



**Report for the period  
1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023**



**CARANUA**

support for survivors of institutional abuse

# Table of contents

Chairperson’s foreword.....	2
Our Work.....	3
<i>Wind-down of Caranua</i> .....	3
<i>Focus on supporting survivors</i> .....	4
<i>Communications and Administration</i> .....	4
How the Fund was spent.....	5
<i>Governance Matters</i> .....	7
<i>Legislation and structure</i> .....	7
<i>The Board</i> .....	7
<i>Sub-committee</i> .....	8
<i>Financial and Risk Matters</i> .....	8
<i>Freedom of Information (FOI) requests</i> .....	9
Staffing and Related Matters.....	9

# Chairperson's Foreword

Caranua, the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board effectively closed as an operational entity on 24 March 2021. On that date, the remaining staff reached the end of their contracts, and the term of office of the then Board expired.

The current Board was appointed to provide the continuing governance and oversight of Caranua while it continues to exist as a legal entity.

During 2023, the Board continued the process of overseeing the various residual matters pertaining to Caranua which require attention with a view to bringing its affairs to an orderly conclusion. It is understood that the process of formulating the necessary legislation to effect this is continuing to progress.

I wish to express my thanks to my fellow Board members, our Executive Director Mr Michael Fitzpatrick and to the staff in the Residential Institutions Redress Unit of the Department of Education for their support and assistance during this final period of Caranua's operations.

Sincerely,

**Ned Costello**

**Chairperson**

# Our work

Caranua was established in 2013 as the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board, under the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund (RISF) Act 2012. Caranua is responsible for the management of a limited Fund to improve the quality of life of people who, as children experienced abuse and neglect in institutions and who have received awards from the Residential Institutions Redress Board, or a similar court award or settlement.

Although it is a public body, Caranua does not receive any state funding. A limited Fund of €110 million was provided from religious congregations and an additional accrual of €1.38 million in interest. The RISF Act states the Fund provided to Caranua cannot exceed €110 million excluding interest.

Caranua began accepting applications in January 2014 and ceased making payments on standard applications on the 11 December 2020. During this time, the organisation received applications from 6,181 eligible survivors. By the end of December 2023, Caranua had made over 57,000 funding support payments to the value of €97.9 million. The average funding supports received by individual survivors is approximately €15,800. The highest provision of funding supports is in the area of home improvements at €68.7 million, followed by health at €27.4 million, education at €1.4 million and exceptional needs supports at €0.4 million.

The legislation sets out that all operational costs must be met from the Fund, and up to 31 December 2023 €13.7 million was spent on operations. The closure of the service was carefully managed to ensure that adequate resources were available to meet the requirements of survivors' applications. The Board works determinedly to minimise operational costs during the final phase of the wind-down.

## **Wind-down of Caranua**

The Board is focused on the management and oversight of the final affairs of the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund following the substantive exhaustion of the fund and cessation of its operations. The administrative resource appointed on 8 November 2021 continued to support the work of the Board and make final arrangements for its formal dissolution. Following the enactment of legislation to dissolve Caranua, any remaining assets will transfer to the Minister for Education.

### **Focus on supporting survivors**

There were no payments to survivors in 2023 as the legislative process to dissolve Caranua nears a conclusion. All enquiries received from survivors during the year were responded to promptly.

### **Communications and Administration**

The Caranua website [www.caranua.ie](http://www.caranua.ie) was redesigned and will remain as a legacy website for a period of five years from 24 March 2021 to provide useful information to survivors, support agencies and researchers.

# How the Caranua fund was spent

## Housing Supports €68.7 million

Household goods breakdown		Home Improvements		Structural Improvements		Home Supports	
Bed	2294	Carpets/Flooring	2850	Replacement Windows / Doors	3133	Accessible Bathroom	1697
Cooker	1947	Floor Covering	2730	Heating System	2406	Home Help	438
Couch	1920	Painting & Decoration	1616	Gutters & Pipes	379	Assistive Technologies	436
Curtains & blinds	1712	House Alarms	1407	Other / Extension	320	Wheelchair	79
Television	1555	Repairs	1150	Garden Path	299	Stair Lift	78
Orthopaedic Chairs & Beds	1143	Insulation	951	Roof Repair	250	Grab Rails	64
Fridge Freezer	1143	Garden Clearance	753	Professional Recommendation	96	Personal Alarm	59
Washing Machine	1070	Other Housing Clearance	589	Draught Proofing	52	Ramps	34
Dryer	557	Garden Fence	403			Advice (housing)	33
Dishwasher	516	House Clearance	241			Car Adaptation	10
Microwave	434	Locks & Bolts	188			Information (Housing)	8
Kettle	409	Rubbish Clearance	179			Tenancy Support	8
Toaster	344						
Radio	313						

## Health Supports €27.4 million

Health services provided			
Dental Treatment	5732	Accupuncture	171
Optical & Eye Glasses	3492	Reflexology	164
Funeral	1550	Eye Surgery	138
Prescriptions	1343	Health Screening	99
Doctor Visits	1181	Home Nursing	82
Physiotherapy	804	Osteopathy	75
Orthopaedic Footwear	713	Chiropractor	55
Audiology & Hearing Aids	624	Pain Management	35
Chiropody Sessions	614	Feet Surgery	33
Medical Consultation	610	Stress & Behaviour Management	25
Other Health Services	527	Speech Therapy	9
Counselling	491	Immunisation	7
Occupational Assessment & Therapies	465	Wigs	7
Outpatient Treatment	440		
Massage	298		
Chiropody Assessment & Orthotics	292		
Impatient Treatment	277		

# How the Caranua fund was spent

## Exceptional Need & Education € 1.8 million

<b>Socially Active &amp; Connected</b>	
Club Membership	2216
Course / Class	1033
Other Socially Active & Connected Service	752
Family Reunification - International Travel	160
Travel	121
Family Reunification – Accommodation	112
Family Reunification - National Travel	55
Family Tracing & Genealogy	53
Telling Your Story - Publishing	13
Telling Your Story - Professional assistance with writing	6
Telling Your Story - Printing	5
Counselling	5

<b>Education</b>	
Evening & Adult Education	830
Third Level	371
Private Third Level	237
Educational Support Grant	101

# Governance Matters

## Introduction

As an independent State Body, Caranua is subject to the requirements of its founding legislation, other legislation and regulations, including the Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts and the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. This section provides information on governance related activities, compliance and expenditure in 2023.

## Legislation and structure

The Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Act, 2012, the legislation under which the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board (Caranua) was established, sets out the governance and management structure of Caranua and the roles, remit and functions of the Board, its relationship with the Minister for Education and accountability to Committees of the Oireachtas. While it is an independent body, Caranua has a strong relationship with officials in the Department of Education, particularly the Residential Institutions Redress Unit, which has oversight of initiatives for survivors of institutional child abuse.

## The Board

The Board of Caranua is appointed by the Minister for Education. The Board consisted of the following Board members in 2023;

### **Board Members Meeting Attendance and Expenses in 2023**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Board Meetings attended January to December 2023</b>	<b>Expenses January to December 2023 €</b>
Ned Costello (Chairperson)	3	-
Patricia Carey	3	-
Francis W. Treanor BL	3	-
Total number of meetings	3	-

Patricia Carey resigned from the Board on 21 March 2024.



### **Board meetings, expenses and policies**

Three Board meetings were held in 2023. Board membership is not remunerated and therefore no member receives payment. Travel expenses, where they apply, are made at the rates approved by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, but no such expenses were paid in 2023.

### **Sub-committee**

In light of the particular operational circumstances applying to Caranua in its final wind-down phase, the Board continues to undertake the functions of the Audit and Risk Committee.

### **Financial and risk matters**

The Board is responsible for the preparation of the annual report and financial statements. The Board considers that the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 give a true and fair view of the financial performance and financial position of the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund at 31 December 2023. The Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of internal controls on 21 March 2023 and is satisfied that internal controls were operating and effective for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Board carried out an assessment of the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund's principal risks, including a description of the risks and associated mitigation measures. The Chairperson will furnish a report to the Minister for Education for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 in conjunction with a supplementary annual report and financial statements, under Section 6 of the Revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Section 30 of the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Act 2012 provides that all operational costs including, staff and other overheads must be paid from the Statutory Fund. Operational costs of €16,374 were incurred in 2023. Annual financial statements are subject to audit by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General. Once approved, the audited 2023 Annual Financial Statements are laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas, following which they are published. Audited Financial Statements for previous years are available on [www.caranua.ie](http://www.caranua.ie)

### **Freedom of Information (FOI) requests**

Caranua provides information where possible without the need for recourse to request information under the Freedom of Information Act. Personal information held by Caranua is available on request to the person it relates to or to a person nominated by that individual to deal with their application. Freedom of Information (FOI) requests are responded to promptly. The most common FOI request received is on behalf of survivors looking for a copy of information related to them which is held by Caranua.

### **Customer Charter**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Freedom of Information</b>	<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
January to December 2023	Applicant	0	0	0
January to December 2023	Other Contacts	1	0	1

### **Staffing and related matters**

The Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board effectively closed as an operational organisation on 24 March 2021. On that date, the remaining staff reached the end of their contracts in line with the wind down plan. An administrative resource appointed by the Department of Education on 8 November 2021 and seconded to Caranua, continued to support the work of the Board and to manage the final arrangements for its formal dissolution. The Board designated this resource to perform the functions of Chief Executive.