

## **Family Carers left isolated, exhausted and unacknowledged!**

Primetime special investigating the care of people with Alzheimers found that their carers are left isolated, exhausted and without vital support services. One Carer told how he has to battle with the HSE to get extra nappies for his mother who is incontinent and has suffered with Alzheimers for over 14 years.

Issues such as late prognosis, no care plans, poor access to services for under 65's and little or no financial support are among the many challenges that family carers face in their roles. Carers have been told that the only way they will get a care plan is to leave their loved one at A and E and walk away, an action nobody wants to take.

The programme highlighted the struggles of carers and their loved ones in getting their basic needs met and how he who shouts loudest will only be heard. Carers spoke about how home help hours are being cut to the bone and the unfair inconsistency of services across the country.

Enda Egan, CEO of the Carers Association speaking on the Frontline programme said "the Primetime footage highlights a shocking indictment of our health care system in Ireland and how we treat our older people and their carers. There are carers in every village, town and County in Ireland who reflect the stories told by these families tonight.

Carers and their cared for persons should have a **legal right** to services similar to the Scottish system. The Minister mentioned drafting legislation around access to services and we are calling on this legislation and the National Strategy for Family Carers to be implemented as a matter of the utmost urgency. We simply cannot continue to ignore this burning issue."

**END**

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