

NATIONAL

ELECTION 2007 - BEING PART OF THE ACTION

This summer the people of Ireland elected a new government to lead the country for the next five years. This recently established government is made up of Fianna Fáil, the Greens, the PD's and is supported by a number of Independents. Bertie Ahern T.D. Fianna Fáil, was re-elected as Taoiseach, and is now the first Taoiseach since Eamon de Valera to win three elections in a row. Also of note, Sean Connick, Fianna Fail's Wexford TD became the first TD who is a wheelchair user and member of the Dail.

For two years prior to election day Enable Ireland had been playing its part in preparing for 'Election 2007'.

Key aspect of its preparation approach was the delivery of a 'Voter Awareness Training Programme' that covers the main aspects of the electoral and political system in Ireland. This led to the majority of service users being registered and therefore eligible to vote in Election 2007. This programme was delivered with the support of the Vincentia Partnership for Social Justice, a voluntary organization that promotes Active Citizenship.

Other important aspects included the development of two 'Lobbying Groups' based in the Dublin 12 and Dun Laoghaire Adult Services. The 'Lobbying Groups' were run by service users and in the build up to the election they invited in local politicians to talk about their policies and in particular to discuss disability related issues.

Election Day has now come and gone, and the following results have been compiled to show how much Dublin Adult Services became 'part of the action', through exercising the right to vote

SURVEY

Question 1: DID YOU VOTE IN ELECTION 2007?

Overall, 64 Service Users were identified and contacted and asked if they voted in the Election. From this, 40 responded that they voted in the election, which represents a voter turnout of 62 % (See Pie Chart i)

The resulting statistics therefore show that of the 64 Service Users asked if they voted or not, 24 people did not vote, which equals 38 %.

Question 2: DID YOU VOTE IN THE LAST ELECTION IN 2002?

The second question asked of the survey group of 64 Service Users was whether or not they voted in the last Election 5 years ago in 2002. This was to see if there was any significant changes in voting turnout between the last election and present election. The results were as follows.

23 people Voted in 2002 = 36%
41 people didn't vote in 2002 = 64%

The percentage increase in 'voter turnout' from 2002 to 2007 is therefore +26.57 %. This is significantly higher than the national increase between the last two election of +4.28%.

SUMMARY OF VOTER RESULTS

In meeting the aims and objectives of giving information, creating supports and providing the opportunities for all Service

Users to be part of this year's election, I feel this has been achieved and believe the results reflect this. Comparing Dublin Adult Services 'voter turnout' with the National

Electorate 'voter turnout', we are very much in line with the way the nation turned out to vote as a whole on 24th May 2007 (See Pie Chart ii comparisons).

NATIONAL ELECTION 'VOTER TURNOUT' RESULTS

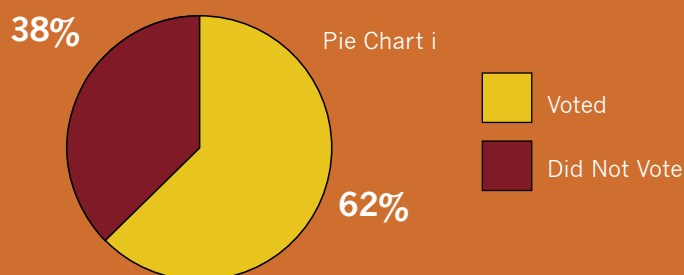
(NB. Electorate: 3,111,410. Turnout (valid vote / electorate):66.39% (+4.28 compared with 2002).

Also very encouraging is the fact that the voter results show more or less a complete and positive reversal in voter participation from the 2002 to the 2007 election. In 2002, 64 % of Service Users didn't vote and 36 % did vote – in 2007, 63 % of Service Users did vote and 37% did not vote.

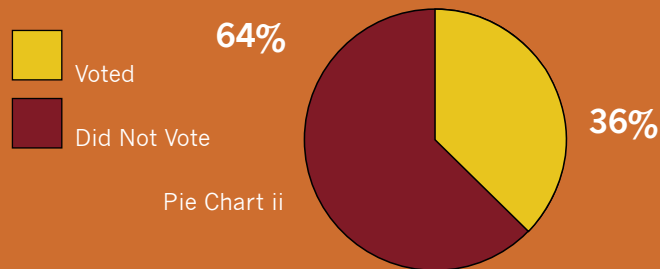
It is hoped that the Enable Ireland voter awareness training programme's and

the lobbying groups have played their part in encouraging everyone to exercise their right to vote and at the same time respecting peoples choice not to vote. Also the results reflect a bigger picture in that people with disabilities are increasingly becoming more involved and active in politics and being 'part of the action' to decide who will be the government of the people of Ireland.

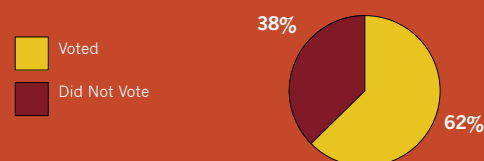
Enable Ireland Dublin Adult Services 'Voter Turnout' Results 2007.



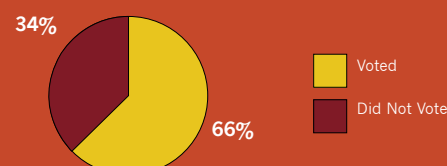
Enable Ireland Dublin Adult Services 'Voter Turnout' Results 2002.



Election 2007 Turnout Dublin Adult Services



Election 2007 National Electorate Turnout



GALWAY

SUN SHINES FOR THE ANNUAL
ENABLE IRELAND BBQ

Joshua & Aaron Corless, Knocknacarra, pictured at the Enable Ireland Annual Family BBQ



The sun shone on the Annual Enable Ireland Family BBQ held in August at the Child Development Centre on the Seamus Quirke Rd. The BBQ provides an opportunity for users of the service and their families to meet up for a fun day out in a relaxing, social and fun environment. There were lots of activities and games to keep both children and adults busy. The days festivities included face painting, juggling and music. Special guests on the day were members of the Connacht Rugby Team, who were a big hit with everyone.

Peter Durkan Connacht Rugby, Catriona Lysaght Enable Ireland, Andrew Farley Connacht rugby, Joanne Murphy Enable Ireland, Andrew Browne Connacht Rugby, Nicole Lord Enable Ireland & Aidan Wynne Connacht rugby, pictured at the Enable Ireland BBQ.



Catriona Lysaght Enable Ireland and Leo Joyce Loughrea pictured at the Face painting Corner at the Enable Ireland BBQ.

GALWAY



Back L to R: Iognaid Muirheartaigh President NUI Galway, David Slemen Connacht Rugby, Greg Kennedy Galway Hurler, Declan Varley Editor Galway Advertiser, George Conboy President JCI Galway, Matt Mostyn Connacht Rugby, Front L to R: Joanne Murphy Enable Ireland, Patrick Higgins, Ronan O Flaherty, Senator Margaret Cox, Jimmy Norman Galway Bay Fm, Niall O Broilchain Former Lord Mayor.

**BIG BUSTER NIGHT
AT THE DOGS**

The Big Buster night at the Dogs took place at Galway Greyhound stadium in May 2007. The Big Buster night was a new addition to the Fundraising Calendar for Enable Ireland Galway and a fantastic night was had by all. With over 11 races on the night there were winners all round. The highlight of the night was the human celebrity race featuring local celebrities who raced on the track for the coveted Enable Ireland race prize. Participants included the former Lord Mayor, President of NUIG, a local Senator and Radio DJ amongst others. The race was won by the Editor of the Galway Advertiser Declan Varley. Planning is already underway for next year's event which is hoped to be bigger and better!

KERRY

**RING OF KERRY
112 MILE CHARITY
CYCLE RAISES
FUNDS FOR
ENABLE IRELAND
KERRY SERVICES**

Enable Ireland was one of four worthy charities that received part of the €300,000 funds raised by the participants of the annual 112 mile Kerry cycle at the Gleaneagle Hotel, Killarney in October 2007.

Enable Ireland celebrate the Ring of Kerry Charity Cheque of €300,307.47 presentation at the Gleaneagle Hotel, Killarney.



GALWAY

**BLAZERS CHARITY RIDE 2007
RAISES €35,000 FOR
ENABLE IRELAND GALWAY**



Members of the Blazers present Joanne Murphy, Fundraising Co-ordinator Enable Ireland Galway with Charity Ride cheque.

The 2007 annual Cross Country Charity Ride raised €35,000 for Enable Ireland Galway. This fund will go towards the construction of the hydrotherapy Treatment Pool at the Child Development Centre. Enable Ireland Galway would like to thank the hardworking committee chaired by Geraldine Dempsey for their tireless work, commitment and enthusiasm.

CORK

**ENABLE IRELAND CORK LADIES
LUNCH – A SPARKLING AFFAIR**

The 11th Enable Ireland Cork Ladies Lunch took place in the Maryborough House Hotel in November. It was a sparkling affair with 430 attendees stepping out for the gathering of Cork's most stylish women. The Mystery Guest Speaker, author Ms. Deirdre Purcell, enthralled the guests with excerpts from her recent autobiography, Diamonds & Holes in My Shoes. In a most unexpected turn of events Ms. Purcell removed her own shoes and offered them for auction, along with the copy of her book which she had been reading from. Both items were keenly bid on and the successful bidders purchased the shoes for €350 and the book for €1,000. Another auction prize of a weekend getaway in the Capella Castlemartyr Hotel was sold for €1,650. All proceeds from the Ladies Lunch including the auction proceeds will assist with the development of services provided by Enable Ireland for children and adults from all over Cork City and County. With the kind sponsorship by Brown Thomas Cork and Volkswagen / Turners Cross Motors, the Lunch raised in the region of €30,000 for Enable Ireland Cork services.

L – R : Mrs. Anne Hegarty, Ms. Deirdre Purcell, Author, Mrs. Peggy Cashman



CORK

**LORD MAYOR HOSTS
ST.PATRICKS DAY BALL**

Enable Ireland Cork services together with the other beneficiaries, Marymount Hospice and Tabor Lodge received funds in excess of €10,000 each from 2007 Lord Mayor's St. Patrick's Day Ball held at Cork City Hall in March 2007.

ACTION WEEK ON

Enable Ireland
Action on Disability



"Enable Ireland gives me terrific support at school and for my education."
Young person who uses our services

"The staff at Enable Ireland are always on hand – anytime I have a problem, I know I can get in touch with them for advice."
Parent

"Enable Ireland works with us as a family, developing a programme that suits our changing needs."
Parent



Enable Ireland Disability Services

- Supporting 3,500 children and adults with disabilities and their families in Ireland.
- Providing disability services in 15 locations and in local communities countrywide.
- Giving children and adolescents with physical and sensory disabilities the choice to play their part at home, at school, at work and in society.
- Covering childhood to adulthood, our expert teams work with the individual and their family on a plan for each life stage.



Our Services

CHY 4908

Family Support - Personal Assistants - Early Years Services - Speech & Language Therapy - Multi-Sensory Rooms - Support in School - Physiotherapy - Occupational Therapy - Respite Breaks - Summer Camps - Independent Living - Life Skills - Training - Assistive Technology



Enable Ireland staff pictured at the launch of Action on Disability Week.

from collection boxes located in local retail outlets and the nationwide network of Enable Ireland retail shops. Alternatively, members of the public were asked to donate to the 2007 appeal by texting ENABLE to 57500 or simply organise a fundraising event at home or at their work-place.

Rooney brothers Adam and 2-year old twins (Enable Ireland Champions) Josh and Luke officially launched the 2007 Enable Ireland "Gold Badge Appeal" Action on Disability Week which ran from 17th -23rd September.

Despite rainy weather conditions volunteers hit the streets with collections boxes and a host of exciting fundraising events took place around the country. Proceeds raised through this years appeal will be used to enhance the services Enable Ireland provides for people with disabilities throughout the Enable Ireland 14 regional locations – Dublin, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Cavan, Monaghan, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow.

This year's appeal was themed 'Go for Gold' and invited the public to purchase a €2 gold badge from Enable Ireland volunteers on the streets or

THANK YOU GO AWAY WITH A GOLD BADGE

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Get up and Go! A gift of €20 monthly by direct debit helps fund services for the future.

Shop 'Till you Drop Buy quality new and vintage fashion or try a drink in our charity shops, and benefit people with disabilities in the bargain.

Give off 20% A gift for matter how big or small helps to our local services.

Bake Real Support a good cause and make new friends in our charity shops, volunteering for as little as 3 hours a week.

Respectful Factor Get on line and combine with Ignorance Baiters, Dress-up Days and Cafe Bats. Your imagination is the limit.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES Having a child who has been diagnosed with a disability can be an overwhelming experience for any parent. Disability can happen to any family, at any time and for any reason. Apart from the uncertainty of not knowing what to expect, families must plan for many changes and services which to begin to look for support. This is where Enable Ireland Disability Services may be able to assist.

ACCESSING OUR SERVICES Although our services can be made in a variety of ways, through local hospitals, Health Boards or GPs, we can contact your nearest Enable Ireland centre for local advice.

ENABLE IRELAND SERVICES WHERE ARE OUR SERVICES LOCATED?

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR OUR SERVICES Your donations are the building blocks to our future services. Capital development, from the property needed for new and improved buildings, to recruitment and retention grants. These developments ensure our facilities are up to date so that we can provide the best possible services to people with disabilities and their families.

Contact us: Call 1850 204 304 email: communications@enableireland.ie or visit our website www.enableireland.ie for more information.



Pictured at the Connacht v Dragons game at the Sportsground in Galway were Sean and Mark Henderson, Eddie the Eagle, Jamie Coen and Bernard Kelly. Both Mark and Bernard were selected as the Mascots to the Connacht team on the 21st of September as part of the Enable Ireland Galway Action Week on Disability.

THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

On behalf of everyone in Enable Ireland, a most sincere thank you to our champions, volunteers, donors and friends who helped make Action Week on Disability a roaring success this year.

REMEMBER:

You can continue to support Disability Services by donating online or by texting ENABLE to 57500.