

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



# Welcome

Welcome to the Cancer Care West 2024 Annual Report. It is our privilege once again to share a snapshot of the year gone by — a year that was both incredibly busy and extremely rewarding. This report offers a window into the life of our charity and celebrates the extraordinary commitment of the people who make our work possible.

In 2024, demand for our services continued to grow, with nearly 3,000 individuals availing of our support. Behind each of those numbers is a unique story — someone navigating the emotional, physical, and practical challenges of a cancer diagnosis, either for themselves or a loved one. Our mission remains simple but powerful: to surround every person we encounter with care and kindness and to ensure that they feel welcomed and supported throughout their time with us.

As you read through this report, we hope it conveys not only the scale of what we do, but also the warmth and compassion that define our work. Living with cancer is never easy, but at Cancer Care West no one has to face it alone.

**Reporting period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024  
to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**



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West of Ireland's Women's Mini Marathon



# Our Story

**Cancer Care West provides support and services throughout the counties of Mayo, Donegal, Sligo, Roscommon, Leitrim, Galway, Clare, Westmeath, Cavan, Tipperary, Offaly and Longford.**

## Our Vision

Our vision is that no one in our region will go through cancer alone.

## Our Mission

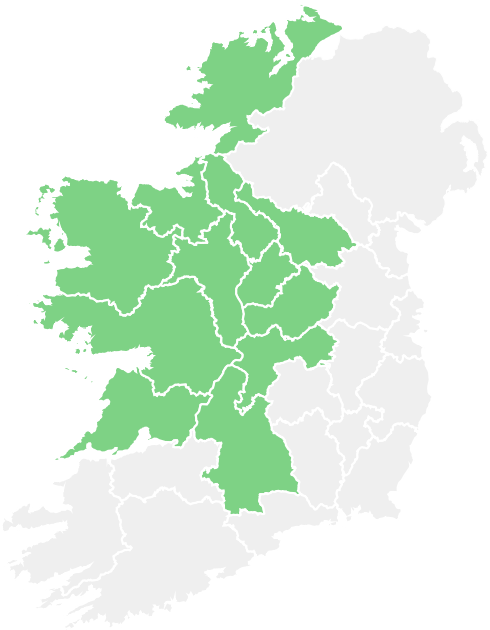
To provide professional community based practical and emotional support services, free of charge, to anyone affected by cancer in the Saolta region.

## Cancer Support Centres

We offer a range of psychological and support services both in person at our centres in Galway and Letterkenny and remotely by phone or online.

## Residential Services

We provide accommodation, for radiotherapy patients and their families, at Inis Aoibhinn, our 33 bedroom lodge, on the grounds of University Hospital Galway.



## Children Services

Our specially designed therapeutic play area for children provides them with skills and innovative ways of dealing with cancer in their families.

## Cancer Rehabilitation Services

Our cancer rehabilitation services are designed to help prevent, manage and improve the side effects of cancer treatment.

## Transport

We provide transport for cancer patients staying in Inis Aoibhinn.

**All of our services are offered free of charge to cancer patients and their families.**

### Our Vision

...is that no one in our region will go through cancer alone

### Our Mission

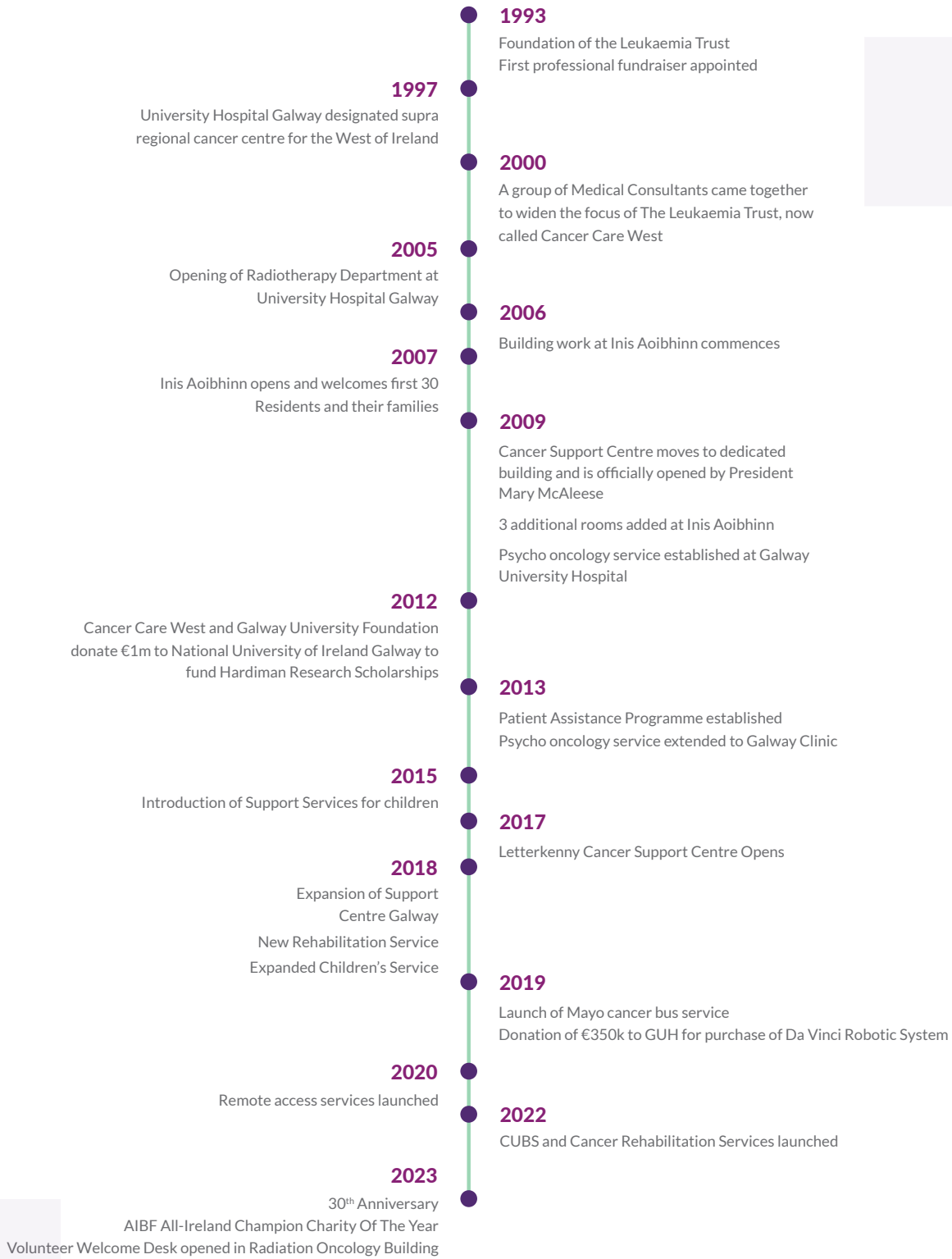
... is to provide professional support services to Cancer patients and their families throughout our region.

### Our Values

- Our focus is on people and their needs
- Our services are open to all who need them
- We support families affected by Cancer
- We are innovative
- We are professional & transparent

# Our Journey - Expansion Innovation And Growth

## Cancer Care West Timeline



# Message from the CEO & Chair



Richard Flaherty  
Chief Executive Officer

2024 was another busy and successful year for our charity, marked by significant growth, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to supporting cancer patients and their families across our region. Throughout the year, we provided essential practical and emotional support to over 2,870 individuals, both in-person through our residential lodge and cancer support centres, and remotely via our expanding suite of online cancer awareness and support programmes.

Our Support Centres in Galway and Letterkenny continued to provide in person and remote psychological and psychosocial support to patients of all ages and their families. In total 1,431 clients had over 14,000 interactions with support centre staff, marking one of the busiest years in our history. During the year we continued our regular support groups including monthly support groups for men and women going through cancer as well as a partner’s support group, a Multiple Myeloma partner’s support group and our 6 week Cancer Survive and Thrive course. We also commenced an art therapy group in Galway, a Tai Chi class in Letterkenny and almost 300 patients benefited from our gym/rehabilitation services.

In 2024, Inis Aoibhinn—our thirty-three-bedroom lodge located on the grounds of University Hospital Galway—reached a significant milestone, welcoming 426 patients, the highest annual figure in our 30-year history. This increase reflects changes in clinical practice, particularly the introduction of shorter radiotherapy cycles enabled by the new state-of-the-art radiotherapy facility adjacent to the lodge.



Gerry Burke  
Chairperson

Our weekly free bus service connecting County Mayo to Inis Aoibhinn continues to be a vital resource. In 2024, it was used by 107 individuals, clearly demonstrating its continued importance to both patients and their families across the region.

As part of our ongoing facility refurbishment programme in Inis Aoibhinn, we placed a strong focus in 2024 on enhancing the environmental sustainability of our operations, in line with our sustainability goals. We were pleased to receive a €43,000 grant through the Community Climate Action Fund, administered by Galway City Council, in support of this work. In 2024, the funding enabled the installation of an electric vehicle (EV) charger and the upgrade of our laundry facilities to more energy-efficient systems.

Funding the ever-increasing demand for our services remains challenging. Fortunately, our fundraising activity remained strong, and overall the charity’s income increased to €2.5 million. University Hospital Galway (UHG) contributed €650,000 towards the operating costs of Inis Aoibhinn and we acknowledge this ongoing financial support, without which our residential service could not operate. Cancer Care West is a member of the Working Group on Advocacy of Government Funding within the Network of Community Cancer Support Centres. This group’s primary role is to advocate for sustained and recurring government funding to support Network Members who are eligible for funding under the NCCP Alliance of Community Cancer Support Centres models. This group were successful in securing €3m funding for qualifying centres in the 2023 Government budget. As a result Cancer Care West received €376,360 in 2024, distributed through the NCCP.

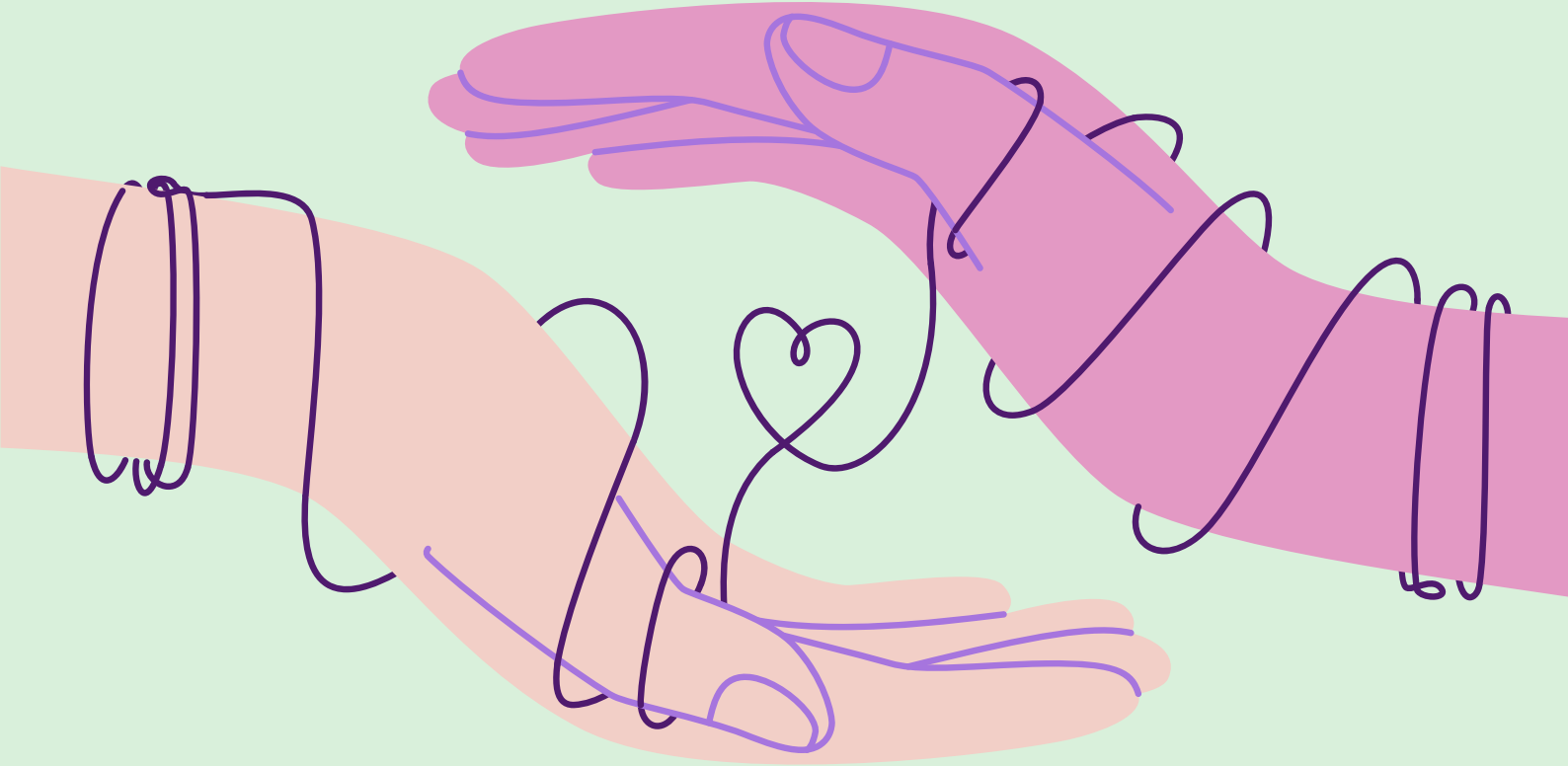
Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we raised €1.4 million through fundraising events and donations. The Galway Bay Swim brought in over €156,000, and the Donegal Camino raised more than €100,000 for the first time—so much so that Donegal County Council officially designated the first Sunday in September as “Donegal Camino Sunday.” Community-led events and individual donations added another €1.1 million, showing once again the amazing level of support we’re lucky to have.

As more people turn to us for help, we are determined to keep growing and adapting to meet their needs. Thanks to the hard work of our team and the generosity of our supporters, we were able to be there for every person who needed us in 2024. We are truly grateful to everyone who made it possible—and we look forward to continuing this vital work together in the years ahead.

Richard Flaherty  
Chief Executive Officer

Gerry Burke  
Chairperson

Together, We  
Supported  
**2,872**  
People In  
2024



# Our Year in Numbers



**2,872**

Benefited From  
our Services



**1,431**

Attended Our  
Support Centres



**14,898**

Interactions At  
Our Support  
Centres



**7,933**

Bednights  
Provided



**107**

Availed Of  
Free Transport



**17,000+**

Meals  
Provided



**2,590**

Clinical Psychological  
Sessions Delivered

# Honouring a Lifetime of Excellence:

## Dr. Helen Greally Recognised Internationally

A significant highlight for the charity in 2024 was the recognition of Dr. Helen Greally, Director of Psychology and Support Services at Cancer Care West, who received the prestigious 2024 Noemi Fisman Award for Lifetime Clinical Excellence. She is the first Irish recipient of this honour since its inauguration in 2003.

Over a 40-year career, Dr. Greally has developed and delivered psychological and psychosocial services for hundreds of cancer patients and their families. She has been a strong advocate for including psychological care as part of holistic cancer treatment, influencing national policy and helping to create integrated pathways that link hospital-based treatment with ongoing support at local cancer support centres such as Cancer Care West in Galway and Letterkenny.

In her role as National Clinical Programme Lead for Psycho-Oncology at the HSE's National Cancer Control Programme, Dr. Greally was been instrumental in expanding services nationwide, securing funding for 44 psycho-oncology posts across psychology, psychiatry, social work and nursing. Indeed throughout her career, Dr. Greally has been a driving force in developing evidence-based national care models to ensure psycho-oncology services are equitable, accessible, and effective. Her work has profoundly shaped psycho-oncology care for individuals living in Ireland.

Cancer Care West was thrilled and proud to see her invaluable contributions acknowledged on an international stage.



Pictured above: Dr. Greally receiving her award from Professor Jane Turner



# Galway Cancer Support Centre

The support centre continues to expand and reflect a growing trend in cancer support in that we had an increasing number of returning clients, more complex cases requiring more intervention and clients utilising a variety of services. With an ever-increasing number of cancer survivors, 779 patients and family members attended our centre for the first time. In total 1084 people availed of our services last year. We also had 126 clients who had been discharged longer than 6 months who returned to avail of our services. We had 10,921 client visits during the year.

Our focus in 2024 has been on relaunching our children's service focused on 3- to 18-year-olds. It was relaunched in September and in the last three months of the year a total of 36 children were seen. One of our clinical psychologists has trained in therapeutic play skills and we are delighted to offer this additional service to our families affected by cancer.

The cancer physical rehabilitation gym has continued to expand and grow, and we have added more group activities to the schedule. We have also commenced a Salsa class as a fun way of taking exercise.

As well as these groups, we have continued with the three core services of oncology information and advice; psychological counselling and providing clients with the key psychological tools and finally a focus on survivorship courses and interventions for those who are living with cancer as a chronic illness. Our benefits advisor and advocacy services have been particularly busy.

I want to thank our staff volunteers and donors who have ensured the continuation of our services through what has been the most challenging time. Also thank you to the CEO and Board of Directors.



And finally to our most important group, the patients and families who use our services, without whom there would be no centre. It is our privilege to help them through their experience of cancer.

*Helen Greally*

Dr Helen Greally  
Director of Support Services

# Galway Cancer Support Centre Statistics

Clients by County of Residence

YEAR	NUMBER OF CLIENTS
Donegal	53
Galway	709
Mayo	101
Sligo	19
Clare	30
Roscommon	29
Westmeath	11
Leitrim	13
Other counties	119

Cancer Support Centre Statistics

YEAR	NUMBER OF CLIENT VISITS	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	DROP-IN VISITS
2010	5567	1017	2900
2011	6062	1071	3630
2012	6483	1233	4100
2013	6603	1248	4210
2014	7096	1240	3912
2015	7112	1253	3858
2016	7182	1315	3611
2017	7050	1400	3255
2018	7666	1376	3414
2019	9027	1471	4121
2020	6995	1120	115
2021	6732	1108	86
2022	6,232	1159	211
2023	8400	1130	160
2024	10921	1084	218

Cancer Support Centre Service Visits

SERVICE	VISITS	CLIENTS
Clinical Psychology	2068	419
Counselling	85	17
In-Hospital Visits	38	11
Oncology Information and Benefits Advice	1218	542
One to One Gym sessions	548	174
Gym Group Classes	1193	104
Massage	212	115
Reflexology	224	112
Manual Lymphatic Drainage	355	128
Yoga (in centre and online)	867	94
Art Therapy (new in 2024)	67	22
Acupuncture (new in 2024)	29	15
Support Groups (4 groups)	193	82

# Surviving and Thriving

## Martina Curley's Journey with Cancer Care West



Beyond the physical benefits, Martina found something equally important — a community. “In the gym, I met other people going through similar journeys. We’ve built our own little support group, and having people to talk to who understand has made a huge difference,” she says. Today, Martina sees the centre not just as a place for exercise or therapy, but as a sanctuary.

*“It’s a welcoming, positive place — full of warmth, laughter, and understanding. For me, Cancer Care West is the difference between simply surviving and truly thriving as I move forward with my life after cancer. I want everyone to know about it. More people need to experience the incredible support they offer.”*

After completing her breast cancer treatment, Martina Curley faced a new challenge: lymphoedema, a common side effect caused by a build-up of lymph fluid. Her oncologist recommended Cancer Care West, where Martina quickly discovered a wide range of free specialist services designed to support people just like her — right in the heart of Galway city.

“I was amazed,” Martina says. “I had never even heard of Cancer Care West before, and I couldn’t believe such incredible support was available locally, completely free.”

Initially expecting only some massage therapy and home exercises to help with her lymphoedema, Martina soon realised there was so much more on offer. Working with a cancer rehabilitation specialist, she received a personalised gym programme focused on building strength and stamina. “I was never a gym person — I had always been healthy and never needed it before cancer,” she admits. “But this programme wasn’t intimidating at all. It gave me back my energy, my strength, and my confidence.”

Through Cancer Care West, Martina also learned techniques like the Alexander Technique, helping her move more easily, relax better, and even sleep more soundly.

# Top Community Honour

## Recognising Our Impact: Community Award Win



We were honoured to be named the winner of the Community Impact Award at this year’s Junior Chamber International (JCI) Galway Friendly Business Awards. This award celebrates organisations that go above and beyond in serving their community, and we are proud to have been recognised for the care and support we provide to those affected by cancer across the West of Ireland.

JCI’s judging process included public votes, mystery shoppers, and independent assessments — all of which highlighted the strength of our services, the compassion of our team, and the vital role we play in our community. Having supported over 25,000 over the past three decades, this award is a reflection of the deep connection we’ve built with the people we serve.



# Donegal Cancer Support Centre

In reflecting on this year’s annual report, the character of the service can best be described as a consolidation of the exciting initiatives introduced in 2023. While several lovely events revitalised the service, this year allowed us to embed many of the programs we had hoped would prosper.

In 2023, we introduced a group for women in recovery from breast disease, initially called the Tamoxifen Support Group. As its identity evolved, we renamed it the “Grounded & Grateful Group” in mid-2024, reflecting the spirit of the program. Over the year, it welcomed more than 30 attendees, and we hope to see further growth in 2025. Our Men’s Morning also prospered in 2024, continuing to be used by men from a range of backgrounds and ages and helping them make the adjustment out of active treatment and into ordinary day-to-day life. While these groups are going from strength to strength we recognise we have a gap in our group therapy services so we are preparing to introduce a group for individuals living with metastatic disease, the treatment aim of which is orientated towards containment rather than cure. The unique psychological needs of this group require dedicated support, and we believe this will be a welcome addition to our offerings in 2025.

Finally with regard to our services, to further support physical recovery, we added Tai Chi to our group sessions — a gentle, adaptive movement described as “meditation in motion”

— complementing our existing Pilates offering. Among this year’s stand-alone events, we hosted the Irish Hospice Society’s “Skills Sharing Event,” bringing together artists and clinicians to explore the intersection of arts and medicine in expressing the cancer experience. We also welcomed third-year nursing students from Atlantic Technology University, offering them valuable insight into the complexities of the cancer journey.

A true highlight of the year was the outside broadcast with Highland Radio’s ‘9-til-Noon Show’. We are extremely



grateful to the show’s team and our Board member, Mr. Noel Cunningham for arranging to have the entire duration of the show (which is still available online) to be broadcast from our Center. Replete with heartfelt stories from some of our service users, comradeship, laughter and music by way of a four piece Saxophonist quartet (The Saxtet) the occasion was marvelously successful and hugely enjoyed by those present and by Highland Radio’s broader listenership. It was personally heartening to hear how much the Centre and the staff here have contributed so positively to so many people along the way.

Shortly after, RTE Nationwide visited to feature the Centre and The Donegal Camino, our flagship annual fundraising event. We were thrilled to see not only our services but also the warm atmosphere captured in the final program. Again we remain deeply grateful to Noel Cunningham and the entire Donegal Camino team for their continued support, as they once again raised over €100k for our services.

In closing, I wish to sincerely thank all who have generously supported our service, ensuring we can continue to provide vital care to those who need it most. I am deeply grateful to our board of directors, Mr. Noel Cunningham, Dr. Helen Greally, CEO Mr. Richard Flaherty, and my exceptional colleagues — with particular thanks to Patricia Doherty, whose tireless dedication is at the core of our daily work. Above all, my heartfelt gratitude goes to the patients and families we serve. You are the true heart of this Centre, and it remains our profound privilege to walk beside you through every step of your cancer journey.

# Donegal Cancer Support Centre Statistics

Clients by County of Residence

YEAR	NUMBER OF CLIENTS
Donegal	326
Galway	12
Mayo	2
Sligo	1
Clare	1
Tyrone	2
Derry	2
Leitrim	1

Cancer Support Centre Service Visits

SERVICE	VISITS	CLIENTS
Clinical Psychology	522	161
Counselling	118	46
Manual Lymphatic Drainage	242	70
Reflexology	145	70
Massage	156	56
Breast Care Fitting	23	21
Pilates & Relaxation	63	16
Prostate Webinar	21	19
Men’s Morning Support Group	26	9
Care for Carer’s Support Group	8	5
Tamoxifen Support Group	84	32
Brain Tumour Support Group	3	2
Side by Side	11	6
Look Good Feel Better	5	5

Cancer Support Centre Statistics - Letterkenny

YEAR	NO. OF CLIENTS	CANCER PATIENTS	RELATIVES	MALE	FEMALE
2017	265	195	70	78	187
2018	500	361	139	144	356
2019	435	307	128	105	330
2020	305	233	72	74	231
2021	237	206	31	55	182
2022	325	275	50	78	247
2023	350	313	37	93	257
2024	347	315	32	86	261



# Walking in Memory, Walking with Gratitude



In 2017, Karol Friel’s world changed forever when his wife Breda was diagnosed with breast cancer. Despite enduring surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, Breda sadly passed away in August 2021, leaving behind Karol and their three young children.

During her treatment, Breda found great comfort in the services offered by Cancer Care West’s Support Centre in Letterkenny. She regularly attended counselling sessions that helped her navigate the emotional weight of her diagnosis. She also participated in yoga and reflexology classes — small moments of calm and relief during a very difficult time.

But for Breda, the Centre was more than just a place for therapies. “It had a lovely feel to it,” she once said. “You just feel better after a visit and a cup of tea there.” After her passing, Karol also turned to Cancer Care West. He began counselling at the Support Centre, and the sessions played a crucial role in helping him process his grief and begin to heal.

The Friel family have remained deeply grateful for the support they received. So, when they heard about the Donegal Camino — a fundraising event in support of the Letterkenny Centre — they saw an opportunity to give back. In 2024, the family decided to take part in the final stage of the Camino: the iconic climb up Sliabh Liag, one of Ireland’s most breathtaking coastal mountains. The timing made the event even more meaningful — Karol’s sister Jacqueline was turning 60 and wanted to mark the milestone not with a



party or presents, but by raising funds for a cause that had become close to all their hearts.

Six members of the family made the climb together. They not only reached the summit but raised an incredible €5,500 in the process. The day was filled with emotion, pride, and togetherness — a fitting tribute to Breda and a way to celebrate the healing power of community and support.

*“Karol and his family’s journey is a moving reminder of the difference Cancer Care West makes — not only during treatment but in the years that follow, when support can be needed just as much.”*

# Inis Aoibhinn



Since first opening our doors in 2007, Cancer Care West has had the privilege of welcoming over 5,500 patients to stay at Inis Aoibhinn. Significantly in 2024, we reached a truly special milestone as 426 patients stayed with us, the highest number in any year to date. This increase reflects a hopeful shift in cancer care, with many patients now needing shorter, less demanding radiotherapy cycles. While their time with us may be briefer, every individual who comes through our doors becomes part of the Inis Aoibhinn family. It is an honour to welcome each and every person, and we’re so grateful to be part of their journey.

During the year, we are delighted to report that we took great strides in sustainability and comfort as part of our ongoing facility refurbishment. With the support of a €43,000 Community Climate Action Fund grant from Galway City Council, we installed an electric vehicle charger and upgraded our laundry systems to more energy-efficient models. Also to better support patients with higher care needs, we introduced our first profiling bed, which allows for better comfort and medical support for those with more serious conditions.

We also launched our RE-Turn recycling initiative, which invites staff, residents and visitors to bring their recycle beverage containers to us and we bring them to the RE-Turn centres. The money raised goes directly toward providing toiletries and small comfort items for our guests — a small gesture that makes a big difference. It’s been a big hit with residents, adding a special touch to their stay.

The social aspect of Inis Aoibhinn is one that is hugely appreciated by our residents and brings them much needed relief from the daily challenges they face. In 2024 we were delighted to welcome former resident Bernie XXX, Don Stiffle, and the Oranmore Community Choir who all brought joy to us through their music. We were equally delighted to welcome Fr. John, Chaplin of University Hospital Galway, who led Easter, Autumn, and Christmas Masses for us during the year. Each Mass featured a Tree of Wishes, a beautiful tradition where residents and visitors write down their hopes and wishes and attach them to the tree, which is then blessed by Fr. John during the service — a simple but powerful reminder of the strength found in community and prayer.

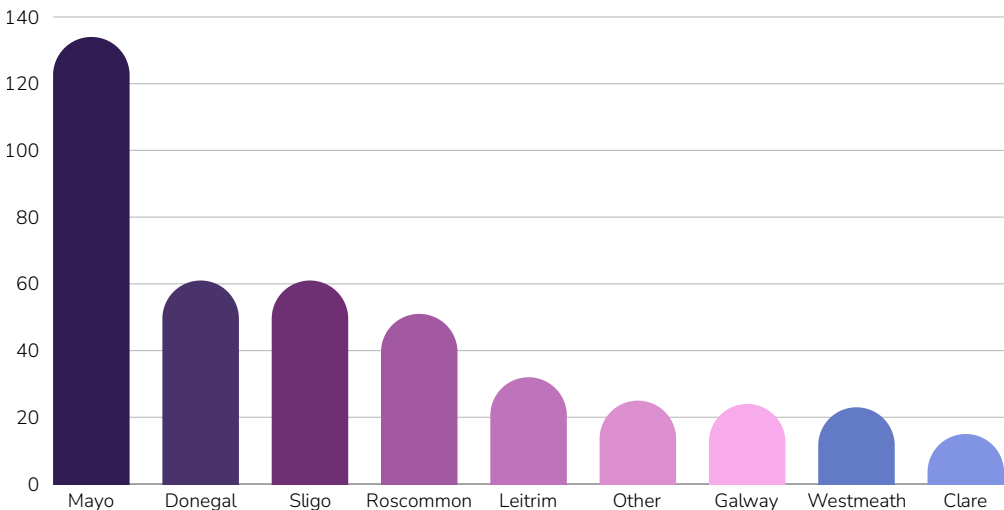
As always, throughout the year the Inis Aoibhinn team has continued to go above and beyond, creating a safe, warm, and welcoming space filled with compassion and positivity. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering care and dedication which makes all the difference to our patients as they go through such a difficult time in their lives. To our supporters: thank you for walking beside us. Your generosity and belief in our mission make everything we do possible. And finally to our wonderful residents: your strength and stories touch our hearts, and your courage and resilience inspire us every day.

Inis Aoibhinn is more than a facility — it’s a family, and it’s a place full of heart. With open hearts and open doors, we look forward to welcoming many more individuals into the Inis Aoibhinn family in 2025.



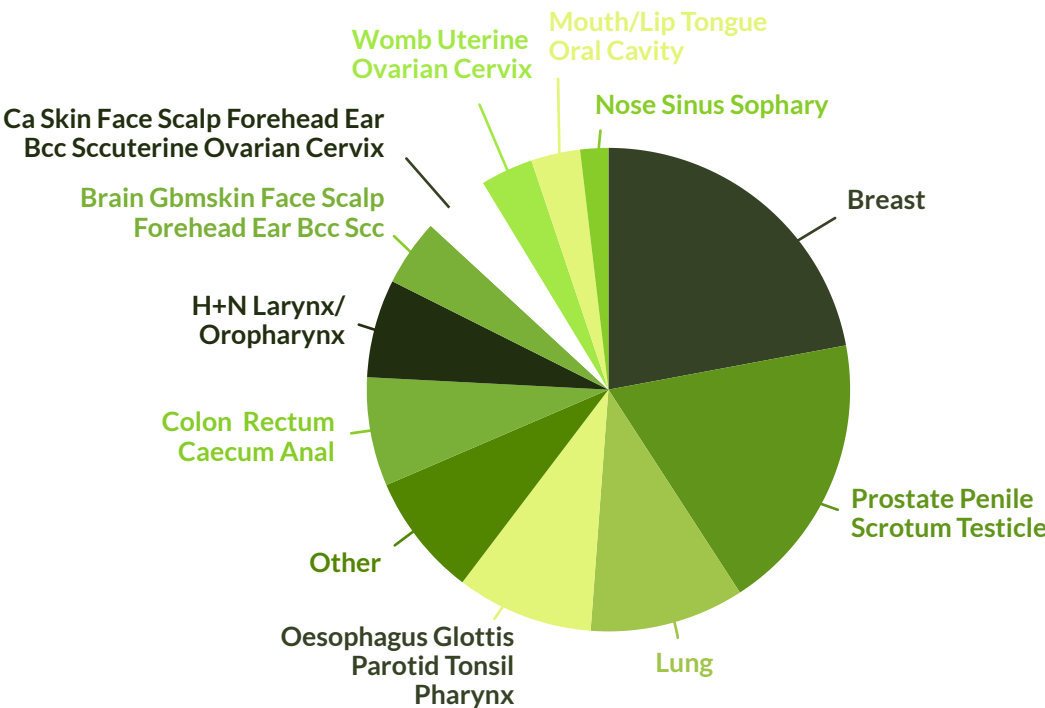
# Inis Aoibhinn Statistics

Inis Aoibhinn Resident's County of Origin 2024



Total: 426

## Summary Breakdown of Resident's Diagnosis 2024



Number of residents accommodated at Inis Aoibhinn March 2007 – December 2024

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
194	287	302	288	322	324	322	398	358	345	340	313	332	320	300	334	371	426	5450

Important to note that sometimes residents may have to stay for a longer period of time due to treatment plans

# Family, Treatment, and Hope

## The Story Of Sean Martin



Getting a funny look from your daughter across the table as you eat your breakfast is an unusual start to someone's experience with cancer. Thankfully for Sean Martin from Co. Roscommon this look lead to his diagnosis, which could have gone unnoticed until things were much more serious. Sean explains how his daughter Oonagh, a psychiatric nurse living in Melbourne, noticed his difficulty in swallowing while home on a holiday in the Summer of 2023. Despite Sean's pleas that he was absolutely fine, Oonagh made an appointment for him to see his GP and soon he was having a series of tests and results which lead to a diagnosis of oesophageal cancer. "I was completely blindsided" Sean remembers. "I had no major symptoms, I was very active and healthy, and I looked after my diet and general fitness. So this was a real shock for me and my family." The oncology team, lead by Professor Gregory Leonard, determined that surgery to remove Sean's tumour was difficult and risky given it's location close to major organs. Instead from October to the end of January Sean went through 9 chemotherapy and 28 radiotherapy sessions. It was gruelling but effective and Sean is now recovering and doing well.

With the diagnosis Sean and his family were thrown into a whole new world of doctors, treatments, side-effects and a massive change to their lifestyle. Sean speaks movingly about the importance of the support he received from his wife Kathleen, his four children, Colm, Paul, Cathy and Oonagh and eleven grandchildren. "Without them I would be in a very different place. Even the grandchildren played

their part as they kept my spirits up on the hardest days. Also the wide support I received from friends, colleagues, my GAA family and so many others meant a huge amount to me. The postman was worn out delivering cards!"

Another important source of support was Cancer Care West in Galway. The charity owns Inis Aoibhinn, a 33 bedroom facility next door to the new Radio-Oncology facility at University Hospital Galway (UHG). Sean stayed there Monday to Friday while going through his radiotherapy treatment. Sean explains the importance of their services to his experience. "I was basically able to stay right next door to the radiology department throughout my sessions. My treatment was in the middle of Winter so it was great not to have to drive 75 miles a day in bad weather. The nurses there helped with everything to do with my treatment, even getting all my medications sorted, while the rest of the staff looked after all my other needs and fed me well, even though eating was not a priority for me. I could never say enough about how fantastic this support was and what a difference it made to me when I was feeling so ill. My treatment plan meant I was on both chemo and radiotherapy at the same time. This really wiped me out so to be able to just relax in my own room every day after treatment and be so well cared for was a huge bonus and definitely helped me to tolerate the treatment better."

*"I had never heard of Inis Aoibhinn or Cancer Care West before but now I want to let everyone know about the fantastic work they do. They provide all their services for free and rely heavily on fundraising and donations to make their services viable. I and many more like me are so grateful for the support and care they afforded us during such a critical time in our lives and we really want to ensure they can do that for many others in the years to come."*



# Fundraising



David O'Donnell  
Head of Fundraising and Communications



Orla Cunniffe  
Communication Fundraiser

We are thrilled to share that our incredible community of supporters raised a phenomenal €1.4 million for Cancer Care West in 2024. This generosity forms the backbone of our work, enabling us to continue providing vital, free cancer support services to everyone who needs them.

From the Atlantic to the hills of Donegal, our flagship events truly soared. The Galway Bay Swim made an unforgettable splash once again, raising over €150,000 and bringing together swimmers, volunteers, and supporters for a day filled with energy, community spirit, and purpose. Further north, the Donegal Camino—our signature event for the Letterkenny

Support Centre—reached an exciting milestone, raising over €100,000 for the first time. The camaraderie, challenge, and stunning scenery made it one of our most memorable events yet. While large events grab headlines, the heart of our fundraising lies in the hundreds of local and personal efforts that take place across towns and communities throughout our region.

Together, these raised over €750,000, showcasing the true power of grassroots generosity. From tea parties and head shaves to raffles, quizzes, and personal challenges—every single act of support makes a difference. We see the commitment and effort behind each event, and we thank you.

Our fantastic partnerships with companies across the region not only help raise vital funds but also give us a powerful platform to reach even more people, spreading awareness of the services we provide. These collaborations play a key role in extending our impact and making sure no one faces cancer alone.

We are also deeply grateful to our regular donors—those who give monthly via direct debit or support us through ongoing corporate partnerships. Your steady, dependable contributions provide a solid foundation that allows us to plan ahead, expand our services, and support more individuals and families affected by cancer.

Each January, we begin the year with a mix of anticipation and—yes—a little nervousness as we look up at the fundraising mountain ahead. But every Camino walked, every swim braved, and every event hosted reminds us of the extraordinary community standing with us.

To everyone who fundraised, participated, donated, or supported us in 2024—thank you. Your kindness fuels everything we do and ensures that we can continue to deliver first-class cancer support to all who walk through our doors.

# Swing, Soul, and Gratitude: Remembering Martin Murray

In May 2024, a truly unforgettable evening of music lit up the Galmont Hotel in Galway, led by an extraordinary young man, Martin Murray. A gifted musician and former Musical Director aboard one of the world's largest cruise ships, Martin had recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Despite facing his own difficult journey, Martin chose to give back in the most remarkable way.

Determined to thank Cancer Care West for the support he received during his treatment, Martin brought together The Galway City Jazz Orchestra — a 17-piece big band of the finest local musicians and vocalists — for a one-night-only concert in aid of the charity. With over 500 people in attendance, the event raised more than €16,000. It was a joyous celebration of music and community, filled with swing, soul, and gratitude.

What made the night even more powerful was knowing that, just three weeks later, Martin sadly passed away, aged only 34. Surrounded by family and friends at Galway Hospice, his final days were filled with the same warmth and love that he had so generously shared with others.

Martin's spirit, kindness, and passion for music have not been forgotten. In his memory, his close friends and fellow musicians have established The Martin Murray Foundation — a fitting tribute that will continue to support cancer patients in the West and nurture young musical talent in Galway for years to come.





# Fundraising



John Murphy from Maree, Oranmore who took on a very brave challenge of running this year's Irish Life Dublin Marathon dressed as a Minion!!



Gerry Burke, Chairman Cancer Care West with the winners of the Cancer Care West Golf Classic Joe McKeogh, John Lavelle, Ken Byrne and Tony Barbour.



Kevin Flaherty and Delia Griffin who organised the Connemara Truck and Tractor run



Bernard McCabe who completed the Marina Home Dubai Creek Striders 10km, raising a total of €6,080.



Patsy and Marie Whyte from Clostoken, Loughrea who raised a fantastic €2,000 for our cancer services through their Tea Party and Raffle at their home.



East Galway GAA Club Walk Raises €12,613.30



Liam McDonnell, family and friends who recently raised €8,327.34 through their participation in the Belfast Marathon



Thank you to everyone from Soroptimist International Ballina Mayo who raised a fantastic €7,000 for our cancer support services through their September Soiree.



# Financial Statement

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 2024		
	2024	2023
Income from fundraising and bequests	1,406,027	1,271,910
Cost of fundraising	(225,156)	(216,511)
Gross Surplus	1,180,871	1,055,399
Administrative expenses	(37,667)	(41,423)
Inis Aoibhinn costs	(1,186,305)	(1,126,765)
Support Centre costs	(931,994)	(956,758)
HSE annual subvention	650,000	650,000
Sundry income	454,074	96,159
Operating (Deficit) / Surplus for the year	128,979	(323,388)
Interest receivable and similar income	66,202	2,017
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	195,181	(321,371)
The income and surplus relate to continuing operations as no businsses were acquired or disposed of in either finanacial period.		

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024		
	2024	2023
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	2,739,309	2,806,847
Current assets		
Stocks	961	1,295
Debtors	88,895	106,089
Designated development bank funds	3,201,392	3,135,190
Cash at bank and in hand	729,962	425,540
	4,421,210	3,668,114
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	(212,927)	(113,050)
Net current seets	3,808,283	3,555,064
Total assets less current liabilities	6,547,592	6,361,911
Deferred Income		
Dept. of Health capital grant	(229,000)	(238,500)
Net assets	6,318,592	6,123,411
Capital and reserves		
Designated reserves	3,201,392	3,135,190
Revenue reserves account	3,117,200	2,988,221
Total Equity	6,318,592	6,123,411

# Auditor’s Report

<div>GROGANS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS   REGISTERED AUDITORS</div> <div>Cancer Care West CLG (A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital) Independent auditors' report to the members of Cancer Care West CLG</div> <div>Opinion We have audited the financial statements of Cancer Care West CLG ('the Company') for the year ended 31/12/24, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 3. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, applying Section 1A of that standard.  In our opinion the financial statements: give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31/12/24 and of its deficit for the year then ended; have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, applying Section 1A of that standard; and have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.</div> <div>Basis for opinion We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We have availed of an exemption provided by IAASA's Ethical Standards - Section 6 - Provisions Available for the Audit of Small Entities in the circumstances set out in note 18 to the financial statements.  We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.</div> <div>Conclusions relating to going concern In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.  Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.  Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going conern are described in the relevant sections of this report.</div> <div><div>AITIChartered Tax Adviser (CTA)</div><div>Chartered Accountants Ireland</div></div>
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# Auditor's Report

## Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that: in our opinion, the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and in our opinion, the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014. We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Respective responsibilities

### Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set on page 6, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

# Auditor's Report

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: [http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-lcf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description\\_of\\_auditors\\_responsibilities\\_for\\_audit.pdf](http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-lcf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Richard Grogan**  
for and on behalf of  
**Grogans Accountancy Ltd**  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm

Chartered Accountants  
4/5 high Street  
Galway

Date: 22 May 2025





At Cancer Care West, we are committed to taking meaningful, measurable action toward a more sustainable future for the people of Ireland and our planet. Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we have established clear climate objectives and are actively implementing targeted strategies to achieve them.



Our Climate Action Objective:

To integrate climate change considerations into our buildings, operational policies, strategic planning, and long-term development.

Our Progress:

Our first dedicated Climate Action initiative focuses on reducing energy use and travel-related emissions at our residential facility, Inis Aoibhinn. In 2023, we completed an SEAI Energy Audit of the building, providing a comprehensive roadmap for improvement. Following this, we engaged Stratos Energy Services to advise and support us in implementing the audit’s recommendations, with an emphasis on measurable outcomes and transparent reporting.

We are proud to report that in 2024, implementation of the SEAI recommendations began. This included significant sustainability upgrades as part of our wider facility refurbishment. Supported by a €43,000 grant from the Community Climate Action Fund via Galway City Council, we installed an electric vehicle charging point and upgraded to energy-efficient laundry systems.

Looking ahead, we have secured further funding for 2025 and are planning additional sustainability measures. These include:

- Upgrading all facility lighting to LED
- Installing a smart bedroom key system to reduce unnecessary electricity usage
- Introducing solar panels for electricity generation
- Installing a thermal heat pump system

These initiatives represent our long-term commitment to climate action and sustainable healthcare delivery.

We will continue to track, measure, and report on our progress as we work toward a greener future.

Board of Directors

Cancer Care West is governed by a Board of Directors, chaired by Mr Gerry Burke. The composition of the board is representative of the Medical sector by eminentcancerspecialistsandofthewidercommunity. The Board of Directors serve in a voluntary capacity and do not receive any remuneration or expenses. Policy decided by the board is implemented by the Cancer Care West Management team. In addition, five Board Sub-Committees oversee specific areas of work including a Management Board and Psychological & Support Services, Finance & Audit, Governance and Corporate Fundraising committees.

Board Members

- Gerry Burke (Chairperson)
- Sheila Byrnes
- John Donnelly
- Gerry Staunton
- Brian Thornton
- AnnMarie Groarke
- Dr. Margaret Murray
- Dr. Maccon Keane
- Prof. Frank Sullivan
- Padraig Burke
- Padraic Clarke
- Breda Tierney
- Paddy O'Malley
- Jean Kelly
- Joe Smyth
- Noel Cunningham
- Joe Martin
- Lorna Siggins

Subcommittees

MANAGEMENT BOARD

- JEAN KELLY (CHAIR)
- ANNE MARIE GROARKE
- BRIAN THORNTON
- GERRY STAUNTON
- RICHARD FLAHERTY (CEO)

PSYCHOLOGICAL & SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE

- ANNE MARIE GROARKE (CHAIR)
- RICHARD FLAHERTY (CEO)
- HELEN GREALLY
- JOHN BOGUE (NON CCW DIRECTOR)
- EVELYN O TOOLE (NON CCW DIRECTOR)

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

- GERRY STAUNTON (CHAIR)
- PADRAIC CLARKE
- MARGARET MURRAY
- BRIAN THORNTON
- BREDA TIERNEY

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- BREDA TIERNEY (CHAIR)
- PADRAIC CLARKE
- GERRY STAUNTON
- BRIAN THORNTON

COPORATE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

- BRIAN THORNTON (CHAIR)
- JOE SMYTH
- DAVID O DONNELL (CCW)
- JOHN MCNAMARA (NON CCW DIRECTOR)
- BRIAN THORNTON

# Costs & Funding

In 2024, our continued support for cancer patients and their families was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of our donors and the ongoing statutory funding provided by the Health Service Executive (HSE). In 2023, Cancer Care West received €650,000 from HSE West to help cover the operating costs of Inis Aoibhinn. Additionally, through our participation in the Working Group on Advocacy of Government Funding within the Network of Community Cancer Support Centres (NCCP), we received €376,360, which was distributed via the NCCP.

Our total income for 2022 amounted to €2.5 million, with approximately 56% generated through voluntary fundraising and donations. All funds raised are dedicated entirely to

advancing our mission and supporting our services.

Cancer Care West is a not-for-profit organization and a registered charity, operating as a limited company. The organization is overseen by a voluntary Board of Directors who receive no remuneration or expenses. Each year, we undergo an independent audit and submit our financial statements to the Companies Registration Office to ensure transparency and accountability

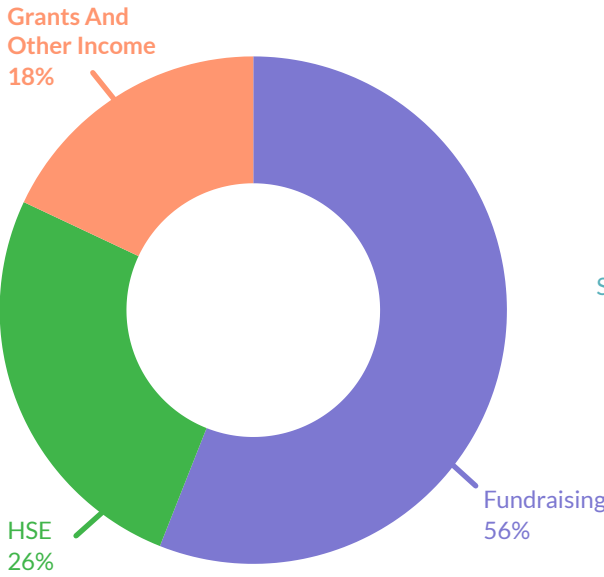
Registered Charity: CHY11260

Company Number: 230899

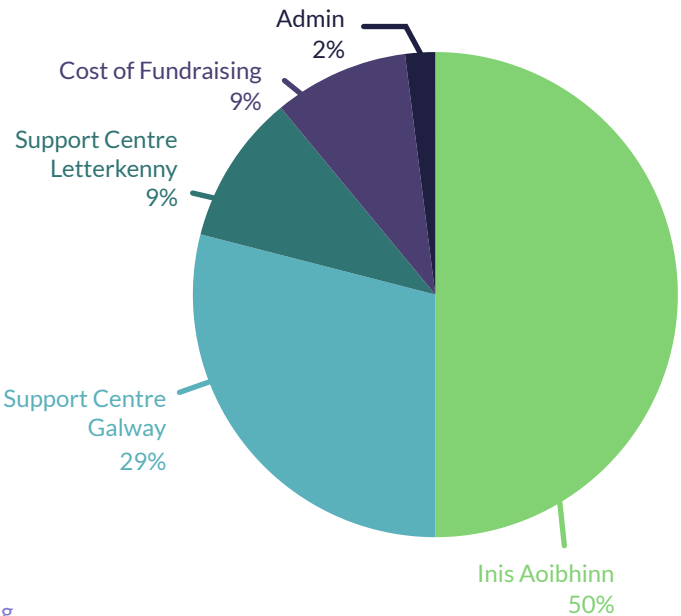
Registered Charity number: 20030438

Almost **90%** of our spend goes directly to delivering our services

Sources of Income



How We Spend Our Funds



# How You Can Help

CANCER CARE WEST provides all of our services at no cost to those who need them and we are hugely reliant on fundraising and donations to fund these services. Up to 73% of our income (in a normal year) comes from fundraising, and all contributions, large and small help us to make a difference:

## Donations

All donations are channelled back to provide our core services. You can donate by:

- Online - with a credit/debit card - [www.cancercarewest.ie](http://www.cancercarewest.ie)
- Phone - 091 545000
- Post - cheque, bank draft, postal order to Cancer Care West, University Hospital Galway
- Direct to bank - please contact us for our bank details - 091 545000/info@cancercarewest.ie

## Regular Giving

Giving regularly is a simple and meaningful way to make a difference every month of the year and helps us continue providing our services. Why not become a friend of Cancer Care West from as little as €12 per month. Contact us at [info@cancercarewest.ie](mailto:info@cancercarewest.ie) for further information or download the direct debit form on our website - [www.cancercarewest.ie](http://www.cancercarewest.ie)

## Fundraising Events & Campaigns

Cancer Care West has many fundraising events and campaigns throughout the year which are detailed on [www.cancercarewest.ie](http://www.cancercarewest.ie) and our Facebook pages. You might also like to organise your own fundraising event - for support and advice please contact our fundraising team who will be happy to help you promote your event.

## Legacies

Legacies are a meaningful way to have a lasting impact by improving the lives of others. Your legacy does not have to be large; it can be a small portion of your will and is invaluable, whatever the amount. If you are making or amending your will you might consider leaving a gift to Cancer Care West. For further information or to speak in total confidence without obligation please contact our CEO Richard Flaherty - [richard.flaherty@cancercarewest.ie](mailto:richard.flaherty@cancercarewest.ie).

## Corporate Support

If you are working for an organisation there are many corporate giving projects that your company, staff and customers can get involved in. Corporate donations, payroll giving, matched funding and charity of choice are just some of the ways in which your organisation can show their support for Cancer Care West.



#### **Inis Aoibhinn Residence**

Galway University Hospital  
Galway H91 T861  
Telephone: 091 545 000  
Email: [info@cancercarewest.ie](mailto:info@cancercarewest.ie)

#### **Galway Cancer Support Centre**

72 Seamus Quirke Road  
Galway H91 C9W0  
Tel: 091 540 040  
Email: [galwaysupport@cancercarewest.ie](mailto:galwaysupport@cancercarewest.ie)

#### **Donegal Cancer Support Centre**

2nd Floor Unit Station House  
Pearse Road, Letterkenny,  
Co Donegal, F92 P6YT  
Tel: 074 960 1901  
Email: [donegalsupport@cancercarewest.ie](mailto:donegalsupport@cancercarewest.ie)

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[www.cancercarewest.ie](http://www.cancercarewest.ie)

