

HIQA Closes Another Private Nursing Home

STATEMENT FROM ALONE WELCOMING HIQA ANNOUNCEMENT ON AVONDALE PRIVATE NURSING HOME

Court order secured by HIQA to allow the HSE to take over Avondale Nursing Home

(To download this release as a pdf click here [Closure of Avondale Nursing Home](#))

July 22nd, 2011

ALONE, the charity which provides supports for older persons in need, has welcomed the announcement by the HSE that it has taken control of the Avondale Private Nursing Home in Callan, Co. Kilkenny.

“We welcome the action taken by HIQA in relation to this facility, which had been previously assessed by inspectors in 2009. We welcome the dedication of HIQA to maintaining high levels of service in nursing homes, and urge them to continue to be vigilant in this regard,” commented Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE. He continued, “We at ALONE continue to be focused on the wellbeing of older people, and are determined to monitor the increasingly worrying frequency of incidences of the HSE taking control of private nursing homes. We continue to urge all working in the sector to commit to providing excellent levels of service for older people in their care.”

On the issue of the cost of service provision, Moynihan commented, “We at ALONE continue to be alarmed at the remarkably poor level of service in some private nursing homes, particularly given that they are in receipt of substantial sums of money from the State. At a weekly cost per resident of over €870 per week private sector nursing homes are in receipt of significant amounts of taxpayers money. We are astonished that the level of service provision is being found to be so poor in so many situations.”

He continued, “These developments are particularly worrying following the announcement last month by the Minister for Health that fees to private nursing homes are to be cut by €20 million. A spokesman for Nursing Homes Ireland – a representative body for private nursing homes – protested that the 4% increase in fees paid to private nursing homes under the National Treatment Purchase Fund ‘were due to increased demands placed on nursing homes by the Health Information and Quality Authority’.

ALONE again calls for a greater focus on the provision of community services to allow older people, for whom nursing home care is not essential, to remain in their own homes. We also call for the implementation of agreed standards of care in the sector.”

ALONE can be contacted on (01) 679 1032 for anyone with a concern about an older person in need.

ENDS

For further information or to speak with Seán Moynihan, please call Glenn Hogarty on 087 790 9670