

There are **three key priority areas** that will support our call to Build to Last:

1. Provide €45 million in new funding for cancer services, on top of supporting improvements to the wider health sector.

In Budget 2022, to deal with the unprecedented challenges our cancer services, patients, families and healthcare workers face, we urge Government to provide €45 million in new funding for cancer services, broken down across:

- €15 million in recovery funding to address backlogs and future surges in services demand and;
- €30m towards the implementation of the National Cancer Strategy.

Some of this new funding must be targeted at:

- Providing a new funding stream for dedicated cancer infrastructure;
- Continuing to support the recovery of cancer screening programmes from the impact of the pandemic and cyber-attack

- Improving patient outcomes by funding clinical trials;
- Increasing investment to develop a world-class cancer genetics service.

Additionally, funding must be found to support improvements across the health service, including the full resourcing of:

- The Lymphoedema Model of Care and National Lymphoedema Clinical Guidelines
- Programme for Government commitments on eHealth;
- The Slaintecare Transition Fund and;
- €11 million in funding towards new staffing and innovative measures in endoscopy services.

2. Support patients, survivors and families at their most vulnerable

We at the Irish Cancer Society know from our daily conversations with patients, survivors, families and healthcare workers, and our detailed research on the financial and social impact of a cancer diagnosis, that the impact of cancer extends well beyond the physical and clinical.

In Budget 2022, to support cancer patients, survivors and their families to deal with the financial, social and psychological burden cancer can bring, we are calling on Government to:

- Provide €5 million to public hospitals to reduce the cost of car parking charges for patients;
- Reduce the Drugs Payment Scheme cap to a maximum payment of €100 a month, and a maximum payment of €72 a month for singleheaded households;
- Provide €30.6 million to abolish Inpatient Charges;
- Abolish prescription charges for medical card holders;
- Provide medical cards to all cancer patients upon diagnosis until treatment has finished.
- Increase the number of patients and survivors returning to work who can access Partial Capacity Benefit;
- Fund new psycho-oncology posts;
- Fund fertility treatment for cancer patients and survivors.

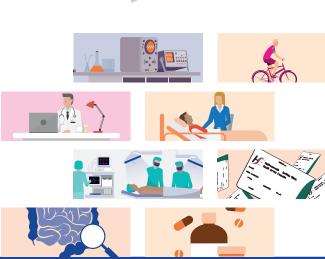
3. Prioritise cancer prevention

We know that we cannot simply treat our way out of cancer. Between 30-40% of cancers are preventable. Smart, targeted investment, allied to revenue raising measures, can help in stopping cancer before it starts.

To help achieve this, we believe the following actions will save lives for future generations and potentially eliminate a number of invasive cancers:

- Fund the elimination of HPV-caused cancers and HPV catch-up plans;
- Increase excise duty on cigarettes by €1 a pack, and invest in helping smokers to quit;
- Allocate 20% of the transport capital budget to walking and cycling;
- Fund the National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan.





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