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Naughten says home help shortage is a 'scandal'

Local TD Denis Naughten has again highlight the serious shortage of home help support for new applicants or those applying for additional hours, describing it as "a national scandal".

"In order to prioritise a case for home help, local staff have been directed to only provide hours in emergency situations where a person is 'actively dying'," stated Denis Naughten. "This is causing serious difficulties for those caring for the sick and elderly people as well as the health professionals who are trying to assist families in every way possible with very restricted resources.

"The HSE policy is one of cutting off their nose to spite their face, as these cuts to home help services will force older people from their homes and into hospitals which are struggling to cope with the significant cuts they are already facing.

"Older people who do end up being forced into hospital will then be forced to

remain there because the reduced home help hours will mean they won't have the support necessary to be discharged home.

"While the Government tries to distance itself from the HSE the fact remains that it is the Government which hands over the money and whoever pays the piper calls the tune. This is yet another example of the Government's policy to target those most in need who cannot shout for themselves, while financially supporting big bankers and developers.

"Furthermore, the Government parties refuse to compel their members to surrender Ministerial pensions, which in itself could save €700,000 – money that would be far better spent on supporting home helps.

"Now the elderly and other patients who need help at home are in the firing line as they continue to heap pain on those least able to take it."



Congratulations to brother and sister Christopher and Sarah Hurley from Knockcroghery who took part in the All-Ireland Irish Dancing Championships last weekend in the Citywest Hotel, Dublin, where Christopher won first place in his U18 award and Sarah came in fourth place in her U12 award. Christopher and Sarah are from the Shannon Academy Irish Dancing School and would like to thank their teachers Una, Colette, Sinead and Peter for all the support, dedication and encouragement they received over the last year.

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Family and friends thanked at official opening of Roscommon Lawnmowers

Family, friends and local agencies that helped Hal and Sinead Moran in the business start-up process for Roscommon Lawnmowers were thanked by Peter Wrafter, retired CEO of Roscommon Enterprise Board, as he conducted a draw at a recent open day at Roscommon Lawnmowers, Fourmilehouse, Roscommon.

"I want to thank Hal and Sinead for asking me to make this draw at their opening today. I want, on behalf of Hal and Sinead, to thank all of you for coming to this opening and giving your support to Roscommon Lawnmowers. I know Hal and Sinead would want to especially thank their families, friends and neighbours for supporting them in starting their business.

"They would also want to thank Roscommon County Enterprise Board for its support through business start-up advice, business courses and the supply of mentors to help with specific business needs. Thanks also go to Roscommon Integrated Development Company for its support and to the Roscommon People for its advertorial support.

"I just want to add two things to this. Firstly, I found it easy while with the Roscommon County Enterprise Board to work with Hal and Sinead because they really wanted to learn. Secondly, I want to say that they have made my life easier because since Hal serviced my lawnmower, it starts first-time and never gives a moment's trouble! Best wishes to Roscommon Lawnmowers," concluded Mr. Wrafter.



WE HAVE A WINNER ... Peter Wrafter (formerly Roscommon County Enterprise Board) selects a winner for the Roscommon Lawnmowers in-store draw that took place recently. The winner received a Snapper lawnmower with a retail price of €700. Picture: Andrew Fox.



Pictured at Roscommon Lawnmowers recently were Shannon and Sophie Moran. Picture: Andrew Fox.



Hal Moran, Roscommon Lawnmowers, pictured with the winner of the in-store customer draw. Tyrone Coyne. Tyrone won a Snapper lawnmower valued at €700. The draw took place recently. Picture: Andrew Fox.