The An Saol Foundation proudly supports the 'WE NEED OUR HEADS EXAMINED' campaign of the





We will afford every opportunity to people with severe Acquired Brain Injury (sABI) to live their life with dignity and respect, to continue to improve, to regain as much independence and self-determination as possible, and for their injuries to heal, supported by adequate therapies.

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## **THREE OLD GUYS - ONE GREAT CAUSE!**

RAISING AWARENESS & MONEY FOR SURVIVORS OF SEVERE ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY (sABI)



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# WHAT DO AN OLD GERMAN, AN OLD IRISHMAN, AND AN OLD ENGLISHMAN HAVE IN COMMON?

Together, they are raising awareness of the **An Saol Foundation** to assist survivors of severe Acquired Brain Injuries (sABI) in Ireland.

### What are they doing?

Reinhard Schaler (57), Martin Walsh (64), and Chris Pyne (57) are attempting a twelve day, 1000Km bike ride along the California coast - northwards against the wind!

That would be tough for the most athletic cyclists... BUT THESE OLD BLOKES?!

### Why are they doing it?

To raise money for **An Saol's Pilot Project** - a 3 year, €1.5m program to provide a center to properly rehabilitate survivors of sABI.

### Are these guys crazy to do it?

Absolutely!... but given the sad neglect of survivors of sABI, they believe it's actually the policy makers who really need their heads examined!

#### Who are we?

We are the families, friends, and supporters of persons affected by sABI.

We are a voice for those whose injuries have seriously challenged their ability to advocate for themselves.

We give hope and support to families who have been told "there is no hope"!







An Saol means 'life' in Irish. The AN SAOL FOUNDATION and AN SAOL PILOT PROJECT were established to support survivors of sABI, and their families, so that they can live their life to the fullest. Recent, international research shows that ongoing intensive mental and physical therapy is the only reliable strategy for patients to regain function - yet shockingly, in Ireland, it's still normal practice to put survivors in nursing homes, where they are simply 'medicated, managed and maintained' for the rest of their lives. Those families who decide to pursue a home-care strategy are essentially left to fend for themselves!

With ongoing rehabilitation, we have seen dramatic improvements in patients, when nobody believed this to be possible, and we believe all survivors of sABI deserve a pathway to recovery, whatever the outcome. The AN SAOL PILOT PROJECT will establish a care center for survivors of sABI, offering an intensive and inclusive neurological rehabilitation program, informed by best international practice. It is intended as a forerunner of other programs, and hopefully a state initiative, to provide quality, ongoing rehabilitation.

