

That Dáil Éireann:

Notes that:

- The majority of long-term residential nursing home care is delivered by the private and voluntary sectors;
- Since 2020, there have been 31 private and voluntary nursing home closures which have resulted in a loss of 915 beds;
- Increasingly, nursing homes are considering leaving the Fair Deal scheme and contend it is not providing sustainable funding;
- A significant number of nursing homes reported an operating loss in 2022 and are raising concerns about the viability of the sector;
- Nursing home capacity, where under-utilised for long-term care, can be used for 'step-down' transitional care;
- According to an analysis commissioned by Nursing Homes Ireland from PwC, Challenges of Nursing Homes in the Provision of Older Persons Care, nursing home operational costs for care per resident has increased by 36% and new bed development costs have increased by more than 45% per bed since 2017;
- As the population grows and ages, with the number of people aged over 85 set to double in the next two decades, and as more care is delivered in the home, the health profile of nursing home residents will tend to be older and more complex; and
- Nursing homes face significant difficulties in recruiting and retaining experienced staff; and

Recognises that:

- Immediate action is needed in the short term to halt further nursing home closures;
- A medium- and long-term plan is needed to ensure the sustainability of the sector and develop public capacity; and
- The promised Commission on Care has yet to be established, despite being central to developing a sustainable plan to ensure a viable residential care sector for those who need it, and re-orient care into the home for those who prefer it; and

Calls on the Government to:

- Deliver and fund a collective pay agreement for workers in the nursing home and home care sectors to ensure a living wage and proper remuneration;
- Review public funding arrangements for long-term nursing home care to provide better pay and conditions for workers, quality of care for residents, and maintain viability in the sector;
- Reform the pricing mechanism to enable Fair Deal rates to be based on resource allocation that is reflective of a resident's individual care needs;
- Fund hospitals to formalise HSE contract beds in local nursing where appropriate capacity is available in nursing homes;
- Establish the Commission on Care.