



**CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
CLG**

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CIL's Proposals for Budget 2018 in order to promote equality and inclusion for disabled people in Ireland

1. Ensure commitment to equality and human rights budgeting in the Programme for a Partnership Government meets needs of Disabled People

Action: In order for Government Department's to meet legal requirements under the Public Sector Duty (see below), equality budgeting will need to be robustly applied to adequate and appropriate expenditure to meet the needs of disabled people.

Equality Budgeting needs to recognise the specific infrastructural investment necessary to promote inclusion for disabled people in relation to provision of accessible services in relation to transport, housing and employment.

Equality budgeting measures need to move beyond SIA Frameworks and include measures relating to investment in public services that can reduce inequality. They will also need to develop an accurate measure of the cost of disability.

2. Taxation and Investment

Action: Building an inclusive society based on universal access and equality needs to be resourced through progressive taxation measures to invest in public infrastructure.

3. Ensure Budget 2018 meets standards set out in the Disability Act (2005) and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 Section 42 (The Public Sector Duty) and International Conventions and Covenants Relevant to Disability Rights

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform needs to ensure that measures set out in Budget 2018 reinforce existing Statutory Commitments that Public Investment should increase equality and inclusion for disabled people and that no use of exchequer funds should further marginalised or exclude disabled people.

4. Personal Assistance Service

Action:

Leaders have noticed a trend whereby the PAS is moving away from its tradition to provide supports based on needs for disabled people to live real independent lives. This is borne out by the fact that HSE figures show that 71.62% of hours provided in 2017 received less than three hours daily which is inadequate for Leaders to live real independent lives.

We need clear legislative protection to protect a real Personal Assistant Service that supports independent living and clear ring-fenced annual budget solely for the PAS, separated out from home care and home help supports.

5. Cost of Disability Allowance

Action: The Department of Social Protection, in conjunction with the HSE and appropriate stakeholders, develop a cross-department measure to develop a minimum adequate income that is responsive to the extra costs associated with living with a disability, and ensure that disabled people receive this income to support them to live independently.

6. Remove Taxation measures that penalise Disabled People

Action: The Department of Social Protection, in conjunction with the HSE and the Department of Finance need to recognise that supports for disabled people are vital and not luxuries and be exempt in order that disabled people can access technology and supports for them to live independently without incurring extra costs associated with VAT.

7. Housing and Disability

Action:

While the Rebuilding Ireland sets out a target of bringing 47,000 social housing units on stream by 2021, there are few specific targets relating to homes for disabled people. Investment in social housing needs to be ensure that social housing is designed and built in consultation with disabled people and meeting best international practice for universal design to meet current and future needs for access to social housing. Specific targets for housing for disabled people need to be made based on analysis made by each local Housing and Disability Steering Groups with reviews annually, as per obligations under the Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014.

8. Employment

Action:

Budget 2018 needs to allocate resources in order to meet commitments to implement the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, and targets set in the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 - 2021, including an increase of the public service employment target from 3% to 6%.

Budget 2018 needs to ensure that in resourcing Public Sector Recruitment in 2019 that stakeholders actively engage to develop special public service competitions and the opening up of alternative recruitment channels to target suitably qualified disabled people to take on roles within the Public Service, with supports provided as required.

9. Transport

Action:

Investment in Rural and Urban bus and rail infrastructure must be based on international best practice stock to ensure universal access. The NTA needs to engage with disabled people's organisations as per its legal commitments under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act (2014) to assess the human rights and equality issues in the development of public transport in Ireland and put appropriate time lined plans in place to address these issues.

The imminent Health (Transport Support) Bill which aims to update the long-defunct motorized transport grant for disabled people needs to be resourced to ensure disabled people have access to appropriate supports to access transport.