



# Inclusion Ireland Review of Political Party Manifestos

## General Election 2020



### Introduction

The Green Party was established in 1981. They currently have two TD's and were previously in a coalition Government from 2007 - 2011

### 2016 Manifesto Commitments

- Support for the integration of access to psychotherapy, counselling and social care services into all Community Mental Health Teams and primary care teams, including the Child and Adolescent service
- Ensure that all children with disabilities or who have other additional needs get support to access childcare
- Plan to reduce staff-student ratios across all levels

- A fund set up that could provide a special resource or residential access for young adults with special needs
- The ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- An increase in the budget for disability services, including Home Support and Personal Assistance
- An Irish Sign Language Bill to accord it official recognition
- An increase in the Disability Allowance
- Financial incentives for employers that employ an individual with a disability
- Making rehabilitation services quicker and easier to access
- Specific inclusion of the needs of people with disabilities in future housing policies
- Ensuring that new transport subsidy schemes provide for people with mobility needs
- A sufficient quota of the national taxi pool to be fully accessible and available to people with disabilities by 2017
- An additional €90m per annum for disability spend

<b>Inclusion Ireland Ask 2020</b>	<b>Green Party Commitment 2020</b>
<b>The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</b>	None
<b>Assisted Decision-Making</b>	None
<b>Participation of people with disabilities</b>	None

<b>Housing</b>	None
<b>De-institutionalisation</b>	None
<b>Accessibility</b>	All government and healthcare buildings within the State to be fully accessible and considerate of the needs of persons with disabilities.
<b>Transport</b>	<p>All public transport vehicles to be fully accessible to all users and an end to unmanned bus and train stations.</p> <p>The creation of specific services for people with disabilities who live in rural settings in current and future budgets and transport policies.</p>
<b>Mental Health Services for People with Intellectual Disability</b>	<p>The provision of suitable and accessible mental health support to people with disabilities in the education system.</p> <p>Support the implementation of full Community Mental Health Teams, as outlined in <i>A Vision for Change</i>, and an improvement in the manner in which these services can be accessed and exited seamlessly.</p>
<b>Cost of Disability</b>	None
<b>Education</b>	<p>An urgent review and increase in resources in therapy service areas that impact many people with disabilities.</p> <p>The extension of funding supports for people with disabilities in education to part-time students.</p> <p>Ensure that all children with disabilities or who have other additional needs get support to access early years support services.</p>

<b>Employment</b>	None

## Other Disability-Related Commitments

### Miscellaneous Commitments

- The implementation and adherence to the existing Disability Act which places a statutory obligation on the Health Service Executive to begin an assessment for disability within three months, and complete the assessment within another three months, of an application being made.
- An urgent review of the private provision of Home Care to people with additional needs.
- The continued development of an independent advocacy service for participants in day-care and residential services.
- As part of our commitment to choice, and considering the significant number of young persons with disabilities currently residing in elderly care or nursing homes, we will provide more appropriate holistic and medical care to these people and their families through Community Respite Centres linked to primary care providers.
- We propose to work with representative groups from the disability community to improve access to local sporting infrastructure.
- Providing adequate respite care places and staff in a flexible manner for families dealing with disability. We also reiterate our commitment to the provision of a statutory right to adequate levels of respite care for all Irish residents.
- Pay particular attention to the specific health needs of marginalised women such as travellers, HIV carriers, women on low income, women with disabilities and asylum seekers/ refugees.

## Commentary

The Green Party highlights the importance of disability inclusion being part of each Government department and that people with disabilities should not be seen as a separate sector. The manifesto touches on some important issues, chiefly education, accessibility, and accessible transport.

However, the manifesto omits many of the core issues facing people with disabilities such as promoting people's rights, housing and de-institutionalisation, cost of disability, assisted decision-making and employment. These core issues have been raised repeatedly by people with disabilities over the past number of years.

The manifesto does not mention the UNCRPD or the Optional protocol and doesn't reference the importance of promoting the rights of people with disabilities. This is disappointing at a time when Ireland needs to show leadership around promoting the rights of people with disabilities ahead of the State's first reporting cycle on the UNCRPD.

The absence of any detail on Assisted Decision-Making is worrying as Ireland needs progress on the Act in order to be in line with the UNCRPD.

There is currently research being undertaken by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection around cost of disability that will identify the additional costs people with disabilities face. Disappointingly, the Green Party's manifesto makes no reference at all to addressing the costs and poverty faced by people with disabilities.

The party manifesto does include some commitments on accessibility and transport, which is to be welcomed, as are the commitments to provide accessible mental health supports to people with disabilities in the education system, and to increase resources toward therapy supports.

There is also a positive commitment to implement and adhere to the Disability Act regarding assessment waiting lists, and a commitment to develop an independent advocacy service for

people in day and residential services.

However, all of these commitments provide little detail on the funding necessary and how the commitments will be achieved.

Overall, Inclusion Ireland welcomes the Green Party's various commitments, namely on accessibility, transport, and more resources for therapy supports. However, the party manifesto falls short on addressing the issues facing people with intellectual disabilities, and it is important that the party addresses these core issues that are absent from their manifesto and ensure that the voices of people with disabilities and their families are heard in the next Dáil.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
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