



Age Action Budget 2021 Priorities

A Life with Dignity in Older Age

Age Action Budget 2021 Priorities	Budget 2021 Response	Date of Effect
Whole-of-Government Initiatives		
1.1 Appoint a Commissioner for Ageing with statutory powers to support their mandate	No Budget 2021 commitment	N/A
1.2 Commission research on the Cost of Ageing to inform Ireland's policy development to meet the needs of an ageing population	No Budget 2021 commitment	N/A
1.3 Deliver a new National Digital Strategy with adequate budgetary supports to enable the inclusion of all	No Budget 2021 commitment	N/A
Ageing in Place with personal choice, control and income security		
2.1a) Increase the weekly State Pension by €5 per week to build towards achieving the Government's commitment in the Roadmap for Pensions Reform 2018-2023 for a State Pension set at 34% of average weekly earnings. De-politicise the setting of the State Pension – and take into account commitments in the 'Roadmap for Pension Reform 2018-2013' - by introducing a triple lock which guarantees that the basic State Pension rises each year by a minimum of 2.5%, the rate of inflation or average earnings growth – whichever is the largest	No Budget 2021 commitment Pension age to remain at 66 in 2021. Commission on Pensions to be established which will consider pension age.	N/A
2.2a) Increase the Living Alone Allowance by €6 per week.	€5 increase per week for pensioners living alone from €14 to €19	January 2021
2.2b) Fuel Allowance rate to increase by €0.80 per week and reintroduce a 32-week payment period.	An extra €3.50 in Fuel Allowance payment per week to €28 (28 weeks)	January 2021

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2.2c) The Telephone Support allowance to increase by €2.50.	No Budget 2021 commitment	N/A
2.2d) Maintain the Free Travel Scheme and Christmas Bonus	Christmas Bonus to be paid	Available from first weekend of December 2020
2.3 Increase the income threshold for all means tested benefits in line with increases to the State Pension and secondary benefits	No Budget 2021 commitment	N/A
2.4 Government need to stimulate age friendly workplaces, tackle discriminatory mandatory retirement clauses and offer targeted education and training supports to older members of the labour force	No Budget 2021 commitment	N/A
2.5 Prioritise the introduction of the new statutory home care scheme in 2021 ensuring it is rights-based and works towards a single integrated scheme. Meet the current standstill cost to cut the waiting lists for home care already in existence by increasing the home care budget to begin to meet unmet need in 2021	Investment of 5 million additional home care hours to enable older persons to live independently, in their own homes, for as long as possible, as part of an integrated community model. Up to 5% of the new hours are for home care related to dementia. This will be supported by the establishment of a National Homecare Office, continued development of the Statutory Home Care Scheme, the roll out of a standard care needs assessment tool and building towards a minimum HSE capacity across all CHOs.	
2.6 Adequately resource the Decision Support Service and to commit to fully commencing and implementing the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015	No Budget 2021 commitment	N/A
2.7a) In the context of reaching an allocation of €84.5m per year for Housing Adaption Grants, adequately fund housing adaptation grants by restoring the Housing Aid for Older People budget to 2010 levels. Strategically future-proof new housing stock by building towards universal design principles as being mandatory for new builds, starting with a requirement of 30% of all new dwellings as per existing Government commitments and 7% of all new social housing	€60 million to deliver grants to adapt the homes of older people and people with a disability. General funding for implementation of 16 National Strategies including the 'National Positive Ageing Strategy' and 'Housing Options for Our Ageing Population'.	