

The postponement of the pilot **Statutory Home Care Scheme** in 2020 due to Covid-19 was a disappointment. We look forward to the commencement of the pilot in 2021. The right to be cared for in their own homes is the wish of all Older People.

OVER 70 FULL MEDICAL CARD Eligibility Limits

The changes committed to in **BUDGET 2020** are now effective from November 2020 details as follows:
Single person income limit increased by **€50 to €550** per week.
For a Couple income limit increased by **€150 to €1050** per week.

DISCRETIONARY MEDICAL CARDS

The HSE review is complete and awaiting comment and action by the Department of Health to extend their provision to those with a terminal illness.

DRUGS PAYMENT SCHEME

The monthly threshold for this **SCHEME** will be reduced from **€124 to €114** (effective **September 2020**).

PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

The changes committed to in **BUDGET 2020** are now effective from **November 2020** as follows: Reduction of **.50 cents per item** to bring the charge to **€1** for those aged **over 70 with a full medical card** with a cap of **€10** and for **under 70s** to **€1.50** with a cap of **€15**.

FAMILY CARERS

The number of hours a carer can work or study each week outside the home remains at **18.5 hours**.

HOME CARE HOURS

The number of available hours will increase by **5 million hours**.

HOME CARERS

The tax credit increases by **€100** for Carers from **€1,500 to €1,600** from **June 2021**

TAX CHANGES BUDGET 2021

UNIVERSAL SOCIAL CHARGE (USC)

Incomes of **€13,000** or less will continue to be **exempt**.
Increase in second rate band from **€20,484 to €20,687**
Full-time worker on minimum wage will remain outside the USC's top rate.

SELF EMPLOYED EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

This tax credit will increase from **€1500 to €1650**.

CAPITAL ACQUISITION TAX

No Change.

EXCISE DUTIES

The excise duty on a packet of 20 cigarettes has increased by **50cents** (inc.VAT) with a pro rata increase on other tobacco products from 14th Oct.

CARBON TAX

Effective 14th October the following applies

- €7.50 per tonne of CO₂,
- petrol (increases to €619.36 per 1,000 litres)
- auto-diesel (increases to €515.38 per 1,000 litres)

MOTOR TAX

There will be no changes to the **pre-2008 system**, the 'most polluting' cars in the post-2008 group will have higher rates of tax from the 1st of January 2021. This applies only to cars that have CO₂ emissions ratings of higher than 141g/km (the current Band C).

HOUSING

We support the initiatives to address evictions of people, impacted by the loss of work due to Covid 19. The housing situation in Ireland is difficult for families with adult children remaining at home due to increased costs of houses.

NATIONAL TREATMENT PURCHASE FUND

The Budget increased the Fund by **€30 million** to reduce waiting lists. Total Budget now **€130 million**

COVID 19

The latest restrictions of **Level 5**, introduced by the Government for a period of six weeks, is creating anxiety for many older people. Not only for them, but also for their families and loved ones. Families with loved ones in **Nursing homes** are particularly upset and sad at the manner in which visits have been restricted and or curtailed completely.

We encourage people to use the community supports that are in place for shopping and chemist deliveries, to exercise in as much as they are able to and to keep in touch with friends and family through phone and email or whatever method works best for them.

Every effort is made to ensure that all information in relation to Budget 2021 is correct at time of going to press. The ISCP cannot accept responsibility for errors. The Finance and Social Protection Bills to give effect to Budget 2020 have not yet been fully passed by the Oireachtas. If there are changes arising from their adoption, we will notify you in our next correspondence.