

2024 BUDGET ASK

ASTHMA SOCIETY OF IRELAND



ACCESS TO MEDICATION	DEPARTMENT / AGENCY
<p>1. Universal Subsidisation of Asthma Medications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase affordability of Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (MART) – with specific focus on access to combination inhalers – through the universal subsidisation of asthma medication. Reduce the Drugs Payment Scheme threshold by €8 per month to €72 at a cost of €13.5 million. Abolish all prescription charges for medical card holders in Budget 2024 at a cost of €60 million. <p>2. Increase affordability of severe asthma medication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand national fund for biologic medication for severe asthma to include Anti-IgE and Anti-IL-4/IL-13 biologic treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOF DOH/HSE DSP DPER
INCREASE CAPACITY IN OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM	DEPARTMENT / AGENCY
<p>3. Extend Current Asthma Management Programme to all people with Asthma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand Cycle of Care for under 8s to all people under the age of 18 with or without a GP visit card. Expand access to the Chronic Disease Management Programme to all adults aged 18+ without a GP Visit or GMS Card. Increase capacity at primary healthcare level to deal with additional demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOF DOH/HSE DSP
<p>4. Increase Capacity in our Healthcare System: Recruit Respiratory Specialists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of Advanced Nurse Practitioners WTE posts in 2024 by 112 at a cost of €9,773,008. Allocate funding to increase recruitment of respiratory physiologists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOF DOH/HSE DSP
SUPPORT ASTHMA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES	DEPARTMENT / AGENCY
<p>5. Remove Asthma Triggers from our Air and Homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recalibrate Motor Tax to promote resource energy efficient vehicles and escalate year by year and increase Vehicle Registration Tax percentage rates for all category A vehicles (EU category M1) bands, except the least-polluting band. Increase Carbon Tax by €7.50 in Budget 2024 for an estimated additional VAT exclusive yield of €117 million in 2023 and €152 million in 2024. Allocate €22,000,000 within the current Warmer Homes Scheme towards the retrofitting of 1,000 homes for people with asthma. Invest in the electricity grid so that can transmit and distribute 100% clean renewable energy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOF DOH/HSE DECC DOT DPER
<p>6. Disincentivise smoking and e-cigarettes through taxation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase cost of cigarettes at 50c per pack for an estimated yield of €44.9 million. Introduce taxation measures on all nicotine and tobacco inhaling products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOF DOH/HSE DPER
ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR PATIENT SUPPORT GROUPS	DEPARTMENT / AGENCY
<p>7. Restore pay parity within the Community and Voluntary Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the current pay deficit of 10-12% for staff in these organisations to deliver pay equivalence between Section 39/56/10 organisations and their counterparts in state agencies. Include state-funded charities in public-service pay talks and other relevant fora such as the Workplace Relations Commission to prevent future re-emergence of pay disparities. Include administrative costs in public service contracts. Introduce multi-annual funding to allow for service planning and development. We call on Government in Budget 2024 to guarantee the Asthma Society's ongoing sustainability while we seek to increase our private unrestricted income streams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOF DOH/HSE DPER DRCD