# **Private HomeCare** News

February 2021

Private HomeCare A Col Company

# Dear Valued Clients and Carers,

Covid 19 remains central news and it is very hard to turn anywhere without some reference to it. It can be so draining listening to the news at times.

However the good news is that vaccines are being delivered. As front line community workers, all of Private HomeCare carers have been given the opportunity to avail of the vaccine.

The first of our community carers to avail of the vaccine have already received their 2nd vaccine, and many have had their 1st and await their second shot, with the remainder awaiting to be called within the next short time.



Alongside receiving vaccinations, all Private HomeCare carers have been provided with standard PPE: gloves, aprons and facemasks and when working in specialist care wear gowns, goggles and visors in addition to standard PPE.

Private HomeCare stress immense importance on Infection Prevention & Control and to this end, our Training Department provide regular Infection Prevention & Control training classes. As always we strongly advise the following of government guidelines with special concentration on handwashing, mask wearing and social distancing.

It is wonderful to see the beginning of spring and it is heart warming to see the white snowdrops and the orange, white and purple crocuses beginning to appear. This is the time to hang a bird feeder to view from the place you like sitting most. It is such a delight to watch bird antics while they feed and how they interact with each other. I have a particular soft spot for the hedge row birds and their song.

Wishing you well,

**Elizabeth Nicholson Founder and Managing Director** 

## Private HomeCare's Carer of the Year 2020

We are delighted to announce that our Carer of the Year 2020 is June Lattimore

We would also like to congratulate our Special Recipient of the Year, Cathy Kavanagh.



We phoned June and Cathy to share the good news and can report that they are both thrilled.

The full list of 2020 'Carer of the Month' winners can be found below. Congratulations to each person.

| January<br>Martine O'Dwyer    | $\mathbf{\Delta}$ | ] |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| February<br>Tshilanda Ngoie   | $\nabla$          |   |
| March<br>Fiona Dowdall        | $\nabla$          | 9 |
| April<br>June Lattimore       | $\mathbf{\nabla}$ | ( |
| May<br><b>Divina Faustino</b> | $\nabla$          | N |
| June<br>Bola Raji             | $\nabla$          |   |

| July<br>Lisa Fagan                      | $\nabla$ |
|---|----------|
| August<br>Cathy Kavanagh                | $\nabla$ |
| September<br>Felicia Enogieru           | $\nabla$ |
| October<br>Muhibat Busari               | $\nabla$ |
| November<br>Anne Kiernan                | $\nabla$ |
| o<br>December<br><b>Teresa Munnelly</b> | $\nabla$ |

# **QQI Healthcare Support Major in only 9 Months**

Meet Aishling Byrne who told us about her experience training as a carer with Private HomeCare. It took Aishling only 9 months to complete all modules and qualify for her QQI Healthcare Support Major Award. And she received distinctions in everything! Before joining Private HomeCare, Aishling had personal experience caring for her sister, who has cerebral palsy but Aishling did not have professional care experience.



Initially I was nervous, but once I got started with the assignments and skills demonstrations, I thought this was definitely for me. I started with the Palliative Care module and continued on with more modules, back to back. Covid 19 meant that all theory training was moved online and Private HomeCare swapped my work shifts to accommodate training.

*I got on with everyone in the training department* so well. Anna and Linda, two members of the team were great motivators and will always guide you in the right direction.



Whilst Aishling completed her modules in 9 months, carers can take as long as they need (but must complete within 5 years of starting their first module) to complete their training.

Private HomeCare support carers so that they can complete their training at the pace that best suits their busy life and work schedule. But how did Aishling find the modules?

I liked the assignments and really enjoyed doing them. I also really liked the skills demos and being able to meet the other carers on each module who were also training. I developed many friendships.

If it were not for Private HomeCare, I never would have thought of pursuing a career as a carer. People think you have to go to college first for a year or year and a half but Private HomeCare gives you the opportunity to work and do your course at the same time.

You can work with clients and continue your learning. Caring and studying for care opens so many options. The team is great at giving you paths and advising what modules you should do. Through talking to them, I discovered I could work with kids and maternity hospitals, which led me to take another QQI level 5 module "Maternity Support".

With all the courses I have completed, I am now qualified to work in maternity hospitals, and could go into DCU to do midwifery if I chose to. If I complete another 3 modules I will get another Major in Nursing Studies. I hadn't considered any of these opportunities at the beginning, but after taking care of my sister I said to myself I would love to look into this.

From the minute I spoke to Patsy, Private HomeCare's Recruitment Manager, in the interview and got my first client, I just loved it.

Private HomeCare supports carers in all their learning, whether they choose to do just the necessary training to be able to work as a carer, through to those like Aishling who want to get as far as they can.

#### CHECK OUT OUR CARER TRANING

### Age is Just a Number

Maureen Lalor, a former carer with Private HomeCare who features in our Facebook cover photo, has written a poem about getting older that has been included in an anthology, published by her writing group.

#### Check out the story 'Age Is Just a Number' below.

Age is Just a Number by Maureen La

Is age just a number? My number is 77 but I hope one day it will be 100. What an achievement that would be, me a centenarian!

My father, mother, and brother have long passed away, but I still have my beloved sister Audrey. Her number is 84. She has been married to Roy for 65 years. His number is 87.

Audrey and I often share fond memories of our childhood in London especially those of the war years. I love to hear her stories of the time all the London children were sent to the country for safety. I was still only a baby so I was kept at home with my mother while my brother and sister were sent to Wales. The evacuation was stressful for parents having to send their children away and also for the children being sent into the unknown, but it was the safest option away from the nightly bombing and the devastation the morning brought. People of a <sup>certain</sup> age still remember the Doodlebug with its deadly sound and when the noise stopped the bomb dropped.

What a sad sight all those children with their brown bags carrying teddy bears and other precious possess bags carrying tetaly a some in the shape of Mickey Mou child was given a gas and a label with their name attached to their coat. On arrival in and a label with their wave brought to a school hall when and a label whith their brought to a school hall where it was decided where each child would be fostered - unfortunately, ng brother and sister were separated. My brother Terry who was brother and sister the time became very distressed and cried  $s_0$  only 5 years old at the time became very distressed and cried  $s_0$ only 5 years out at the reunited with Audrey. Although some of much that he had to be reunited with Audrey. Although some of the foster parents were wonderful, others were unkind and were only interested in monetary gain.

Ge

At last, the war ended and my family was once again reunited. However, the war still played a part in Audrey's life as a young woman when she fell in love and married Roy.

His family were very proud of the part Roy's brother had played during the war - Major John Howard, the war hero, who liberated Pegasus Bridge in France. He was the Commander who organised the whole operation which involved the flying of glider planes in pitch black conditions, as depicted in the movie The Longest Day. The part of Major Howard was played by

Major Howard's number was 85 when he passed away and that was an achievement to add to the many others in his life.

Age is just a number and life is filled with numbers, depicting many memories and achievements.

# **QQI** Training in Palliative Care

Private HomeCare is offering a QQI training course in Palliative Care. This course will take place completely online and is open to anyone. Palliative Care focuses on providing those who wish to stay home during their remaining time, the best quality of life possible. Attendees on this course always wish they had taken it earlier.

#### Dates April 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd and 29th

**Times:**  $(\cdot)$ 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm each day

The cost of the course is €195.00. In order to complete the course you must attend all sessions. To book your place now, please email training@privatehomecare.ie or call 01 621 9101.

# **PPE for Carers**



All of our carers are provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) needed for caring. We have never run out of PPE. The safety of our carers and clients is of the utmost importance.

## **Client Testimonial**

See our latest testimonial below. To respect client confidentiality at all times, we do not reveal names.

I'd like to thank you and all the carers for taking care of Dad so well. Without you guys we simply would not have been able to keep him home. Special thanks to the girls who did the final few days. They were just super.

I wouldn't hesitate to recommend you in the future.

# Become a Carer

As Private HomeCare carers are essential workers, and continue to work 7 days a week, we are looking for carers to join our team. If you are interested in becoming a carer, please read more about what a carer does on our website.

Carers are provided with all the PPE they need and our training department will train you in 'Infection Prevention and Disease Control'.

Interested in becoming a carer?

Contact us