

Dear Minister Daly,

As representatives of a wide range of NGOs involved with supporting people requiring homecare and their carers and advocating and campaigning on related issues we write to advise you that an extension of the consultation period to the end of September is required.

We do, however, have some initial concerns that we hope the Minister can allay. The consultation appears to focus primarily on home care services (that is home help services and home care packages) and does not attempt to address every issue related to home care including vital supports such as respite, housing adaptation grants etc.

Our other major concern is that it is leaning heavily towards older people needs only and our group had asked that the consultation would consider “how homecare is delivered across the life-course rather than there being material differences between homecare delivered under *Disability Services* and *Older People’s Services*”.

We are also concerned that the timing of the consultation – during the summer period – may undermine your efforts to reach out to those using and providing homecare. Many of us are already hearing back from local groups and affiliates that they will not be meeting again until September. Others have told us that it will be difficult for them to organise a submission in the time available when many people will be on holiday.

We are aware that Family Carers Ireland has already written to you on this matter. We would like to add our support to their call to allow for submissions up until the end of September.

We appreciate that you, like us, recognise the urgency of the need for a homecare scheme in Ireland and that you are eager to move forward.

But we believe a consultation that does not have sufficient time and space to enable those most affected by homecare in Ireland to make their contribution will be a less productive one and weaken the conclusions that can be drawn from it.

We would urge you to extend the deadline to 30 September.

With best wishes,

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