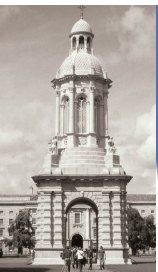


Burdens and Paradoxes in Caregiving

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Outline of Presentation

- It's complicated
- More care, more carers
- Complex patterns of burdens and costs of caring – evidence from TILDA, IARE and JJF studies
- Caring for carers – what support do they want
- Concluding remarks.



It's complicated

- Carer roles are unique and we usually do not get to practice
- It is difficult to articulate and share experiences to help those taking on caring roles
- We need to accommodate the complex needs of those cared for, the capacities and desires of carers and the wider environment of support and burden.



More care, more carers 1

- Ageing is increasing the numbers of people who need care
- Ageing is increasing the number of care givers
- Ageing is changing the needs for care



Increases in Life Expectancy at Birth EU 15

	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010
Males	2.09	2.29	2.57	2.67
Females	2.6	2.29	1.98	1.92



More care, more carers 2

- Ageing is changing the proportion of single person households
- Collective capacity of couples can allow for limited capacities of each person
- Needs for supporting viable couples can be very different to need for supporting dependent individuals.



Complex patterns of burdens and costs of caring 1

- Effects of being a carer for a very sick child is likely to reduce disposable income by around on third
- More expensive to be a carer of a child in hospital rather than one at home
- In majority of cases carers of young disabled children one person stopped work or reduced hours.



Complex patterns of burdens and costs of caring 2

- Largest group of carers of older people is other older people
- Increasing but lower proportion of carers are men
- Very high proportion of older people have relations living near and see them regularly
- Most carers want to be carers and want the help they get to be to support them



Complex patterns of burdens and costs of caring 3

- Particularly near the end of life the major focus is on easy access to support
- Problem is not just the desire for free support or services – it is hassle free support
- It is difficult enough to have problems – it is worse if you are constantly fighting battles.



Caring for carers – what support do they want

- Not surprising – they want it to be bespoke
- Flexible
- Adaptable
- Allowing them to play the roles that are feasible
- Timely, appropriate
- Not one size fits all.



Concluding remarks

- Correct burden on care givers is quite a lot but not too much
- Caring is expensive, particularly for younger carers who may give up some income
- Even when well funded carers face significant unfunded costs
- Needs can change rapidly – support for carers needs to reflect this dynamic.





Thank you for your attention.