.

Our Rehabilitative Training Units in Dublin, Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford support individuals to gain life skills and/or to gain skills to facilitate entry to the employment market.

In 2018 we secured funding of €694,000 over three years from Pobal, which will enable us to implement an Ability Programme, working with young adults with disabilities to provide coaching, support and information tailored to support them in seeking employment opportunities.

Transport is provided to and from centres, without which most people would not be able to avail of the services provided.

In 2018, we provided almost 80,000 days of service in the centres equating to over 637,000 hours of service to over 2,000 people. Our centres develop personal plans, projects, programmes,

activities, social opportunities and holiday breaks as requested by the people using our services to respond to their needs and personal goals.

The range of activities offered include arts and crafts, cookery, music and drama, gardening, sports, day trips and holidays. Increasingly, this service also offers access to community physiotherapy services and educational programmes such as computer skills, QQI Certificate courses and Supported Employment programmes.

WE PROVIDED
ALMOST 80,000 DAYS
OF SERVICE IN OUR
CENTRES TO OVER
2,000 PEOPLE.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & SUPPORTS

“The club gives me a boost to get up and get out.”

“I have met so many people and done so many things that I would never have done before,” says Garry Byrne (20) from Blanchardstown speaking about his involvement with Irish Wheelchair Association’s Youth Services.

Garry became involved with Irish Wheelchair Association when a youth worker visited his family home to talk to him about how to get involved.

Since then Garry has taken part in everything from events to holidays to monthly socials. *“The club gives me a boost to get up and get out,”* he says. *“I have met so many people and done so many things that I would never have done before. Meeting the youth worker, was a great thing. He is always there to listen to you. He is like family to me.”*

Garry attended school in the Central Remedial Clinic in Clontarf before going to a mainstream school to do his leaving cert applied. Like any young person, making choices about life after full-time education can be daunting.

Unsure what to do next, Garry decided to get involved with Irish Wheelchair Association’s Ability Programme, a service supporting young adults with physical disabilities, who want to improve their job-seeking skills and employability.

With the help of his local job coach, Garry has been researching employment and education opportunities and would like to work in an area that helps people directly.

Pictured right: Garry Byrne, Irish Wheelchair Association member, attending a youth service workshop at Irish Wheelchair Association Resource and Outreach centre in Clontarf.



HOLIDAYS AND RESPITE

Our three holiday centres, Cuisle in Roscommon, the Carmel Fallon Centre in Clontarf and Claddagh Court in Kilkenny provide respite breaks and holidays for people with disabilities throughout the year. In 2018, the centres provided 6,006 nights service.

In partnership with the HSE, we piloted a new holiday service in Co. Kilkenny with The Hoban Hotel, which was contracted to provide accessible hotel accommodation for our members within the community. Upon evaluation, this model was a huge success and will be rolled out further during 2019.

In 2018, Irish Wheelchair Association facilitated a wide range of independent accessible holidays and respite breaks at destinations chosen by the individual or groups of individuals in locations across Ireland and Europe.

WE SUPPORTED 6,006
RESPITE AND HOLIDAY
NIGHTS SERVICE IN
KILKENNY, ROSCOMMON
AND DUBLIN.





**YOU MAKE OUR
WORK POSSIBLE**



OUR WORK COULD NOT HAPPEN WITHOUT THE INCREDIBLE SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, FUNDRAISERS AND FRIENDS.

In 2018 you ran our shops, baked cakes, jumped out of planes, played so many sports, laughed, shared and made our community stronger.

THANK YOU.

Pictured left: Irish Wheelchair Association abseil fundraiser participants on Croke Park Sky Walk preparing to abseil from the roof of the Hogan Stand.

YOU MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Going the extra mile: Mini marathon organiser shares her story

“Volunteering with Irish Wheelchair Association opened lots of doors for me. I knew ultimately it was an environment I felt driven to work in,” says Maureen Lee from Athlone.

Her journey with Irish Wheelchair Association began over ten years ago when her niece, Shauna, became a member of the Sunshine Club, a monthly activities group for children with disabilities.

“Over the years I realised how isolated Shauna was when we visited local amenities. A trip to the park would leave her sitting in her wheelchair, while other kids got to run around and avail of the equipment within the park.

“With research and the help of Irish Wheelchair Association, we were able to purchase and install a double-wheelchair swing and a mixed ability roundabout within the community to facilitate children of all abilities.”

Maureen began volunteering with Irish Wheelchair Association upon returning to adult education in 2013, when she completed work experience at the Athlone Resource and Outreach Centre. She enjoyed the experience so much she remained an active volunteer.

“Our biggest fundraising achievement was raising enough funds to purchase a new bus for the centre. We did this through many events, including a Charlie Landsborough Concert, an art auction, the Women’s Mini Marathon and a Croagh Patrick climb. Later, I achieved a dream goal of raising enough funds for the wheelchair swing.”

In 2016, Maureen began working as a Programme Assistant for Irish Wheelchair Association and later became a Programme Assistant in Athlone.

Pictured right: Maureen Lee, Irish Wheelchair Association Volunteer and staff member, in front of an accessible swing in Athlone which she helped fundraise for.

Maureen explains: *"I am responsible for activity programs that include mindfulness and wellbeing, boccia, exercise classes, beauty, music and drama, computer classes and art and crafts. I am also responsible for coordinating children's Sunshine Club activities."*

Regardless of her position within the organisation, Maureen's passion for volunteering and fundraising is uncompromising. *"For the past four years, I have recruited women for the Women's Mini Marathon, organising sponsorship cards, transport and encouraging our lovely ladies each step of the way."*

Most importantly Maureen says: *"Each day spent at Irish Wheelchair Association is a learning curve, I get to engage with our wonderful members and staff and develop more as a person. Little did I know back then where I would be today."*



YOU MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Thomas Sweeney makes a splash in Donegal

"I was training three times a week, swimming over 30 lengths each time, so I suppose I am not too bad," says Thomas McSweeney (61), who returned to swimming last October after a thirty year break from sport, to raise funds for Irish Wheelchair Association.

The modest Scots man, who has made Donegal his home since 1988, has cerebral palsy and had a successful career as a para-athlete, winning many national and international medals. He even represented Scotland at the World Para-Swimming Championships in Copenhagen in 1987, taking on the world's best.

Thomas has been a member of Irish Wheelchair Association's community centre in Donegal for 20 years, where his track record as a swimmer is well known. He decided to bravely dust off his goggles and challenge himself to swim 1km in his local swimming pool in Ballyshannon to raise funds for the centre.



“Ballyshannon Leisure Centre is brilliant,” he says. “The pool has great access and great staff. Since I started training there, James, who works in the leisure centre, has been my trainer and coach. I train with him three times a week.

“I can’t walk too far, so when I get ready, James comes into the changing room with a wheelchair and helps me with the hoist to get me into the pool, but once I am in the pool I am fine.”

And it didn’t take too long for Thomas’ winning strokes to return, impressing his coaches in Ballyshannon.

“Thomas has a great technique, which came back to him quickly, and every week we were increasing distances in the pool,” says coach James.

Pictured left: Thomas Sweeny, Irish Wheelchair Association member, poses with his swimming medals at his local pool in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

“We would set goals, but Thomas was consistently smashing them. His attitude is so positive and we have great banter. He’s a pleasure to work with.”

An added bonus of Thomas’ new swimming regime has been that he has gone from needing physiotherapy every fortnight to no longer needing any at all.

His incredible efforts, alongside wonderful support from his local community, raised over €1,000 for our Donegal community centre. Money raised will go towards fun accessible outings such as water boat trips, group yoga classes and craft and art supplies for the local centre for all of its members to enjoy.



ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS



AS A LEADING INFLUENCER IN SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY, IRISH WHEELCHAIR ASSOCIATION ACTS AS A STRONG VOICE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE ON KEY DISABILITY ISSUES WITH GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC.

During 2018, we launched our advocacy strategy focusing on achieving progress in five key areas: increased hours in assisted living services, accessible transport, accessible housing, increased access to employment and advocacy campaign training to mobilise members to lobby locally on disability issues.

Our advocacy work included lobbying the government, public awareness campaigns and development of training modules for members to empower them to become vocal activists on disability issues.

Pictured left: Irish Wheelchair Association members and staff get involved in the 'Back in 5' campaign.

‘BACK IN 5’

“I’ll just leave my car in the disabled car parking space for five minutes.” It’s a common excuse people use to take up disabled car parking spaces they don’t need. And it’s illegal.

In 2018, our ingenious members took this matter into their own hands. Hundreds of wheelchairs were parked unexpectedly in car parking spaces around the country under our ‘Back in 5’ campaign banner, to put the brakes on this illegal parking.

It certainly caused a stir, grabbing attention on local media, social media and in towns countrywide. Importantly, it got people talking about how wrong it is to take up a wheelchair accessible space.

There are currently almost 75,000 Disabled Drivers Parking Permits in circulation in Ireland. The availability of wheelchair accessible parking spaces is an essential lifeline for motorists with disabilities.

Yet far too often these spaces are occupied by able-bodied drivers. The ‘Back in 5’ campaign aimed to highlight the problems that parking in an accessible space causes for people with disabilities who rely on those limited spaces to park, even if it is ‘just for five minutes’.

Our members have heard so many different excuses and wanted to make a firm statement to drivers throughout Ireland that this is not acceptable.

‘Back in 5’ also reminded motorists that it is an offence to park in a disabled parking space without an official Disabled Drivers Parking Permit. Offenders are dealt a fixed charge notice for €150, rising to €225 if not paid in the first 28 days, which results in a very expensive five minutes.

Pictured right: Wheelchairs placed in regular parking spaces as part of the “Back in 5” campaign..



THANK YOU

Irish Wheelchair Association deeply appreciates the contributions and support of the following companies and individuals during 2018, which made a great difference to our work.

ALCON IRELAND

ALDI

BALLYGAR TRUCKIN' COMMITTEE

BDO

BMW IRELAND

BROWNLEE CHARITABLE TRUST

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

CARMICHAEL CENTRE

CASTLEBAR ROTARY CLUB

CAVANAGH FAMILY QUIGLEY'S POINT,
DONEGAL

CHARITIES INSTITUTE IRELAND

CHARITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

CITIBANK

CLANWILLIAN FC

CLONAKILTY GAA

CLONTARF CASTLE HOTEL

COACHING IRELAND

COCA COLA

COLM O'COCHLAINN SOLICITORS

COLOPLAST

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF IRELAND

COOLMORE STUD

CORK CITY COUNCIL ARTS OFFICE

CORK EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARD

CREATIVE IRELAND

DELOITTE

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PLANNING &
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENTS

DISABILITY FEDERATION OF IRELAND

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES

DONAL CHAPMAN

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

DONEGAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARD

DONEGAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

DONEGAL LONDON GOLF SOCIETY

DORMANT ACCOUNT FUND

DPD

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY
COUNCIL

DUNNES STORES

EOIN O BROIN

EPS GROUP

ERRIS EXILES, LONDON

FAMILY OF EMMA WHELAN

FERGUS BRIDGE CLUB

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

FIREEYE

FLEXIBUS RURAL LINK MEATH/FINGAL

GALWAY CITY COUNCIL

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

GOODBODY

GOVERNANCE IRELAND

GREENVAL

HAYS

HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE

HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND

HOUSING AGENCY

INISHOWEN VOLUNTARY BRANCH

INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND
INLAND WATERWAYS IRELAND
IRISH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL HOUSING
IT SLIGO
IWA SPORTS CLUB
IWA VOLUNTEER BRANCHES
IWA VOLUNTEERS
JAZZ PHARMACEUTICALS
SENATOR JOHN DOLAN
KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS
LONGFORD ADULT LEARNING
LONGFORD GREYHOUND STADIUM
LONGFORD / WESTMEATH EDUCATION &
TRAINING BOARD
LORD MAYOR DUBLIN, NIAL RING
LOUTH /MEATH EDUCATION TRAINING
BOARD
MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS OFFICE
MAYO SLIGO LEITRIM EDUCATION &
TRAINING BOARD
MAZARS
MERCK SHARPE DOHME
MICROSOFT
MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM AND
SPORT - BRENDAN GRIFFIN
MINISTER FOR HEALTH – SIMON HARRIS

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DISABILITY ISSUES
– FINIAN MCGRATH
MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE OFFICE OF
PUBLIC WORKS AND FLOOD RELIEF - KEVIN
'BOXER' MORAN
MINISTER FOR HOUSING, PLANNING &
LOCAL GOVERNMENT – EOGHAN MURPHY
MINISTER FOR RURAL AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT - MICHAEL RING
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TOURISM
AND SPORT – SHANE ROSS
MOTABILITY IRELAND
MOUNT LUCAS WIND FARM
MUD RUN 2018
MUSGRAVES CHARITABLE TRUST
NAVAN COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT
SCHEME (T/A NAVAN EDP CLG.)
NOT FOR PROFIT ASSOCIATION
OCS
OXFORD GLOBAL
PARALYMPICS IRELAND
PEPSICO
PHYSICAL AND SENSORY SERVICES OF HSE,
DONEGAL
POBAL
PROVIDENT FINANCIAL GROUP SOCIAL
IMPACT PROGRAMME
PWC
ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL
ROSCOMMON LEADER PARTNERSHIP
SEAN RUDDY, MAYO

SLIGO ROTARY CLUB
SMITH'S SUPERVALU JOHNSTOWN
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL
SPORT IRELAND
ST. MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, MALLOW
SUSTAINABILITY ENERGY AUTHORITY OF
IRELAND (SEAI)
TARA MINES
TELEFLEX
TESCO COMMUNITY FUND
TESCO LONGORD
TESCO NAVAN
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION
THE GLEN 5K COMMITTEE
THE IRELAND FUNDS
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
THE HOBAN HOTEL
THE OFFICE OF MINISTER RING
THE SCEPTRE FOUNDATION
THE WHEEL
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL
TIPPERARY VINTAGE RALLY
TOMMY BROUGHAN, TD
TONY RYAN FUND FOR TIPPERARY
TOYOTA IRELAND
VOLUNTEER CENTRES AND VOLUNTEERING
INFORMATION SERVICES NATION-WIDE
VOLUNTEER IRELAND
WATERWORLD, BUNDROAN
WHEELCHAIR CARS IRELAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	Restricted Operating Funds €	Unrestricted Operating Funds €	Designated Operating Funds €	Total Operating Funds €	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds €	Total 2018 €	Total 2017 €
Income from:								
Donations and legacies	3	-	156,745	-	156,745	-	156,745	219,630
Charitable activities	4	50,906,400	5,335,716	-	56,242,116	1,565,670	57,807,786	53,752,124
Other trading activities	5	-	1,620,687	1,128,175	2,748,862	340,320	3,089,182	2,405,526
Investments	6	-	768	-	768	-	768	1,894
Total		50,906,400	7,113,916	1,128,175	59,148,491	1,905,990	61,054,481	56,379,174
Expenditure on:								
Raising funds	7	-	1,525,066	26,755	1,551,821	-	1,551,821	1,091,155
Charitable activities	8	52,778,270	4,659,666	680,483	58,118,419	1,290,620	59,409,039	56,321,893
Total		52,778,270	6,184,732	707,238	59,670,240	1,290,620	60,960,860	57,413,048
Net income / (expenditure)		(1,871,870)	929,184	420,937	(521,749)	615,370	93,621	(1,033,874)
Transfer between funds		1,871,870	(1,871,870)	(16,322)	(16,322)	16,322	-	-
Net movement in funds		-	(942,686)	404,615	(538,071)	631,692	93,621	(1,033,874)
Total funds at 1 January		-	5,639,056	1,070,726	6,709,782	15,329,109	22,038,891	23,072,765
Total funds at 31 December		-	4,696,370	1,475,341	6,171,711	15,960,801	22,132,512	22,038,891

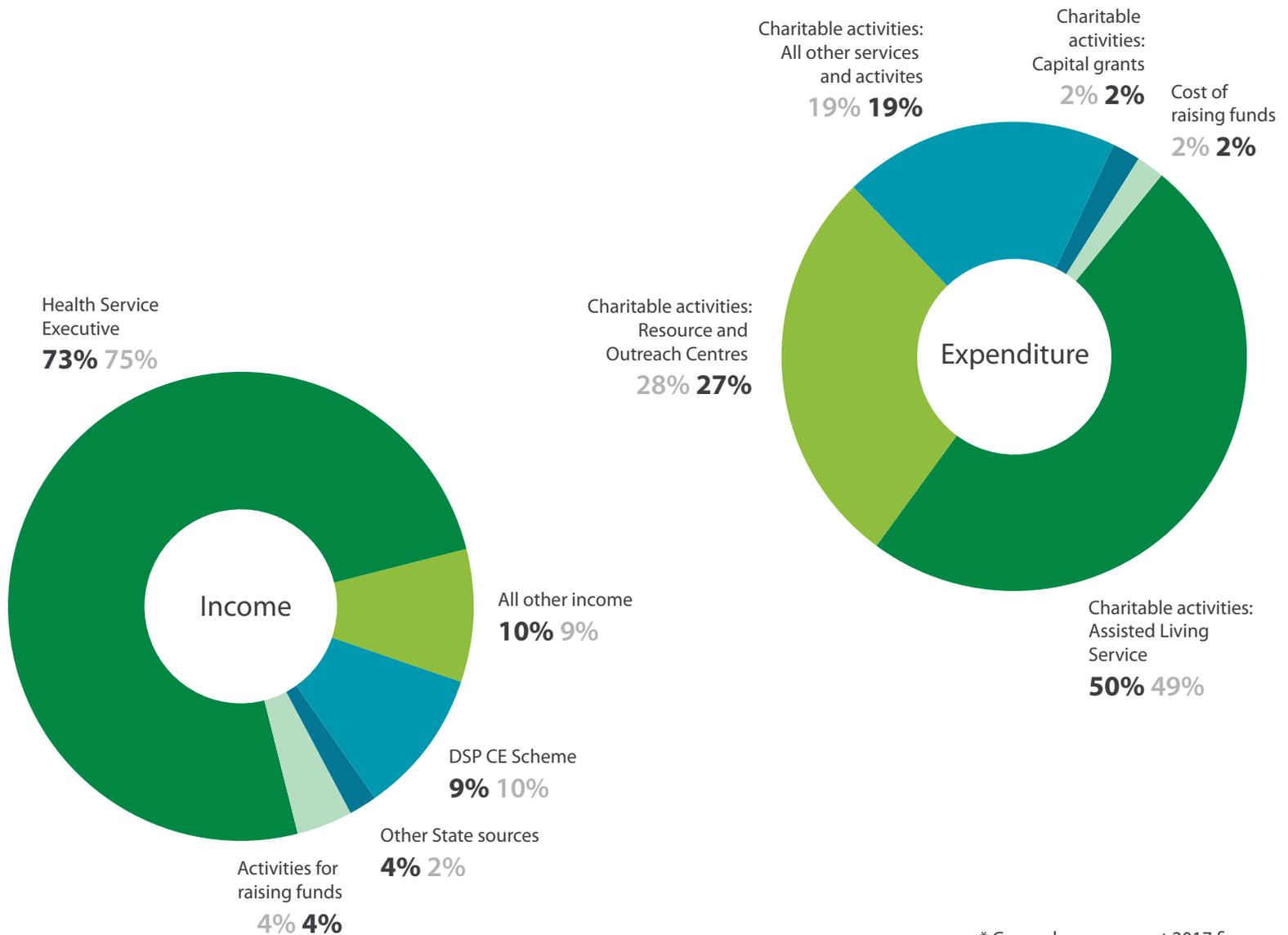
There were no other recognised gains or losses in the current or prior year other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET

At 31 December 2018

	Notes	31 December 2018 €	31 December 2017 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	18,218,295	17,938,789
Financial assets	20	3	3
		<u>18,218,298</u>	<u>17,938,792</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	14	95,891	97,473
Debtors	15	5,052,065	5,173,312
Cash and cash equivalents	16	6,238,075	5,048,714
		<u>11,386,031</u>	<u>10,319,499</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(7,471,817)	(6,219,400)
		<u>3,914,214</u>	<u>4,100,099</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>22,132,512</u>	<u>22,038,891</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS			
FUNDS			
Restricted funds	21	-	-
Unrestricted funds	21	4,696,370	5,639,056
Designated funds	21	1,475,341	1,070,726
Restricted fixed asset funds	21	15,960,801	15,329,109
		<u>22,132,512</u>	<u>22,038,891</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			

INCOME & EXPENDITURE



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