

**“Why are older people’s health needs not considered important?”**

*ALONE respond to HIQA clampdown on substandard nursing homes*

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2015, Dublin** ALONE has today expressed disappointment at the level of support the government has given to public nursing homes.

CEO of ALONE, Sean Moynihan said, “ALONE have long been campaigning on the quality of nursing homes and the fact that these public nursing homes are not being sufficiently funded has been highlighted in the media for several years. Health care for our ageing population should be a major priority for this government. The Department of Health and HIQA need to come together and form a detailed plan to resolve the mounting issues.”

Moynihan continued, “We need to view nursing homes as a place for those who have high support needs that cannot be met in their own homes, instead of as warehouses for storing our older people. Over 1/3 of older people currently in nursing homes have low to medium support needs and could be supported to live at home if the government put the proper services in place.”

Moynihan concluded, “To date, this government has ignored the warnings and failed to adequately invest in our public nursing homes. They need to establish comprehensive primary and community care services that will allow people to age in their own homes for as long as possible. The provision of quality health care for older people should not be optional; it is a right and a necessity.”

For more information about ALONE’s Home First campaign visit: [www.alone.ie/home-first-campaign](http://www.alone.ie/home-first-campaign)