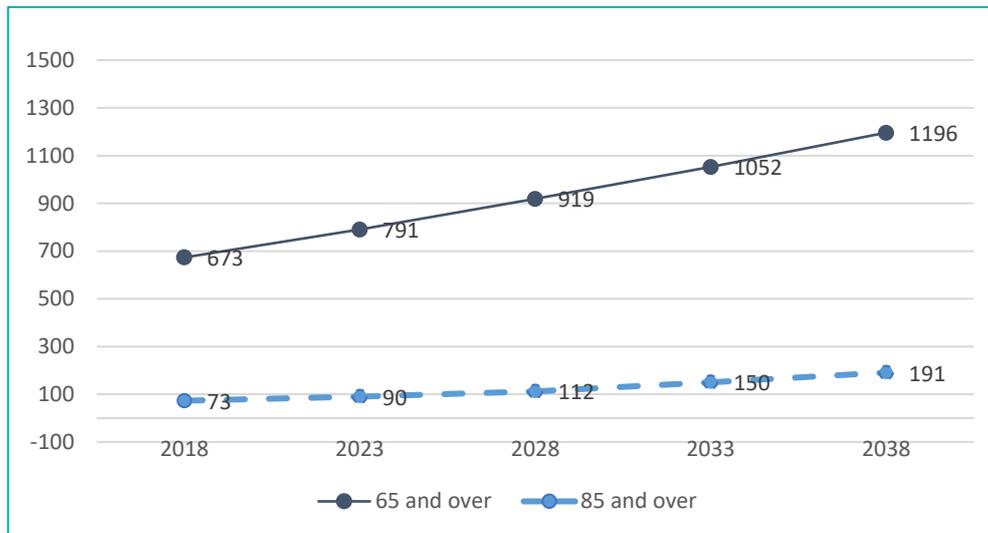


The present situation - a snapshot of some key issues

Ageing

- Our population is growing, and it is ageing which means we need a different approach to healthcare – one we can access in our communities, close to home.
- Those aged 65+ are projected to increase by about 20,000 per year to reach almost 1.2 million by 2038 (an increase of 77 per cent) and those aged 85+ will increase from 73,000 in 2018 to 191,000 by 2038.

Chart 1: Ireland Population Projections - Over 65s and Over 85s (000s), 2018 – 2038



Source: Department of Health

Waiting lists and access to healthcare

- Ireland doesn't offer universal coverage of primary care – access to healthcare is an issue for many.
- Ireland has one of the worst waiting list times in Europe. Even if a waiting-list target of 18 months were reached, Ireland would still have the worst waiting times in Europe.

Table 1: Waiting Lists for Outpatient and Inpatient/Day Case, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019

	Dec 2014	Oct 2016	Oct 2018	Nov 2019
Outpatients				
Total waiting	385,781	438,931	516,363	563,410
Waiting 18+ months	20,474	26,796	86,633	105,502
Inpatient/Day Case				
Total waiting	63,105	79,621	72,001	66,594
Waiting 18+ months	566	4,949	5,625	4,577

Source: National Treatment Purchase Fund, 2019

What type of healthcare system does Ireland need?

To provide an adequate healthcare service focused on enabling people to attain the World Health Organisation's definition of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.



Things a new Government can do to build a healthcare system that sees health as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing

- Increase the availability and quality of Primary Care and Social Care services.
- Ensure that announced budgetary allocations are valid, realistic and transparent and that they take existing commitments into account.
- Institute long-term planning and investment in the healthcare sector, acknowledging the impending demographic changes in Ireland, to ensure that we can cope with these changes.
- Create additional respite care and long-stay care facilities for older people and people with disabilities.
- Focus on obtaining better value for money in the health budget but without unfairly affecting lower income people or those with long-term illness or disability.
- Ensure medical card-coverage for all people who are vulnerable.
- Act effectively to end the current hospital waiting list crisis.
- Create a statutory entitlement to Home Care Services.
- Properly resource and develop mental health services.
- Work towards full universal healthcare for all.
- Ensure that structural and systematic reform of the health system reflects key principles aimed at achieving high performance, person-centred quality of care and value for money in the health service.