



# WHO CARES?

**SIMON WEEK 2025**

22nd – 26th September



Simon Week 2025 is proudly supported by:

**CASH & CARRY KITCHENS**

# Why Simon Week Matters:

In the face of rising homelessness, growing public frustration, and mounting political promises, Simon Week 2025 asks a simple, provocative question:

**Who Cares?**

**We do.**

We care about **moving people out of homelessness**. We care about **affordable rents, housing with supports**, and **ending the trauma** of housing insecurity before it begins.

This year, Simon Week shines a spotlight on the 2030 target to end homelessness — calling for real cross-government action and serious investment in frontline solutions.



## Key Messages to Public Representatives

### What We Care About in Budget 2026:

- **Value for Money**  
NGO-led homeless services offer expertise, trust, and efficiency. But without **full cost recovery**, the sector cannot keep delivering.
- **Smart Investment**  
Funding must go toward **prevention, housing-led solutions**, and **wraparound supports** – not just crisis responses.
- **Systemic Impact**  
Budget 2026 must deliver across health, social protection, and housing – ensuring **joined-up action** to prevent people falling through the cracks.

# Simon's 5 Core Asks:

## 1. A Cross-Departmental Strategy to End Homelessness by 2030

Housing alone won't solve homelessness. We need a formal national strategy with shared targets and accountability across Housing, Health, Social Protection, and Local Government.

## 2. Dedicated Investment in Single Adult Homelessness

Single adults make up the **largest group in emergency accommodation**, accounting for 65% of all adults and 44% of the overall number of persons accessing emergency accommodation. Despite this, they receive the fewest targeted interventions. We are urging Government to fund housing-led responses that meet their specific needs.

## 3. Fund Regional Prevention & Food Security Models

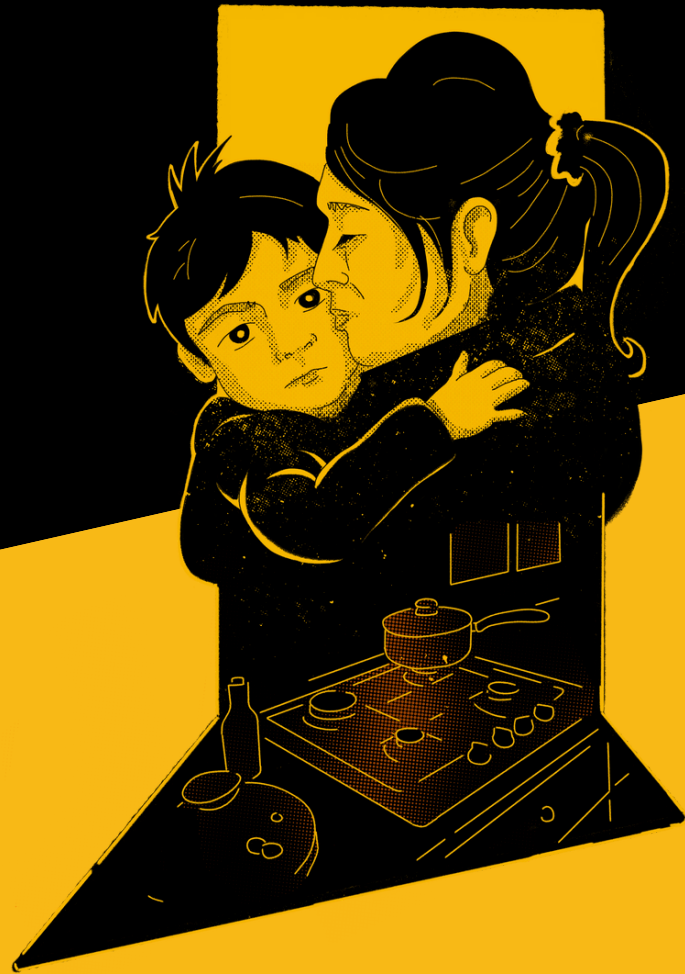
Support community-led initiatives like Mid West Simon's '**Social Grocery**', and scale regional prevention programmes that reduce reliance on emergency services.

## 4. Age-Friendly Housing for Older People

Older people are **retiring into homelessness**. The number of persons over the age of 65 accessing emergency accommodation has more than doubled since 2020. Budget 2026 must include capital and current investment for **1-bed, accessible units, tenancy supports, and health-linked responses**.

## 5. Sustainable NGO Funding through Full Cost Recovery

Fund services properly. The underfunding of NGO delivery continues to cost the system more in the long run and undermines quality, retention, and continuity of care.





# Simon Cares.

## Do you?

Simon Week 2025 is a chance to publicly show that we care — and demand action. Every public representative can:

- Attend a Simon Week event in your region
- Raise Simon's asks in the Dáil, Seanad, or Council
- Support full cost recovery for NGOs in Budget 2026
- Use your voice to show that you care about ending homelessness

## Simon Cares.

## Show You Care too.

Visit your local Simon Community's website to register for Simon Week events, learn more, and join the campaign.

Let's replace performative politics with proven solutions. Let's back the organisations moving people out of homelessness — and preventing it altogether.

## Let's show that Ireland Cares.





## Single People in Homelessness

Single adults remain the **largest group** experiencing homelessness in Ireland accounting for 65% of all adults and 44% of the overall number of those accessing emergency accommodation.

Yet they are often overlooked in policy debates that prioritise families and children. Many face complex challenges — such as mental health needs, addiction, and prolonged time in emergency accommodation — without access to stable, long-term housing solutions.

Cork Simon is calling for a **renewed focus on housing-led responses** for single adults, including one-bed units and wraparound supports. Without targeted investment, this group will continue to be left behind in efforts to end homelessness.



## Food Poverty & Family Homelessness

Food poverty is increasingly intertwined with homelessness, particularly for families with children. Mid West Simon is seeing more parents unable to afford both rent and food—forcing impossible choices and deepening the trauma of homelessness for children.

Mid West Simon's work through foodbanks (with the aim of moving towards a social grocery model) highlights the urgent need for **cross-departmental investment in food security, early intervention, and income supports**.

Over 5,000 children are living in emergency accommodation. A child's experience of homelessness leaves lasting scars; we must act to ensure that no child goes hungry or enters homelessness in a country of plenty.



# Older People Retiring into Homelessness

Ireland is facing a quiet crisis of older people **retiring into homelessness**. The number of persons over age 65 accessing emergency accommodation has more than doubled since 2020.

Galway Simon is supporting more people aged 65+ who have never previously needed charitable help but now face housing insecurity in later life. Rising rents, unaffordable private accommodation, and the lack of age-appropriate housing mean older adults are left with no place to go.

Budget 2026 must urgently invest in **accessible one-bed homes, health-linked supports, and long-term tenancies** to ensure our ageing population can live with dignity and security.

# Follow us on Socials



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Thank you to

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