

Áras Chois Fharráige nursing home up for National Q Mark Business Award

A Galway nursing home has been nominated for a National Q Mark Business Excellence Award. Áras Chois Fharráige, Spiddal, was shortlisted for the award by the Excellence Ireland Quality Association after achieving one of the highest scores on its Quality Mark inspection earlier this year.

The home will now compete with organisations from throughout the country to achieve the top award in the Quality Management Systems, Leisure or Nursing Homes category. EIQA said that management and staff at Áras Chois Fharráige were committed to a person-centred approach to enhancing the daily lives of all residents in their care and commended the home for its focus on meeting the needs of Connemara's elderly Irish speakers through their first language, noting, "The home has fostered a tradition of caring for local Irish speaking elderly and employing people from the local community."

Inspectors said they observed "very positive interactions between staff and residents" at Áras Chois Fharráige



The delighted staff with their Q Mark award.

and noted results of the resident and relatives survey were "excellent" with a 100% satisfaction rating. Aileen Stanley the Director of Nursing at Áras Chois Fharráige said reaching the finals was a team effort by the home's 45 staff. "We are delighted to have been shortlisted for this Quality Award," she said.

"The team is motivated to attain the highest standards of excellence in the delivery of care at all levels, by enabling its residents to express their individual personalities and retain

personal freedom of choice, autonomy and independence in order to achieve a state of wellbeing, inner fulfillment and community integration."

Áras Chois Fharráige has also recently been identified as a centre of excellence for social care, after a study by leading expert in gerontology Professor Ricca Edmondson. The research was published in the latest edition of the Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies with the title, Identifying Key Elements of Social Care

Practise in Successful Care Settings for Older People in Ireland. Professor Edmondson said the research aimed to provide insights into positive elements of care that other centres could learn from.

She described Áras Chois Fharráige as a place "where not only are residents happy to be but where very high expressions of well being can be found." For any queries contact Director of Nursing Aileen Stanley 067 2610661