

Easy Read Summary of the Rehab Group **Pre-Budget Submission** 2025



Hard Words

This handbook has some hard words. The first time we write a hard word, the hard word is in **yellow**.

We will explain what the hard word means.



What is a **Budget**?

Each year, the Government announces spending, tax and borrowing plans for the next year. This is called the **Budget**.

The Budget covers all the money that the Government spends and takes in in taxes.



What is a **Pre-Budget Submission**?

Each year, Rehab asks the people using its services about what would make a difference in their lives in the next Budget.

Rehab takes that information and gives it to the Government to try and show them how and where they need to spend money in the Budget. This called a **Pre-Budget Submission**.

How do you make a Pre-Budget Submission?

This year, the Rehab Advocacy Team held 49 **focus groups** around the country. The focus groups were made up of service users and students.

They were asked what it was like living with a disability in Ireland. People from across the country took part. We asked them about services, supports, and other challenges they faced.

What is a **focus group**?



A focus group is when a group of people come together to talk about one particular topic or issue.

In our focus groups people who use Rehab services came together to talk about what issues they face in their day-to-day lives.

Top 10

These are the 10 main things we asked the Government to do in our Pre Budget Submission:

1. Set up a Cost of Disability payment of €50 per week and add an extra €30 per week on to basic rates of Social Welfare.



2. Give extra funding for more housing and supports to help people with disabilities to live independent lives.



3. Make sure that all medical and dental costs are covered by the medical card and make sure that people can get mental health services quickly.



4. Make rural transport more accessible. Give more supports so people with a disability can use their own personal transport including help to take driving lessons.



5. Give enough money so the Action Plan for Disability Services can be done properly.



6. Make sure people who work in Section 39 organisations are paid the same as people who do the same jobs in HSE organisations.



7. Give funding for more than one year to National Learning Network so it can continue to provide important services.



8. Create a strategy to support people with disabilities to get a job or help those that have a job to keep it. Improve the Wage Subsidy Scheme.



9. Give enough funding so National Learning Network can still give students with disabilities an excellent education with great facilities and activities.



10. Set up a system for Irish Assistive Technologies that supports people with a disability to take part in all areas of life.

