



Home Sharing: Support from Wonderful Families

by Audrey Reilly



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Sincere thanks to Professor Patrick Dolan PhD, NUIG for taking the time to write the foreword.

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Home Sharing: Support from Wonderful Families

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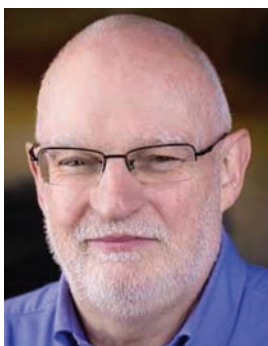
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The Front Cover:

Patricia Scott, described by her Murphy Home Sharing family as a ‘warrior’ with her big blue eyes and radiant, dazzling smile who wakes up every morning with a big smile on her face.

The Back Cover:

The numbers on the map on the back cover refer to the page numbers in the text.



Foreword

For many of us, having the capacity to access the support of others is crucial to our capacity both to survive and to thrive in life. Supporting others and support from others is the '*bread and butter*' of human relationships. Whereas emotional support from others is helpful, practical 'hands on' tangible support is so vital. For families living with the challenges and joys of having a family member with an intellectual disability, the support of a programme like Home Sharing at crucial and regulated times is invaluable. It is empathy in action and it has value that goes way beyond respite for parent(s) themselves and or other family members, which is crucial.

This is why this publication, *Home Sharing: Support from Wonderful Families*, from Audrey Reilly is so timely and invaluable. It not alone provides testimonial evidence on the positive power of a Home Sharing programme but from host supporters we learn of the benefits they gain and how they benefit so much from their volunteering.

Audrey has been able to capture the power of the voice of Patricia's Mum and the main Home Sharing Murphy Family. This is an invaluable achievement of this publication. It is not just informative, it is advocacy in action and a treasure, read on and enjoy!

Professor Pat Dolan

UNESCO Chair and Director Institute for Lifecourse and Society

National University of Galway, Ireland

June, 2021



Author

Audrey Reilly was born and reared in Renmore, Galway. Remaining in Renmore until she married, she moved then to live in Menlo, Co Galway. Audrey trained in the area of Social Care in the 1980's, graduating with an Honours Master's Degree in Family Support in the National University of Ireland Galway in 2009.



Audrey began her career in the area of Care by working with members of the travelling community alongside adults with physical disabilities for a period of four years. She began working in the area of disability in 1986. Audrey worked initially in Community Respite Provision with children and adults before moving on to managing a Day Service for adults.

In 1999 while remaining in the field of disability Audrey was successful in securing the role of Respite Coordinator with her former employer in Galway, Ability West. Her role involved coordinating various aspects of respite provision for families including centre based, Home Sharing, Family Support and individualised packages.

In 2016, Audrey moved Services and is currently employed as TURAS Family Support Team Leader managing a team of 30 staff who together support packages of care to over 200 individuals through Home Sharing, Family Support and Individualised Packages of Care. Audrey is currently joint Chairperson of the National Home Sharing Network (NHSN) an important and innovative Network.

Audrey is completely committed to her role and is driven by identifying optimal support packages for families. She believes that *TURAS* Support Service is an essential element of the model of services offered by the Brothers of Charity West Region and that the support offered via *TURAS* works really effectively due to the commitment of the staff team.



Introduction

'Home Sharing: Support from Wonderful Families' gives a detailed account of Patricia Scott's Home Sharing journey from 2007 when as a six year old she was entrusted by her devoted parents to the care of the Murphy family who shared their home with her on Wednesday nights. The story of Patricia's journey is told from then until May 2021 as the Murphy family developed and extended their caring role starting as a 'Home Sharing Family', then becoming a 'Contract Family' and finally becoming a 'Shared Living' family now sharing their home with Patricia year round. Out of respect for Patricia's privacy the names of the Scott and Murphy family are pseudonyms. Ability West in Galway provided exemplary supports, administrative and multidisciplinary inputs and have overseen every aspect of the arrangements until Patricia reached eighteen years of age when, now an adult, she transferred seamlessly to the Brothers of Charity Services in Galway which provides a similar range of exemplary supports.

Many Home Sharing families remain as Home Sharers, hosting a guest one or two weekends per month or perhaps one day per week while some families are happy to extend their involvement as the Murphy family have done. Home Sharing is gradually becoming a more popular option in other counties and in other Services - and six families have kindly allowed us to use their photographs with a brief caption giving a summary of their generous Home Sharing.

This Home Sharing journey is told from the heart arising from discussions with Patricia's Mum and the main Home Sharing Murphy Family. Editing has been kept to a minimum to allow the reader to experience the depth of emotion and feelings involved.



Patricia Scott and her Family

Patricia Scott was born to her Mum and Dad on 10th May 2001, her due date having been five days later. On that day, Mum noticed baby's activity was quiet in her womb and contacted her local GP who advised her to go to the hospital. Dad immediately drove Mum to University College Hospital Galway (UCHG) and while being assessed in the hospital, Dad noticed that their unborn baby's heart monitor was going very slowly. Although Dad brought this to the attention of the attending Doctor he was still not happy with things and insisted that Mum was sent for a Caesarean Section. Patricia was born at 39.4 weeks of her gestation. To this day, Mum believes that if Dad had not insisted on a Caesarean Section, Patricia would have been stillborn.

Mum and Patricia remained in hospital for two weeks after her birth. While Mum was cared for in the maternity unit, Patricia remained in Intensive Care (ICU) and Dad stayed with Patricia throughout this period. Mum had to remain in the hospital to recover following Patricia developing a neonatal brain haemorrhage between 24 and 78 hours before she was born.

Patricia was born with a profound intellectual disability, along with having both physical and visual impairment meaning that Patricia would require 24-hour care for her lifetime in order for all of her needs to be met.

Mum describes her family as very quiet and very private. In the early years of Patricia's life, she would become highly irritable with any high level of noise and her parents were very careful not to make noise when she was asleep as even things like flushing the toilet could have a huge impact on Patricia. At that time, Mum and Dad held off on seeking any form of support, due to Patricia's high level of sensitivity. Her parents felt that as it was difficult enough for them to cope, what would it be like for another family. However, with the support and encouragement from their then social worker, Sarah, they were gradually convinced to look openly at Home Sharing as a model of support - this is what brought them to where they are today. Mum reflects that as a coping mechanism, their husband-wife relationship went into a partner mode rather than couple mode. She says this coping mechanism puts a huge strain on a loving relationship.



Patricia's Mum says everything changed as the focus was on Patricia's care and wellbeing.

When Patricia was just four months old Mum returned to work, the day of her return coincided with the tragedy of 'September 9/11' and that ill-fated day affected Mum even more than Patricia's birth! Mum worked part-time from then on, while Dad was Patricia's main carer. Mum felt that 2001 was '*a complete and total nightmare*' and even now, she doesn't like looking at pictures of the New York skyline.

As a family, Mum reflects, they could have looked at caring for Patricia from a selfish point of view and put their own needs first. However, they chose to look at her with a religious frame of mind. Patricia was given to them for a reason and they needed to be her judge, jury and advocate. Mum adds that her husband was brilliant with Patricia and accepted her immediately while for Mum it would take almost a full year before she reached the same stage of acceptance.



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'Knowing that a family is getting a well deserved break through Home Share is what it's all about - for us it's like gaining a new family member.'
Sandra Doyle, Co Clare Home Share Host



The Murphy Family

September 2007 brought significant change to the lives of the Murphy family when their only child moved away from the family home to start her college life. It was at this time that an advertisement in the Galway Advertiser caught their eye. The ad was searching for Home Sharing families who had the capacity to offer respite and share their lives with guests with an intellectual disability.

Becoming a Home Sharing Family

At the time, they thought this may be something they could do, sharing their home with someone who needed respite for one weekend per month. The result was that they attended the Home Sharing training and followed the Home Sharing recruitment process all of which they found very helpful in learning and understanding what would be expected of them. The Home Sharing assessment process followed when Social Worker, Margaret Murray came to visit their home on a number of occasions to learn what experiences had shaped them in becoming the individuals they were then. Not long after completing the assessment, they were informed that they were approved by the Home Sharing panel to become a Home Sharing family and received a call to determine if they would be interested in sharing their home with Patricia Scott. Patricia was then six years old, and following a 14-year relationship she now lives with the Murphy's fulltime as a Home Sharing 'Shared Living' guest. Patricia, along with her parents were already familiar with this Home Sharing family as they were from the same locality, however any intimate knowledge of their family life was unknown to the Murphy's, then just a newly recruited Home Sharing family.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) is responsible for services for individuals with an intellectual disability in County Galway. In practice, service provision is shared between two organisations - Ability West and the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland (BOCSI). For children, the organisation that provides the Service depends on where the child attends school. Adult service provision is divided on a geographical basis depending on the location of the family home. Patricia attended



Baibín and Ído and their Home Sharing guest enjoying a day out in Brigit's Garden, Oughterard, Co Galway.



Tígh Nan Dooley which is an Irish Speaking special school located in Carraroe, Co Galway under the patronage of Ability West. Accordingly it was Ability West which offered services to Patricia and her family until her eighteenth birthday.

From eighteen years of age onwards, due to Patricia's home address, her services were provided by BOCSI. The Social Worker linked to Patricia's family for many years leading up to her eighteenth birthday was initially Sarah R, followed by Fiona McNulty, both employed by Ability West. It was Sarah who developed a close working relationship with Patricia and her family in the early years, as Ability West supported the family with all areas of her care needs - including multidisciplinary, school, and respite services.

It was Sarah's great understanding and experience as a social worker that gave Patricia's family the trust and courage to consider respite for Patricia at the very young age of six years. Subsequently, many professionals continue to be involved in Patricia's life and all are extremely supportive in meeting her needs and her family's needs. These individuals are not limited to her physiotherapist, Renjith Joseph and school principal, Delia, who have both been very strong and positive influences in advocating for Patricia and her family over many years.

The introductory process involved the Home Sharing family being supported by their link social worker to meet Patricia and her parents. This introduction took place in Patricia's school, Tígh Nan Dooley which provides education to pupils with special educational needs who may have moderate, severe or profound general learning difficulties, or autistic spectrum disorder.

The Home Sharing family's initial description of Patricia was of a child with big blue eyes and a smiling face. Patricia was a child with significant physical needs, a wheelchair user, nonverbal and fed by means of a nasal gastric tube who relied on other people to support her for all her daily living skills. At that time, the Murphy family did not have any understanding of a nasal gastric tube and its mechanisms. As part of their learning, they were afforded as much time as was needed in Tígh Nan Dooley to gain an understanding through demonstration of how to



The Ryan family from Noonan Road, Cork whose son Eoghán is shown here having lots of outdoor fun visiting local amenities across the County, while spending his fortnightly Home Share break with the Gee Family from Donnybrook, Cork.



support her feeding regime. They also spent significant time in Patricia's family home where her Mum and Dad demonstrated all aspects of her care needs. The Murphy family describe this process as being the best way to learn how to support a Home Sharing Guest, especially one with such a range of complex needs.

Patricia began her Home Sharing Journey by initially staying with the Murphy family for a few hours and gradually progressed to overnight stays. She was six years of age and her baby brother James had just been welcomed into her family. The Home Sharing family describe her first overnight as terrifying - they remember standing in their hall all night, watching over Patricia.

Patricia suffers from significant scoliosis and because of this, in the early months, the Home Sharing Murphy family had a profound fear that they might hurt Patricia when attending to her needs. They were helped to overcome this fear through encouragement to spend time with Patricia in her school, particularly when she was in receipt of her physiotherapy programme. The Home Sharing Murphy family say that watching the Physiotherapist, Renjith, working so expertly with Patricia alleviated any fears that they had of hurting her. Training in Patricia's care needs continues to this day. Home Sharing with the Murphy family started on a regular basis at one overnight per week with Patricia.

In December 2008 the Murphy family were introduced to their second Home Sharing Guest, Bríd, who had somewhat similar care needs as Patricia's. The Murphy family went on to support Bríd for two weekends every month.

Becoming a Contract Family

In 2009, the Home Sharing Service supported the Murphy family to make some adaptations to their family home to support the Home Sharing placements they were providing. The adaptations included widening their bathroom door, the installation of ceiling tracking and providing a Hi-Lo bed. These adaptations made a significant difference to the support that the Murphy family were offering at the time. With the significantly improved adaptations they progressed from providing short



Developing a wonderful positive relationship between a Home Sharing family and their guest is key to a successful match. This photo of Home Sharer Mado and her guest Tracey captures this beautifully.



Home Sharing breaks to becoming a 'Home Sharing Contract Family.' This involved the Murphys committing to providing Home Sharing for ten nights or more every month to a number of guests.

The Murphy family reflect that they felt their lives were fulfilled through Home Sharing. They described their house as being 'wrong without their guests', the silence when they were not hosting was deafening. Their regret is that they did not know about Home Sharing ten years earlier. Their Home Sharing Contract Family journey continued successfully with supporting eight other individuals.

Patricia continued to come to stay with the Murphy family every Wednesday night, never missing a night. Along with spending every Wednesday with the Murphy family, Patricia was also matched with a second Home Sharing Family - the Donoghue family, where she availed of two weekends per month. Gaelige is her first language and happily Irish is also the first language of both the Murphy and Donoghue Home Sharing families. This allows Patricia to be comfortable when in their care. When asked, Patricia's family describe the support offered by the two Home Sharing families as their 'twin towers.' They described Patricia as part of their Home Sharing families' extended family and said that the way they supported Patricia was really great. Both Home Sharing families are at the top of their Christmas card list.

Sadly, in 2013, Patricia's mum received a cancer diagnosis resulting in Patricia requiring fulltime care through Home Sharing for a period of approximately 18 months. The service was in the very fortunate position that both Home Sharing families expressed a willingness to enhance the Home Sharing offered in order to ensure that she was cared for solely between both families. These two families worked closely together when scheduling the nights that they could offer to Patricia while being mindful that one of the families continued to host other guests alongside Patricia. Thankfully, her Mum made a full recovery and Patricia returned home while continuing to avail of enhanced Home Sharing alongside support from Ability West in the family home in the mornings before school and at bedtime.



The O'Keefe family from Glanmire, Co Cork whose daughter Hollie is shown here enjoying her fortnightly seaside Home Sharing break on her favourite beach with her host family John Ruth and Paula Horrobin, Youghal, Co Cork



In October 2017, one of Patricia's Home Sharing families went on a family holiday for a fortnight. To support Patricia's family over this period, Ability West arranged for Patricia to receive centre-based support in a respite centre. It was during this period that Patricia's family received devastating news that her father had been diagnosed with cancer having already recovered from prostate cancer the previous year. Patricia was also admitted to UCHG with a suspected chest infection. She received treatment for the infection and was ready to be discharged into her family's care. However, due to her Dad's diagnosis and following illness, the family situation had changed. Naturally, Mum's wish was to support her husband throughout his illness and she felt she could not do this and meet all of Patricia's care needs on her own. As a result, Patricia remained in hospital for a period of 7 months due to requiring fulltime care, as there was no alternative option of care at that time for someone with her extensive needs despite multiple exploratory efforts.

Sadly, Patricia's dad passed away on 8th February 2018, at the untimely young age of 63 after only eight days in Galway Hospice. Mum would say that it is her one regret that she was not able to fix her husband when he became ill himself, although she is aware that there is nothing more that she could have done for him. All of a sudden a family of 4, Mum, Dad, Patricia and James had turned into a family of 2, Mum and James.

Becoming a Shared Living Family

During this period Ability West, submitted a business case to the HSE indicating the funding that would be required to recruit a skilled Home Sharing Shared Living Family to care for Patricia on a fulltime basis. One of her two current Home Sharing Families, the Murphy's, indicated their interest, while being aware that the other guests that they were supporting would be displaced to alternative Home Sharing families or perhaps return to the Home Sharing waiting list. Patricia was almost eighteen years old at this point and due to transition to the BOCSI on her eighteenth birthday. The Head of Social Work in Ability West initiated discussions with the Team Leader of *TURAS* Family and Community Services of the BOCSI regarding the transition of services and the appetite of the *TURAS* service to manage the Shared Living placement up to



'If we do good to others whether we give time, money or anything else we generally think of it as a humanitarian act on behalf of the recipients. It's the other way around to me and my family. We have Home Shared since 2009 and in doing so we learned our very purposes here on earth. Our guest gives us light and guidance and shows us how we can make our lives truly meaningful. We are very thankful to Homeshare in Clare for giving us an opportunity to experience a life that is worth living... to serve someone that is in need.' Paz

Maglaque, Home Share host.



Patricia's eighteenth birthday and thereafter. This was also due to the fact that the support supervision and coordination of the Murphy family was already being managed successfully by the BOCSI Home Sharing Team. As a result, Patricia moved in to live with her Home Sharing Contract Family, the Murphy's, on a Shared Living basis in May 2018.

The Murphy's would say that the hardest thing about progressing to become a Shared Living Family having supported many individuals over time is letting the other guests go. Patricia lived with her Shared Living family on a Monday to Friday basis and three weekends of every month. Patricia availed of centre-based respite for one weekend a month in a BOCSI children's respite service up to her eighteenth birthday transitioning to a BOCSI Adult Respite Service from the age of eighteen. Patricia continued to visit her family home every Saturday, where her grandparents, mother and brother James spent precious time with her.

Sadly in December 2019, the Shared Living family experienced loss with the Shared Living Husband, Martin Murphy, suddenly passing away. However the Shared Living Mum along with her daughter agreed to continue as a Shared Living family.

Patricia experiences regular chest infections often developing into pneumonia, probably due to her deteriorating scoliosis and lung capacity. In November 2019, she was taken to hospital suffering a significant chest infection which greatly concerned the doctors treating her. She was prescribed a two week course of an intravenous antibiotic and returned to the care of the Murphy family.

Over Christmas 2019, Patricia suffered another very harmful chest infection, again resulting in a hospital admission. It was on this occasion and now being treated as an adult in UCHG that she was prescribed a Bi-Pap machine which if administered daily for a minimum period of four hours would support her lung capacity and hopefully reduce the number of chest infections that she was experiencing. The Murphy family support her to use the Bi-Pap machine for a period of eight hours daily, administered throughout the night. However, this in turn requires the Shared Living family to set the alarm for 4am to turn off the machine and remove the mask from Patricia's face. The Shared Living family believes



Declan Cooke with his Home Sharing contract Family. The Home Sharing hosts are Christy and Breege Dineen, from Castlerea, Co. Roscommon. This photo was taken at a family Christening. It includes Christy and Breege, their seven children and Declan. Declan commenced Home Sharing with Christy and Breege in October 2011. He settled in rapidly to the family home and this developed into a fulltime placement for Declan in December 2011. This arrangement has been very satisfactory to all involved.



this machine is working very effectively as Patricia has experienced a chest infection on only four occasions over a 14 month period, when in the past she would have developed chest infections on a monthly basis. While getting up every night could be described as a strain on the Shared Living family, they describe it as nothing at all in comparison *‘to a Big House (Hospital) admission and attempts to get blood from Patricia along with the hospital experience.’*

Being a hospital patient is very traumatic for Patricia due to her level of need. She requires continuous, full time care and hospitals are not well equipped to provide this. As a result, Patricia relies on those that know her best to communicate her needs to the medical teams. From observations of Patricia while in hospital, she is most content when someone she knows is by her side - and those close to her would make every effort to be with Patricia at all times during hospital admissions. Without doubt this takes its toll on Patricia and on those who care for her.

In the words of the Murphy family, Patricia is a ‘warrior’ with her big blue eyes and radiant, dazzling smile. She wakes up every morning with a big smile on her face and even smiles when she is ill. Although Patricia is nonverbal, she has no problem communicating her wants and needs, using her facial expressions and vocalisations. She has been through many illnesses in her lifetime and has always come out the other side stronger and braver.

Patricia is at her happiest in the company of others and loves being the centre of attention at all times. She always wants music playing in the background and likes listening to Radió na Gaeltachta. She enjoys watching soccer on TV and gets very excited when Liverpool score a goal! Getting her nails polished and being pampered with facials and massages are her favourite things as well as going for ‘walks’ and feeling the breeze on her face. For Patricia, a warm, bubbly bath is total bliss, where she enjoys kicking and splashing.

Bruach na Mara Service, Carraroe, managed by the BOCSI is located in South Connemara in the heart of the Gaeltacht. Bruach na Mara is the Day Service Patricia attended before the arrival of Covid on a five day week basis. Bruach na Mara’s vision is that of a high standard of service delivery



based on a person-centred service which focuses on supporting individuals to achieve their personal outcomes with an emphasis placed on each individual adult's rights. Participation in the local rural community in the Gaeltacht area is of vital importance as Gaeilge is the primary language spoken.

Before Covid, Patricia received respite one weekend per month in Eden House in Ballybane, Galway, an adult respite service. The aim of Eden House is to provide a homely environment for the people supported, encouraging real choices over the day-to-day issues that are a part of all our lives. Patricia had just begun to experience adult centre-based respite when Covid began and in order to reduce her contacts and keep her safe she has not re-engaged in either respite or day service provision. She has remained with her Shared Living family on a 24-hour basis since March 2020. Patricia will resume her visits home, her day service provision and centre-based respite when it is adjudged that it is safe to do so. Her mum would say that it is important that she gets the chance to experience life in other environments and with other people. While Covid has been very isolating for many, the Shared Living family and Patricia have had little or no difficulty with this. They have an army of support who deliver shopping, medications and call to their window to say 'Hello.' They describe support from the Home Sharing team, Day Service Team, Dieticians, Physiotherapists, Occupational Health and Public Health, and other professionals as tremendous. Patricia's health has been amazing over Covid and she appears to be completely content.

Patricia and her Shared Living Family received their first Covid vaccination in February/March 2021 and it is planned that visits to Patricia's family home will have resumed in June when the second vaccinations have been received.

Patricia's mum would say that for her, the beauty of having her daughter living close by, is that she can look across the lake from her house and see the Shared Living family's conservatory. She says that she can pop down to visit Patricia at any time and this provides her with great solace in knowing that her daughter is happy and safe. This arrangement works very well for now for both families. Mum describes the Shared Living family as 'Gods angels on this earth' along with everyone involved in Patricia's care. All this is worth more than any gold to them as a family.



Now an adult, Patricia may be described as a young woman who needs full 24-hour, 7-day support in all areas of her day-to-day care needs. She is non-ambulant, nonverbal, and has highly complex medical needs. She requires and uses a peg-feed system for all her nutrition and requires a Pap-Mask at night. Home Sharing, Contract Family and Shared Living Supports have served Patricia outstandingly well over her lifetime to date and we are grateful to Patricia, her own family and the families who have supported her for allowing us to tell her deeply personal story to illustrate these three systems and the structures which underpin them. She is the sunshine of her Shared Living family's lives and has brought so much happiness into their home. They consider themselves blessed, and there is clear evidence of Patricia's contentment and happiness.

In Conclusion

For anyone who takes the time to read this story, I hope you pause in thought to understand what many families experience in their life's journey if they have a child with a disability. Emily Perl Kingsley describes her experience eloquently in her 1987 Essay, 'Welcome to Holland.'

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability – to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this. When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip – to Italy. You buy a bunch of guidebooks and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum, the Michelangelo David, the gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting. After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland?!" you say. "What do you mean, Holland??" I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy. But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to some horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a



different place.

So you must go out and buy a new guidebook. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around...and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills... and Holland has tulips, Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy, and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life you will say, "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

The pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever, go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss.

But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things... about Holland.

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Acknowledgements

Firstly, thank you to Patricia's wonderful family who willingly shared their story. You are an amazing and inspirational family. To the Murphy and Donoghue family along with all Home Sharing families - our sincere thanks for your continued commitment to Home Sharing. To the Doyle,



Maglaque, Ruth & Horrobin, Ryan, Dineen and Segahunga Home Sharing families and their guests and supporting teams in Clare, Cork, Galway and Roscommon we are really grateful to you for sharing your photos and their warm captions.

To Home Sharing teams both past and present of Ability West and the Brothers of Charity Services, your commitment to Home Sharing and its development knows no bounds. You have made the description of Home Sharing easier to portray through your work in Home Sharing over the years. Your continued dedication to this model of support helps make it what it is today. To the Home Sharing Panel - you are always there to show your support and encouragement.

To Audrey Pidgeon and Eamon Loughrey and their Management teams of Ability West and The Brothers of Charity Services, thank you for your continued support of Home Sharing as a model of support for the families we work to support on a daily basis. To the staff of Tígh Nan Dooley, Bruach Na Mara, Crannóg, Whitestrand Lodge, Eden House along with colleagues in Ability West & BOCSI multi-disciplinary and administrative teams – sincere thanks for supporting Patricia's family in their journey to date. A special thanks to the National Home Sharing Network, which continues to offer support and guidance to Home Sharing Schemes locally, nationally and internationally.

To the TURAS Family and Community Support wider staff team, you are all amazing in your response to family need. Collectively, our day-to-day work allows us to show gratitude for life and all the peaks and troughs that it presents. Particularly, since we were forced to meet with the challenge of Covid-19, you all responded so positively and met this challenge face on, ensuring that the families we support were our priority at all times.

To Declan Cooke, Jodie Healy, Jenny Joyce, Gillian Lane, Nollaig Lavin, Una Nagle, Clare O'Connell, Michelle O'Connor, Michael Reen and Martina Rynne, thanks for the time, energy and expertise you have used to assist so many aspects of this work, I hope all of you realise how much your valued contribution to this booklet has been appreciated.

Thanks to Patrick McGinley, Series Editor, for the plan, layout and design of the Booklet and for his support throughout.



A Celebration of Quality in the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland

While fully recognising the need for continuous Service improvement, this Series celebrates the achievements of people supported by the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland. It recognises, respects and applauds the tremendous commitment of every member of staff who - working individually and as team members in cooperation with the people we support, and with families, volunteers and local communities - achieve wonderful, sometimes amazing, outcomes. We are happy to celebrate the level of success achieved in implementing the Mission of the Brothers of Charity, *'Providing quality services to support people who are in danger of being marginalised... and creating opportunities and choices that develop and maintain connected lives where all are cherished as valued and equal citizens in our communities.'*

Patrick McGinley, Series Editor

In this Series

Barrett, L. (2021). *SLT out of the Clinic and into Daily Life: Innovative Speech and Language Therapy approaches promoting the use of AAC*. Clarinbridge, Co Galway, H91 K2E9: Peter Triest Publications.

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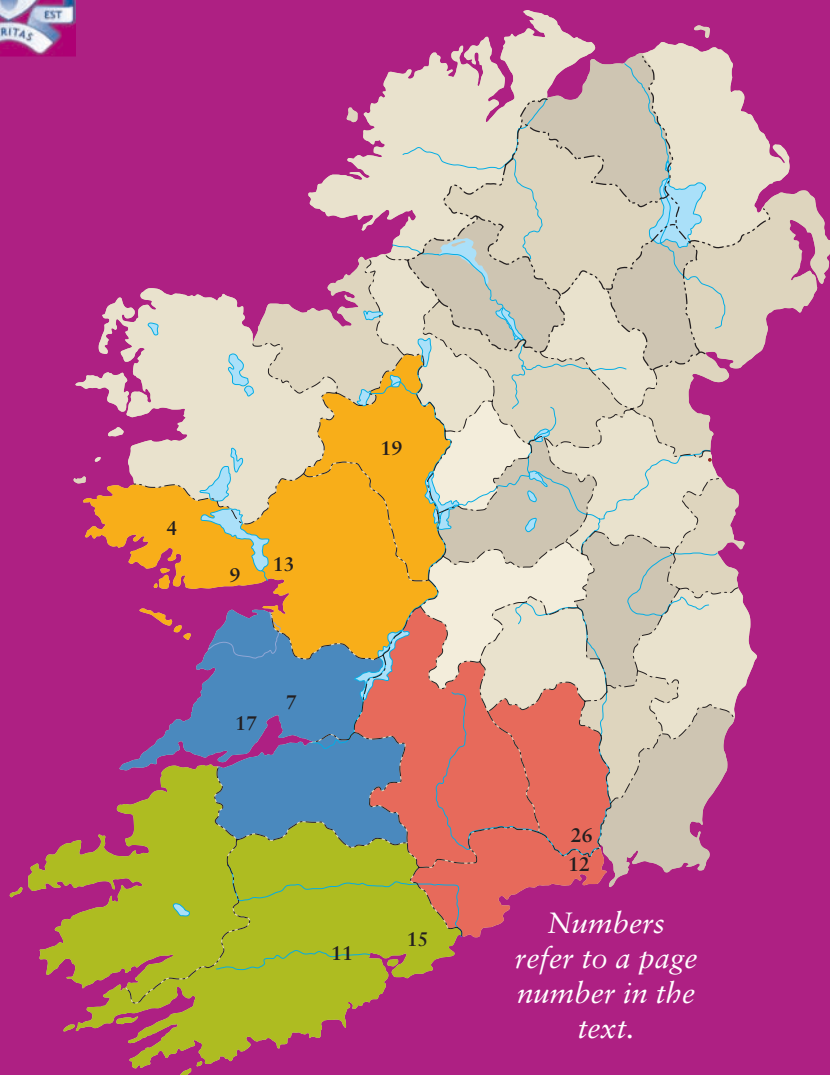
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Over 8,400 men, women and children received support from the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland in 2020, with over 4,300 employees (about 3,500 wte) making it the largest provider of support services for people with intellectual disability in Ireland.