



Gender and Dementia Care; Aspects in Family Caring

Policy & Practice Forum (Hosted by Dementia Research Network Ireland & The National Dementia Office)

6th October 3.30-5pm

It is estimated that there are currently 64,000 people living with dementia in Ireland and approximately 180,000 family carers supporting them. Family carers can experience a myriad of challenges including social isolation and loneliness, mental health difficulties and negative physical health effects¹. Family carers, who are more often women, are also more likely than the general population to live in poverty, with many family carers experiencing a sharp decrease in their earning ability.

Due to the feminisation of caring, as well as the lack of status and recognition for caring activities, this has resulted in many male family carers experiencing stigma, which can lead to a reluctance to ask for or accept help¹. For minority groups, such as carers from the LGBTQI+ community, these effects are likely to be compounded by other issues connected with their minority status which they may have been experiencing before the onset of caring responsibilities.

This forum aims to raise awareness of inequity regarding female carers as well as the lack of visibility, research and supports for male carers and carers from the LGBTQI+ community. There will be a panel discussion to explore issues around the LGBTQI+ community and dementia care.

Programme

National Dementia Care Policy

Janette Dwyer, Assistant National Director, Services for Older Persons and Dementia Care, Change & Innovation, HSE

The Family Care Landscape for Dementia Through a Gender Lens

Speakers

- *Dr. Nikki Dunne, Research Officer, Family Carers Ireland*
- *Zoe Hughes, Senior Policy & Research Officer, Care Alliance Ireland*
- *Dr. Maria Pertl, Lecturer in Psychology, RCSI and DRNI member*
- *Paddy Crosbie, family carer in conversation with Dr. Laura O'Philbin, Alzheimer Society of Ireland*

Panel Discussion: The LGBTQI+ Community and Dementia Care

Panellists

- *Dr. Miriam Galvin, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin*
- *Dr. Lorna Roe, Research Fellow at the Centre for Health Policy and Management, Trinity College Dublin*
- *Zoe Hughes, Senior Policy & Research Officer, Care Alliance Ireland*
- *Dr. Sinéad Hynes, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy, NUI Galway*
- *Ciaran McKinney, Engage Programme Manager, Age & Opportunity*

¹ Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality – Public Consultation: Submission by Care Alliance Ireland, March 2020.
<https://www.citizensassembly.ie/en/about-the-citizens-assembly/public-consultation/submissions%20received/care-alliance-ireland-ca30153.pdf>