

Budget 2026 for Family

Carers - Snapshot



Key Payment Increases **(January 2026)**

- Weekly payments (Carer's Allowance/Benefit; Disability Payments) increase by **€10**. Proportional increases for those on 1/2 rate
- Domiciliary Care Allowance increase by **€20** per month
- Fuel Allowance increase by **€5** per week
- No change to annual Carer Support Grant

Taxation/Means test/ **Grant Changes/Other** **Social Protection**

- Carers Allowance Means Test: Income disregards increase to **€1000/€2000** per week (**July 2026**)
- Working Family Payment income threshold increase by **€60** per week
- Working Family Payment now an eligible payment for Fuel Allowance
- Christmas Bonus will be paid in December

Other Initiatives of Note

- Additional 250 acute and 280 community hospital beds
- 500 additional nursing home places
- Additional 1.7 million home support hours
- €3.8bn in funding to the Department of Children, Disability and Equality for disability services
- 250 new residential places for people with disabilities
- 6,500 funded private assessments for children to address waiting lists
- 150,000 Home Support & Personal Assistant Hours for people with disabilities
- 1,717 additional SNA's & 860 additional SEN teachers
- Additional capacity for 2,800 special schools places