

# Focus Ireland

## An Overview of our Work



# Focus Ireland founded in 1985



Focus Ireland, first known as 'Focus Point' was founded by Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy in 1985 to help support women in homelessness.



# Legacy of State Care in Ireland

- History of “institutionalizing” people, particularly women, children and the elderly
- In Ireland in 1961, the rate of psychiatric beds at 7.3 per 1,000 population (approx. 20,000 people) was among the highest in the world
- Mother and Baby Homes (approx. 60,000 unmarried mothers 1930’s-1980’s)
- Industrial Schools (approx. 170,000 children and young persons 1936-1970)
- Reformatory Schools (approx. 42,000 1930’s-1979)
- Nursing Homes/County Homes for elderly

# Focus Ireland Coffee Shop



Open 365 days

First Focus Ireland service  
opened 1986

Created for women who needed  
shelter and support services.

- Hot-meal service

- Advice & Information Service  
(caseworker provided if needed)



# Our Values

- Our values inform our actions and help us ensure our attitudes and behavior reflect the ethos of the organisation.



# Pathways into Homelessness

Discharge from  
State Institutions or  
State Care

Relationship  
breakdown

Addiction

Mental Illness

Financial Struggles

Rising cost of living

Increases in Rent

Eviction due to  
debt/ landlords  
selling Property /  
hoarding

Lack of Adequate  
and Affordable  
Housing

# Rising Housing Insecurity in Ireland



Large-scale state-built social housing 1920s-1970s



Ireland A 'home ownership society'



Retrenchment and end of socialised home ownership regime 1980s



Reliance on private market rent



Lack of affordable housing

# Focus Ireland Services Today

Advice and  
Information  
(Prevention)

Tenancy Support &  
Sustainment

Short-term  
accommodation

Emergency  
Accommodation

Long-term  
accommodation

Aftercare (Youth  
Housing)

Preparation for  
Education, Training  
& Employment  
(PETE)

Housing First

Moving- On Project

Prison In-reach  
(Women's prison  
programme)

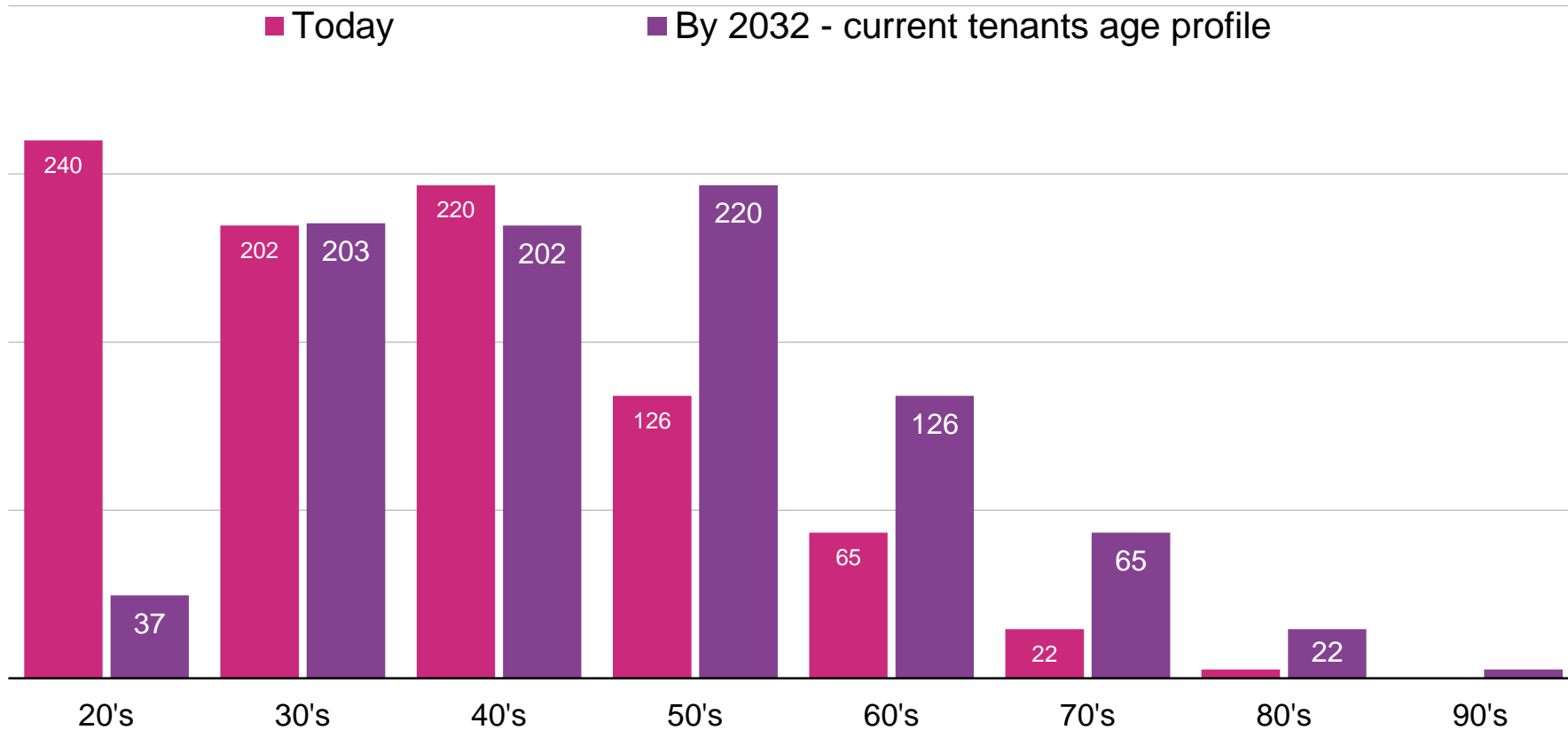


# Focus Housing Association

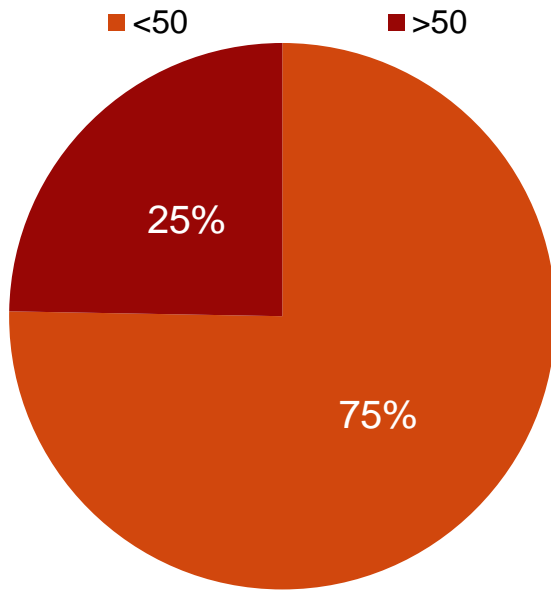
- Focus Ireland is an Approved Housing Body (AHB)
- Approved housing bodies (AHBs) are independent, not-for-profit organisations. They provide affordable rented housing for people who cannot afford to pay private sector rents or buy their own homes.
- Focus Housing Association provides **1,500** affordable homes for individuals and families across Ireland.
- **121** are Housing First tenancies (supported by Peter McVerry)

# Passive vs. Active Measures

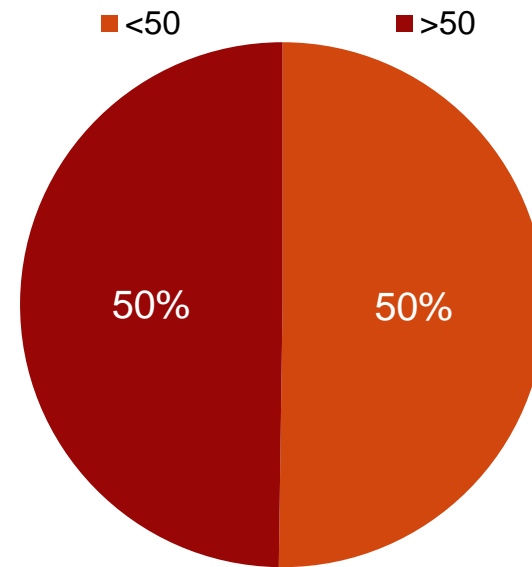
- Focus Ireland is working to end Homelessness by 2030 as per the Lisbon Declaration
- Prior to this agreement, Focus Ireland aimed to actively end homelessness through providing housing and shaping public policy
- While shelters are necessary emergency measures, Focus Ireland believes that providing housing is the key to ending homelessness
- Move from managing homelessness to ending it



Focus Ireland Tenant Age Demographic\*



Tenant Age Profile Today



Tenant Age Profile In 10 Years

# Current Trends

## ESRI: Renters in Ireland face 'significant' challenges compared to the rest of Europe

Think tank says renters and people trying to enter the housing market in Ireland face 'some of the most significant' affordability and availability challenges in Europe



## Poverty risk for retirees as home ownership levels drop - ESRI

Updated / Wednesday, 6 Jul 2022 15:07



# Fuel Poverty & Rental Crisis

Older people struggling with high energy costs and food bills, survey finds



# Our Impact in 2022

- Approx. 12,300 people engaged with our services
- 1,527 families engaged with our services
- 3,338 **children** supported across our services
- 1,288 households supported to settle into a new home (exit homelessness) or to keep their home (prevention)
- 7,523 people supported by our Advice & Information Service
- 1,485 households at risk of homelessness supported by our Tenancy Sustainment Services

# Our Impact in 2022

- 500 families supported out of homelessness
- 767 households supported to settle into a new home
- 410 young people supported by our youth and aftercare services





# Latest Figures in Homelessness

Number of people who are homeless and relying on emergency homeless accommodation



**Total** Adults Children

