



**IMPACT  
STATEMENT  
2022**









Irish Wheelchair Association  
is grateful to our community  
for their ongoing support. They include  
over 2,500 employees, most of whom  
are working on the front-line, members,  
volunteers supporting our sports clubs,  
charity shops, community services,  
volunteer branches and board members.

Together we are working to build a more  
inclusive society for people with disabilities  
across Ireland.

**Together we are  
One IWA**









# Contents

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Year in Review .....            | 2  |
| Our Work at a Glance .....      | 4  |
| Advocacy .....                  | 5  |
| Assisted Living Services .....  | 6  |
| Community Supports .....        | 7  |
| Holiday and Respite .....       | 8  |
| On the Move - Transport .....   | 9  |
| IWA-Sport .....                 | 10 |
| Housing .....                   | 12 |
| Our Committed Fundraisers ..... | 14 |
| Our Corporate Sponsors .....    | 16 |

# 2022 – A Year in Review

by Rosemary Keogh, CEO

In early 2022, Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) launched our ambitious Strategic Plan for 2022-2025. In developing this strategy, we reviewed IWA's Values, Vision and Mission, and identified challenges, opportunities and areas of focus for the next four years.

The objective, over the term of the strategy, is to make progress towards the full implementation of UNCRPD through further development of our Advocacy and Services, with an increased focus on people and culture and through investment in business processes and technology, and enhancement of IWA's identity and profile, while ensuring our long-term financial prosperity.

I am delighted to report that we have already made progress in each of these areas. By year end, we received funding to increase the capacity of our Advocacy team and we continue to work across key areas such as housing, transport, and access with significant engagement from other disability organisations and at all Government levels. Work with our Disability Action Group pilot project will help to support and amplify our advocacy efforts.





Significant progress has also been made towards updating and streamlining our internal business processes and technology, leading to reduction in time spent on administrative tasks.

2022 was a year that started with hope and optimism as society emerged from the worst of the pandemic. IWA further developed our family friendly, flexible working policies, and continued to invest in our employee wellbeing initiatives. We were delighted to welcome our members, volunteers and employees back to our centres, offices and sports clubs.

IWA is deliberately ambitious as a leader in our sector, driving positive change by listening, supporting, and empowering people with disabilities to live the life they choose. Throughout 2022, our service teams continued to lead and innovate in the development and delivery of new and existing services and our commitment to excellence was recognised through our success at the annual Irish Healthcare Centre awards.

Despite our many achievements, the year was not without its challenges. The Government's decision to exclude Section 39 agencies such as IWA from public sector pay awards continues to put pressure on our retention and recruitment efforts and we continue to fight for pay parity. I want to thank and commend all of you, and especially those on the front-line, for your ongoing commitment to delivering a world class service on behalf of our members.

Finally, thanks to all of you for your continued support as the remit of IWA's work is so extensive, we cannot do it alone. We are One IWA, a community to which people want to belong, continuously motivated by our passionate purpose to drive positive change for people with disabilities in Ireland.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a large, sweeping 'R' and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rosemary Keogh  
Irish Wheelchair Association, CEO

# Our Work at a Glance



**Assisted Living Service**  
across Ireland  
for **2,143 adults**  
and children



**1,865**  
**Driving Lessons**  
for people with  
disabilities



**Community Centre Services**  
provided **90,240 days** of  
community services through  
our **59 centres**



**Approved Housing**  
**Body** managing **51**  
**wheelchair accessible,**  
**affordable homes**



**IWA-Sport** supported  
**24 sports clubs** and  
supported athletes to  
compete at  
**8 international events**



**Daily Transport**  
**Services** for our  
centres using **127**  
**accessible buses**

**Quality Accreditation** of IWA services  
was completed by Astrum Consulting.  
**The Astrum Consulting, Quality Assurance**  
**Audit Report 2022**, served to verify that  
IWA services continue to operate effective,  
safe, quality processes.





# Advocacy

Our Advocacy team work with and on behalf of our membership to highlight and lobby on the issues that are important to them.

Our goal over the term of our strategy is to make progress towards the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by bringing the voice of those with the lived experience into the public arena.

To support this work, in 2022 the Advocacy and Housing team commenced on an exciting pilot project developing a network of local community-based

Disability Action Groups in Tuam, Portlaoise, Wexford, Navan, and Mallow. This pilot supports disabled people to self-organise, identify issues of significance to them, and supports them to act for change to a more inclusive community. The pilot will be reviewed in 2023 with a view to expanding to other locations nationally.

Our Disability Awareness in Schools and Youth (DAISY) programme was rolled out in 28 primary schools informing the next generation on disability and inclusion awareness. Our Self Advocacy Training programme took place in Waterford empowering students to speak up for themselves on the issues that affect them.

Community and engagement weeks continue to be a key part of our listening and reviewing process and were held regularly throughout the year forming the basis of our work.

At European level, IWA was successful in securing Erasmus funding in association with Associacao Salvador based in Portugal to roll out a shared learning programme which will commence in 2023.

**80 primary schools registered for our Disability Awareness in Schools and Youth (DAISY) programme.**

*Photo Caption: Minister Anne Rabbitte with Rosemary Keogh, CEO and Joan Carthy, Advocacy Manager at the launch of the IWA three year Strategic Plan 2022 to 2025.*

# Assisted Living Services



Irish Wheelchair Association's skilled personal assistants continued to support people with physical disabilities in their homes.

This service is core to our organisation's activities, and we are proud to play our part in supporting those who need us. Our personal assistants are vetted and trained to support the varied needs of people with disabilities helping them with access to education, employment and to live a fulfilled life.

**In 2022, we delivered 1.29 million hours of Assisted Living Services for 2,143 adults and children across Ireland.**

*Photo Caption: IWA trained personal assistants enable our members to have independence and choice over how they live their lives.*



# Community Supports

Irish Wheelchair Association are very proud of our network of 59 community centres based across Ireland. They provide our members with education, social, recreation and outreach support.

We were delighted to open 3 new community centres in Longford, Balbriggan and Galway during the year and wish them a warm welcome to the IWA family.

Our School Leavers Service is growing from strength to strength with 60 new students and 7 Rehabilitative training unit students joining us in 2022. This service is offered in our centres in Balbriggan, Drogheda, Dundalk, Galway, Kilkenny, Longford, Mayo and Portlaoise.

**In 2022 we provided 90,240 days of community services for 2,645 people across the country.**

**3 new community centres opened in Longford, Balbriggan and Galway.**

*Photo Caption: IWA's School Leaver Service is going from strength to strength. Students in Drogheda show off their new musical skills.*



# Holidays and Respite



Holidays and Respite helps promote independence, develop inclusion for people with disabilities in communities as well as having a hugely positive effect on the mental health of the person and their families.

This work is supported by trained Irish Wheelchair Association staff who research suitable accommodation, in consultation with the member, and in groups plan outings and trips to visit local attractions.

We also offer accessible and supported holidays, short breaks and hotel getaways through our dedicated holiday services team in four locations in Ireland. The Shearwater Hotel & Spa in Ballinasloe, Co Galway, Hoban Hotel in Co. Kilkenny, the Carmel Fallon Centre in Clontarf, Co Dublin and Carrigaline Court Hotel, Co Cork.

**80 members were supported with 'respite at home' breaks throughout 2022.**

*Photo Caption: Daniel, John and Kartriona enjoyed a well deserved break at the Shearwater Hotel & Spa.*





*Photo Caption: Our fleet of 127 accessible buses work across our 59 community centres providing members with the freedom of access to their local community and fun outings.*

MAATS stands for Motoring advice, assessment and tuition service which provides motorists with disabilities the opportunity to gain back some independence and freedom by learning or returning to driving.

Irish Wheelchair Association is a Department of Transport approved agency for the issue of Disabled Drivers' Parking Permits which is also handled by this division.

## On the Move

### Bus Network and Motoring Service

Our fleet of accessible buses act as a national transport service for our members attending our community centres and provide essential transport for a wide range of social outings and sport activities.

Often, many of our members would be confined to their homes if they didn't have access to our bus network enabling them to gain access to their local community and occasionally access our holiday service.

**In 2022, we provided 1,865 lessons to students nationwide and assessed 289 clients in our driving centres with 39 students passing their driving test in our driving centres.**







# IWA-Sport

**IWA-Sport is the National Governing Body for sport for people with physical disabilities in Ireland.**

Through our network of 24 clubs we offer a range of sports including Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Rugby, Para Powerlifting and Para Athletics. Some of our junior clubs offer multi-sports which include soccer, boccia, swimming and table tennis in addition to the above sports, giving children from as young as 5 up to 15 years old the opportunity to learn and grow in a fun environment. Our goal is to encourage and support participation in sports for children and adults across all age groups and activity levels, whilst also supporting high-performance athletes nationally and internationally.



**IWA-Sport has approximately 3,000 members across a network of 24 clubs.**

Some of the highlights from 2022 are 9 participants successfully completing the 2nd edition of the Dr Oliver Murphy Youth Leadership Programme delivered in partnership with Carlow Regional Youth Service.

Strong performances from our athletes across the board which included the Para Powerlifting Team securing 2 gold and 1 bronze medal at the European Championships. In Wheelchair Basketball our team finished in 5th at the U22 Para Youth Games and a strong 8th placement for our team in the European C Finals. Our Wheelchair Rugby team finished 7th in the European B Championships and a team of 8 development athletes took part the Para Athletics Junior Games showing much promise.

Strong collaborations included working closely with Weightlifting Ireland, various local sports partnerships on participation and performance initiatives as well as an exciting collaboration with Basketball Ireland to co-deliver the first ever 'Women in Leadership' training.

*Photo Caption: In 2022, IWA-Sport became the first sport organisation to launch a dedicated Women in Sport Strategy focused on women and girls with a physical disability. Pictured at the launch event here are, Shannon Pollock, Women in Sport Coordinator, Lisa Clancy, Rosemary Keogh, IWA CEO, Dr Una May, CEO Sport Ireland, Deirdre Mongan, Chairperson of the IWA-Sport Women in Sport committee and Nicky Hamill, IWA Director of Sport.*

# Housing

Irish Wheelchair Association is an approved housing body and in 2022 we provided 51 wheelchair accessible, affordable homes and tenancy support to people with limited mobility in Dublin, Kilkenny, Carlow, Tipperary, Mayo, Roscommon and Galway.

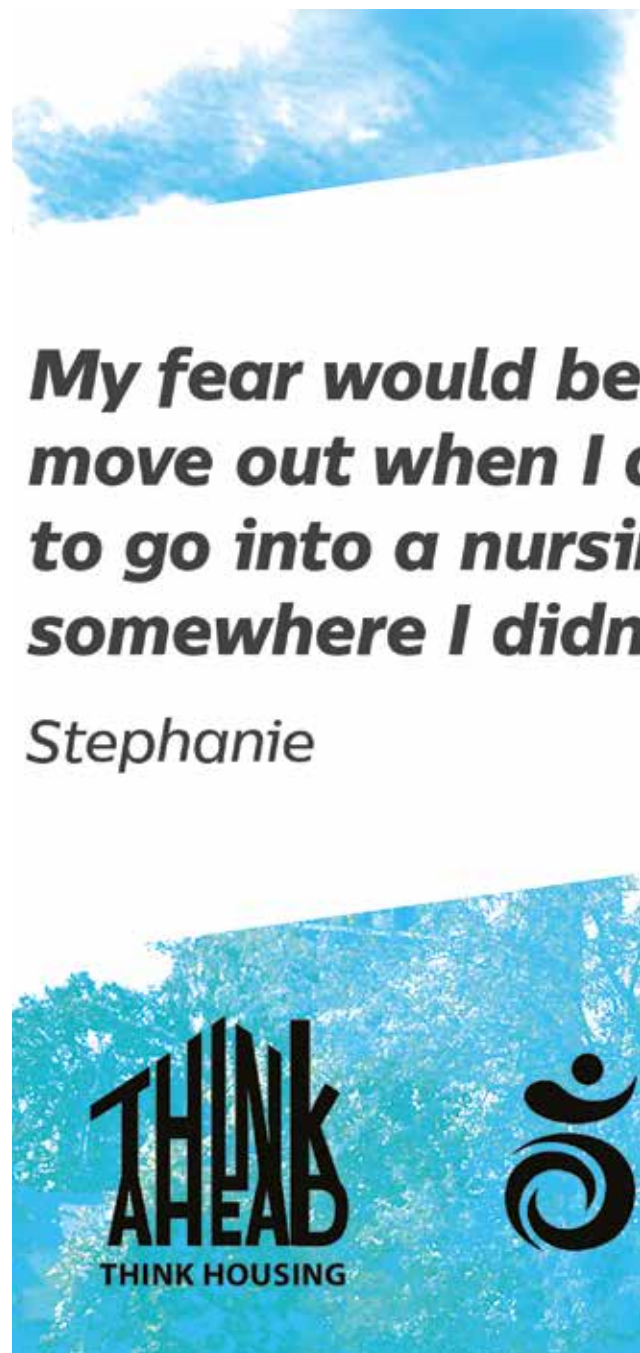
Our housing team also works closely with our Advocacy team to support the call for more wheelchair liveable housing and highlight the inequalities our members' experience. The lack of wheelchair liveable design provisions within Ireland's current building regulations also adversely affects this.

In 2022 Irish Wheelchair Association ran two campaign to highlight housing inequality for our members. Both campaigns gained national awareness, support, and engagement from public, media, and Government as well as key alliance partners. **Think Housing, Build Accessible** aims to change the building regulations to provide for wheelchair liveable housing as opposed to the current guidelines which only provide wheelchair visitable guidelines.

**Think Ahead, Think Housing** encourages and supports people with disabilities who wish to live in their own homes, but who cannot afford to do so, to apply to their local authority for social housing.

**Think Ahead Think Housing won the Award for Best Issues-Led Campaign at the 2022 Excellence in Public Relations Awards and the 2022 Irish Healthcare Centre Award for Healthcare Initiative - Community Care Service.**

*Photo Caption: Stephanie Walsh, helped the Think Ahead Think Housing campaign by sharing her story. We would like to acknowledge and thank all members who continue to share their stories to help promote IWA's work.*





**that if I didn't  
did, I would have  
ng home or  
t want to be**

**Irish  
Wheelchair  
Association™**









# Our Committed Fundraisers

Fundraising is critical to Irish Wheelchair Association allowing us to fund additional programmes, services and supports for our members as well as advocating for meaningful change in society for people with disabilities.

***“The generosity of our supporters and volunteers allows us to continue to work for change to ensure our communities are a better place for all and I cannot thank them enough.”***

**Rosemary Keogh,  
CEO**

*Photo Caption: We were delighted to see the Liberty Insurance Run n' Roll inclusive race return in person to St Anne's Park in Raheny, Co Dublin. Individuals of all abilities took part raising over €20,000 in vital funds.*

2022 saw the return of our National Fundraising Day with over 300 employees and volunteers generously giving up their time to collect donations in their local community or host coffee mornings. As part of this campaign, over 16 individuals, consisting of IWA members, employees and company employees, took on the very brave challenge of abseiling in Dalkey Quarry. This collective effort resulted in a huge €80,000 being fundraised on the day. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part.

Henry Fleming, uncle to one of IWA's members, rallied his friends Brian, Daragh, Ger, Paul, Stephen, Damien and Shane together to take on one of the most challenging fundraising events we have seen to date. Their Coast 2 Coast challenge saw the 8 friends running 200km from Oranmore in Galway to Dublin's City Centre over a 24-hour period. In doing so, they raised an amazing €33,622 for both Irish Wheelchair Association and Muscular Dystrophy Ireland.

We piloted our first Facebook fundraising campaign and 70 people committed to 'Stroll or Roll' 2km every day for the month of October raising almost €16,000. Our Summer and Christmas appeals allowed us to tell the stories of some of our members across the country raising almost €60,000.

A big thanks to the Irish Steam Engine Association who travelled from Kildare to Cork and, along with volunteers, members and staff raised over €16,000 in one week.

We are grateful to everyone who organised or took part in a fundraising event throughout the year and to everyone who continues to generously support our work by donating and volunteering.

# Our Corporate Supporters

We are continually grateful for the support of organisations, businesses, foundations, and trusts who share our vision for a truly inclusive Ireland.



## Chadwicks

Supported projects in Clane, Galway, Belmullet and Cork



## RTE Toy Show Appeal / The Community Foundation

Supported the development of the DAISY Project : Disability Awareness Program in Schools



## Free Now

Sponsorship of Transport conference bringing together leaders across the transport sector



## Musgraves

Ongoing support at a local level



## The Hospital Saturday Fund

Funding of lift equipment



## Pobal

Funding grant for Community services programme



## Clár

Funding of accessible buses



## Inclusion 4 All

Funding of a shared learning programme



## The National Lottery

Funding of local projects and respite





**Liberty Insurance**

Sponsorship of the 'Run N Roll'  
inclusive 5K

**大成 DENTONS**

**Dentons**

Generous professional  
support and expertise



**Microsoft**

Funding of Fundraising  
CRM Project



**Meta**

IT equipment grant  
in Co. Meath



**Sport Ireland**

Core grant funding  
of IWA-Sport













## ***Our Values:***

***Courage***

***Equality***

***Integrity***

***Excellence***

***Fun***

***Openness***

***Visionary***



Irish Wheelchair Association  
Blackheath Drive, Clontarf, Dublin 3. D03 AW62.  
Tel: 01 818 6400 | Email: [info@iwa.ie](mailto:info@iwa.ie)  
Charity Regulatory Authority CRA 20007997

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

