

# SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE

Day 7/Campaign Day Brief

FINE GAEL 

## AMBITION: TO KEEP THE RECOVERY GOING AND ENSURE OUR OLDER YEARS ARE BETTER YEARS

**CONTEXT** Over the next 30 years the number of people aged over 65 will double and the number of us living to be over 80 is set to quadruple. It makes it all the more important how we plan and deliver services and care for our elders. Fine Gael has a plan to keep the recovery going in a way that will generate resources to invest in and improve the living standards and quality of life of our older generation.

**PLAN** Fine Gael wants Ireland to be one of the best countries in the world in which to grow old. We can achieve this if we keep the recovery going and create the resources to support better services. We want to ensure older people live independently and actively in our communities. We will invest in and streamline services so that older people have better access to services and more quality supports.



### TALKING POINTS...

Fine Gael want our elders to be:

- 1** Confident that State entitlements are safeguarded and improving - free travel, medical card and an increase of €25 in the state pension plus an extra €5 for the Living Alone Allowance by 2021; we will cap the prescription charge at €17.50 (reduce by 30%)
- 2** Confident that they can live independently in their homes as part of significantly enhanced supports to older people, including 2.2m more home help hours; increases in housing adaptation and senior alert grants
- 3** Confident of more care in the community - building more primary care centres, additional frontline staff and GP training so care for conditions such as chronic illness are treated close to home.
- 4** Fair Deal will be kept to 4 weeks for those who do need residential care.
- 5** Confident that their voice will be heard - a Citizens' Assembly to discuss and plan for the needs of our ageing population.

**2007** Fianna Fáil promised to increase the pension, instead they  
**CUT THE CHRISTMAS BONUS**

FINE GAEL 

**will INCREASE the state pension by €25 by 2021**



### FIANNA FÁIL RECORD

Our elders worked hard to build this country; Fianna Fail squandered that lifetime's work through reckless policies.

Fianna Fail has no credibility in supporting our elderly. They promise big and deliver little. In 2007, they promised to increase the pension to €300. Instead they cut the Christmas bonus.

Same old Fianna Fail - making promises again but it was the most vulnerable who suffered when crisis started to take hold - closed beds in hospitals, closed the Garda Training College, cut the Blind Person's Allowance - not once, but TWICE, cut the mobility allowance, Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit. They have no plan and no vision.

## TALKING POINTS – MORE DETAIL

### ‘STATE ENTITLEMENTS’

- We will increase both the contributory and non-contributory state pensions by €25 per week by 2021 (a €5 increase every year).
- **Living Alone Allowance:** On top of this we will increase the state pension for those who qualify for the living alone allowance by €5 per week by 2021.

### ‘LIVE INDEPENDENTLY’

- As we keep the recovery going we will significantly invest in home care packages and home help and other community supports over next 5 years. This will include 2.2 million additional hours for home help, bringing it to 12.6m hours annually, and additional in home care packages.
- With regard to home care provision we will put a new structure in place for consistent, high quality home care for those who need it.
- 20% increase in home adaptation grants
- Double the funding for security pendants by 2021 further reflecting our desire for people to stay safe and well in their own homes.

### ‘CARE IN THE COMMUNITY’

- We will significantly expand primary and community care service which will include additional nurses, therapists and GPs with access to x-ray, ultrasound and other investigations for their patients.
- We will also expand chronic disease management in general practice and develop the role of pharmacists in managing the health of their patients, keeping care in the community and out of hospital.
- For those who need residential care, we will keep Fair Deal to 4 weeks.

### ‘VOICE WILL BE HEARD’

- In an age when more and more people will be in retirement, we need to be aware of, and cater for, an increasingly diverse elderly population. Fine Gael will establish a Citizens Assembly which will, amongst other issues, discuss and plan the future needs of older people.

€25 **PENSION INCREASE BY 2021**      €5 **LIVING ALONE ALLOWANCE INCREASE BY 2021**

## COMMENTS ON ELDERLY POLICY



A strong commitment to reform and a business-friendly environment have helped Ireland return to robust economic expansion, offering the government an opportunity to heal the scars of the crisis – **OECD Economic Survey of Ireland September 2015**

‘Primary healthcare services is where we need to invest’ **Sean Moynihan, CEO, Alone**

‘Given the choice, older people prefer to stay at home in their community, with their family, rather than go into a nursing home.’ **Justin Moran, Age Action**

## FINE GAEL COMMENTS...



‘Fine Gael is committed to ensuring that people continue to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. Our long term economic plan will ensure a strong economy that prioritises care in the community, invest more in home and community supports including 2.2m additional homehelp hours.’

‘As we keep the recovery going, older people can be confident their State entitlements are safeguarded and improving – an increase of €25 in state pension plus an extra €5 increase in the Living Alone Allowance by 2021.’

‘We want Ireland to be one of the best small countries in the world to grow old in. As we keep the recovery going, we can achieve this.’

## LINKS TO RELEVANT POLICY DOCUMENTS

Fine Gael’s Long Term Economic Plan - [www.finegael.ie](http://www.finegael.ie)  
Action Plan for Jobs (All reports) - [www.djei.ie](http://www.djei.ie)  
Pathways to Work (All reports) - [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

Enterprise 2025 - [www.djei.ie](http://www.djei.ie)  
Innovation 2020 - [www.djei.ie](http://www.djei.ie)  
Entrepreneurship Policy Statement - [www.djei.ie](http://www.djei.ie)



**LONG TERM ECONOMIC PLAN – SUMMARY** Our Long Term Economic Plan offers our people the stability and certainty needed to keep the recovery going. **It has three steps:**

- 1 More and Better Jobs**  
200,000 extra jobs by 2020 with 70,000 emigrants returning to take up jobs
- 2 Making Work Pay**  
Abolishing the USC over 5 years and reforming the welfare system to make work always pay more than welfare
- 3 Sensible Investments in Public Services**  
With more people at work and paying taxes we will be able to recruit 10,000 extra nurses, teachers and gardai

Fine Gael has learnt from the mistakes made by previous Governments – we know that only a strong economy that supports people at work can pay for the services needed for a decent society.