



Teach An Saol
2024

We'd Rather Live!
National Centre for Life and Living
with a severe Acquired Brain Injury
www.teachansaol.ie

Building Teach An Saol – The Next Step

The National Centre for Life and Living with a severe Acquired Brain Injury (sABI)

“Living with a sABI” DocuVideo Series Launch

Call for Action with a message by Professor Joseph J. Fins

We were told that we had no future

There was no cure for a severe Acquired Brain Injury

We had no reasonable chance of a meaningful recovery; precious healthcare resources could not be invested in us. It might have been better, had we died. We would have an intolerable life – but could substantially improve the lives of others by donating our organs.

We Would Rather Live – We Know How

We work together in Community • We take Responsibility • We strive for Healthy Living

We set up a Centre for Life and Living with a severe Acquired Brain Injury, a three-year pilot project (2020-2022) made possible by ministerial order of the then Minister of Health, Simon Harris. A HSE-lead independent international expert team reported in 2023, that -

- *“The pilot project demonstrated the need for and value of providing a service for people with sABI, which supports their rights to health and wellbeing, facilitates their habilitation and supports the needs of family members.”*
- *“This model should be strengthened and developed further allowing Irish disability services to play a leading role internationally in developing innovative day-services for people with sABI.”*
- *“A paradigm shift should change the pervasive nihilism that continues to complicate patient management, family adjustment, medicolegal issues and healthcare policy.”*

*We are building **Teach An Saol, The National Centre for Life and Living with a severe Acquired Brain Injury**, with Social, Therapy, Respite and Transitional Living Hubs, in response to the request of the HSE Clinical Lead for Disability and the recommendations of the international expert panel.*

*We are telling our stories and **give testimony** of the impact the An Saol Foundation Centre has had on our lives in **Living with sABI** to be released on 10 April and a series of six personal DocuVideos over the coming weeks.*

Leadership and Action

Philanthropic Commitment • Political Leadership • Health System Support

Eight of Ireland's leading planning, engineering, architectural, and legal companies, the Minister for Disability, and the HSE are supporting Teach An Saol.

While support has been *pledged*, Leadership and Action are now required by the State and its Agencies to seize the opportunity and start building Teach An Saol in 2024. What is needed now -

- **Official commitment from the Department of Health and CEDiy, and the HSE**
- **Official commitment by DCC to the building site identified**
- **Direct access to the decision makers in the HSE and Departments**
- **Long-term financial commitment to Teach An Saol with country-wide satellites**

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