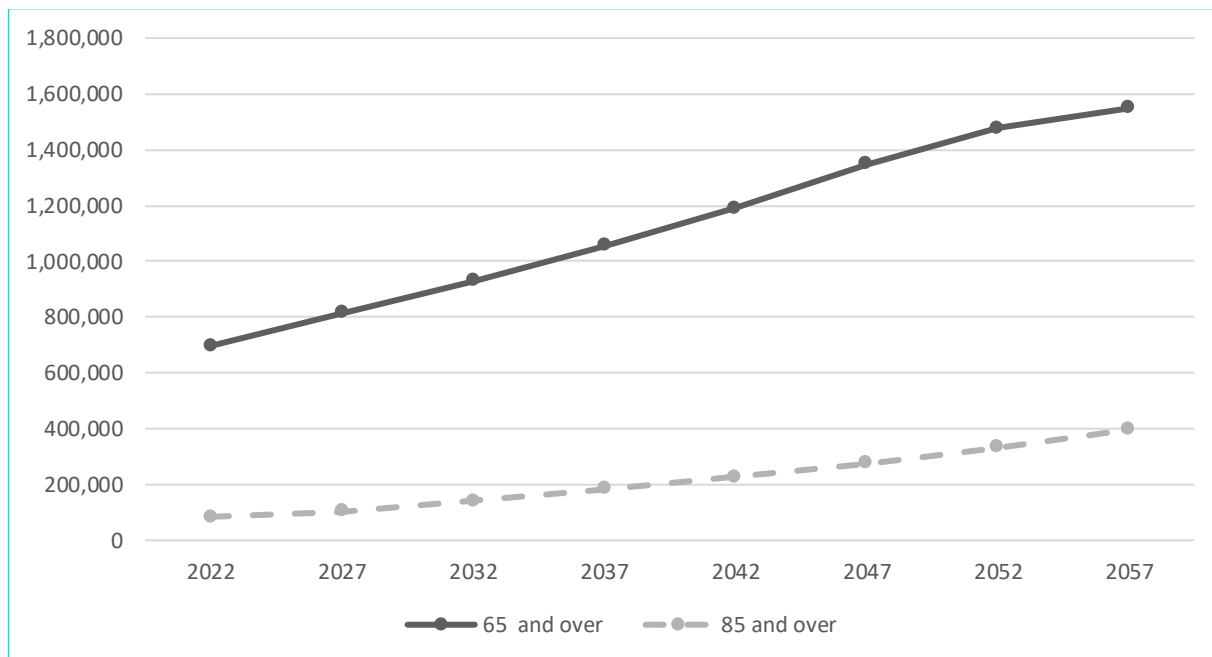


### The present situation - a snapshot of some key issues

#### 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.
- 15 per cent of the population are aged 65 or older, an increase of 22 per cent from Census in 2016.
- Those aged 65+ are projected to number 1.9 million by 2057, including a 371 per cent increase in those aged 85+, from 84,000 to 396,000.

**Chart 1: Ireland Population Projections - Over 65s and Over 85s (000s), 2022 – 2057**



**Source:** Central Statistics Office

#### 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 Treatment: Adults and Children 2014-2023**

	Dec 2014	Nov 2016	Nov 2018	Nov 2020	Nov 2021	Nov 2022	Nov 2023
<b>Outpatients</b>							
Total waiting	385,781	440,629	515,360	612,576	636,695	602,832	580,055
<b>Waiting 18+ months</b>	<b>20,474</b>	<b>29,478</b>	<b>88,361</b>	<b>156,955</b>	<b>165,266</b>	<b>106,051</b>	<b>62,164</b>

---

## Inpatient/Day Case Active Waiting List

---

Total waiting	63,105	81,103	70,989	72,843	75,740	80,232	84,287
Waiting 18+ months	566	4,001	5,413	8,629	11,686	8,207	6,906

---

Source: National Treatment Purchase Fund, 2024

### What type of healthcare system does Ireland need?

**A 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.
- Enhance the process of long-term planning and investment so that the healthcare system can cope with the increase and diversity in population and the ageing of the population projected for coming decades.
- 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.
- Provide capital investment to build additional community nursing facilities, respite care and long-stay care facilities.
- 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.