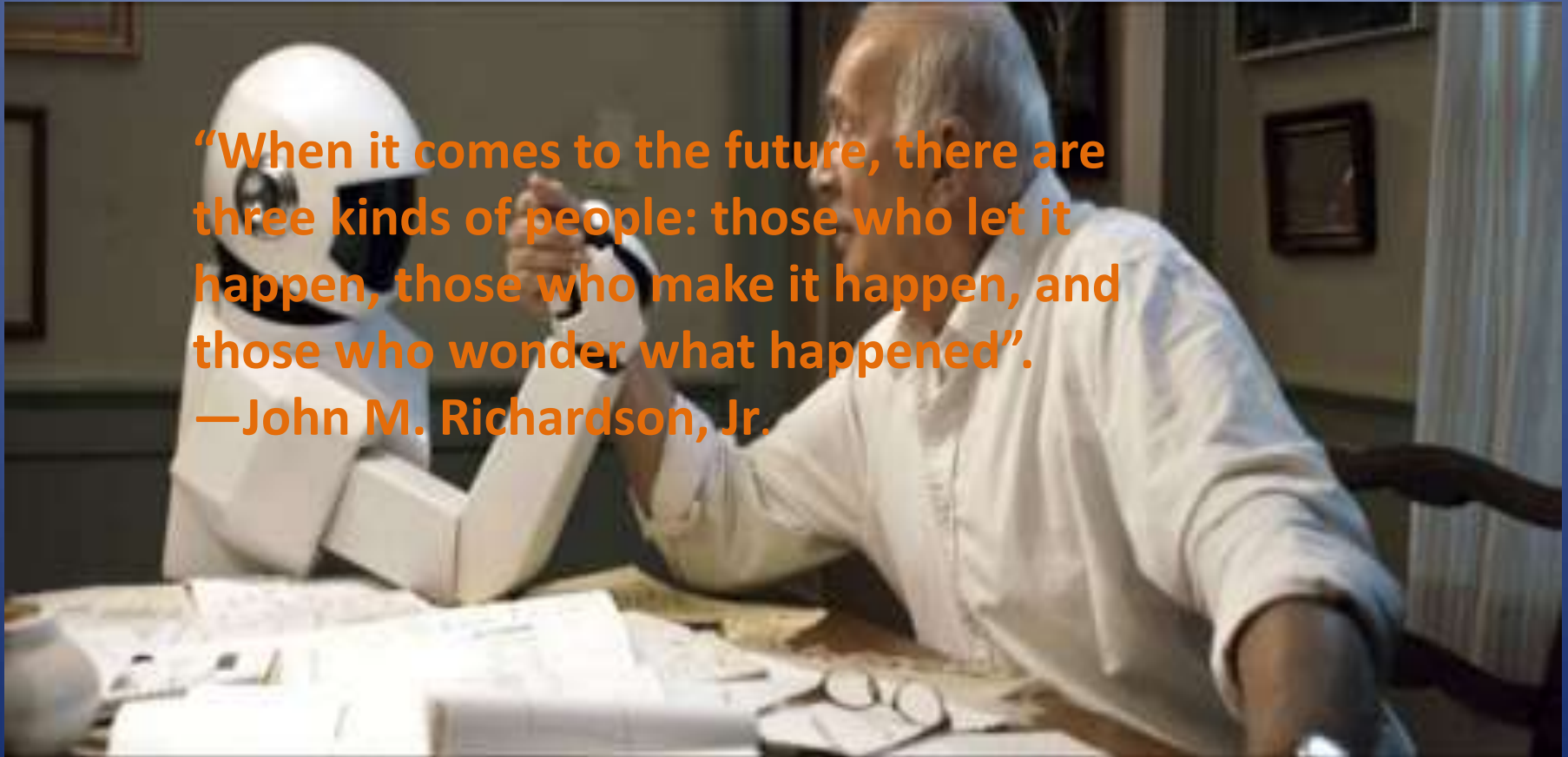


Futuring social care practice teaching and learning: the insights and experiences of final year honours degree undergraduates

**“When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people: those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened”.
—John M. Richardson, Jr.**



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- Hello and welcome!
- Aims and objectives of my research
- Structure of today's presentation

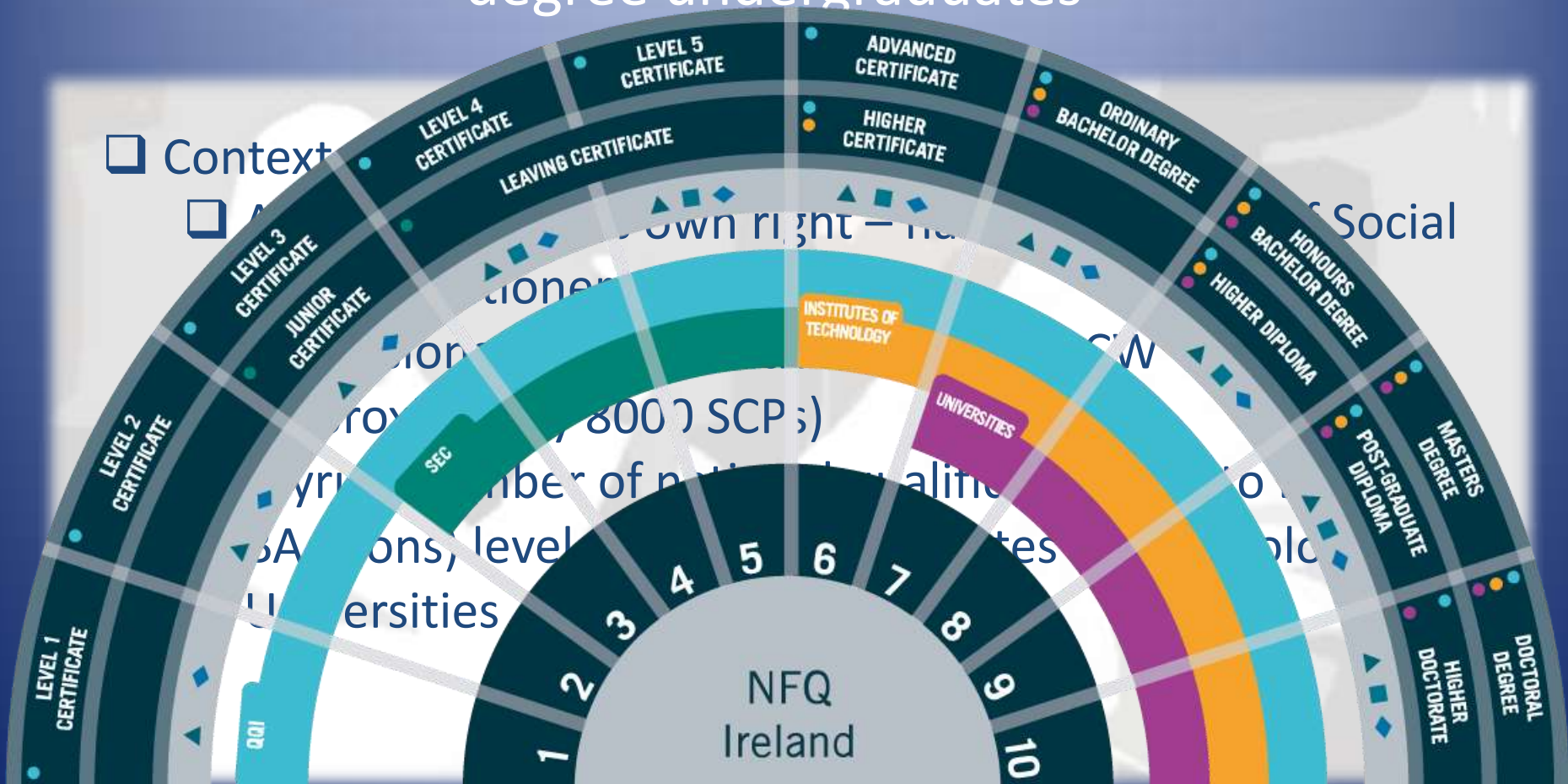
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- ❑ Aims and objectives of my research – two fold:
 1. To understand the extent to which, if at all, current BA (Hons) Social Care Practice degree programmes in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) provide teaching and learning opportunities around Assistive Technologies (ATs), Assistive Learning Technologies (ALTs) and Human-Robot Interactions (HRIs);
 2. To ascertain the insights and perspectives of recent Social Care Practice graduates on the futures of social care provision they envisage to the year 2025 in Ireland.

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- ❑ Structure of today's presentation:
 - ❑ Contexts to Social Care Practice: profession and learning in Rol;
 - ❑ A succinct review of on-going developments in AT, ALT and HRI: technologies, issues and critiques;
 - ❑ Overview of methodology
 - ❑ Research findings
 - ❑ Concluding thoughts...

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□ A succinct review of on-going developments in AT, ALT and HRI: technologies, issues and critiques

“...encompasses three key services: telecare and telehealth installed in the homes of those needing health and/or social care support to enable them to live longer at home and in their communities; digital participation services designed to educate, entertain, and stimulate social interaction to enrich the lives of people in need of social support living at home; and wellness services to encourage people to adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle, to help prevent or delay the need for additional health/and/or social care support”

(Lewin *et al*, 2010 as cited in Wigfield *et al*, 2013, p. 205).

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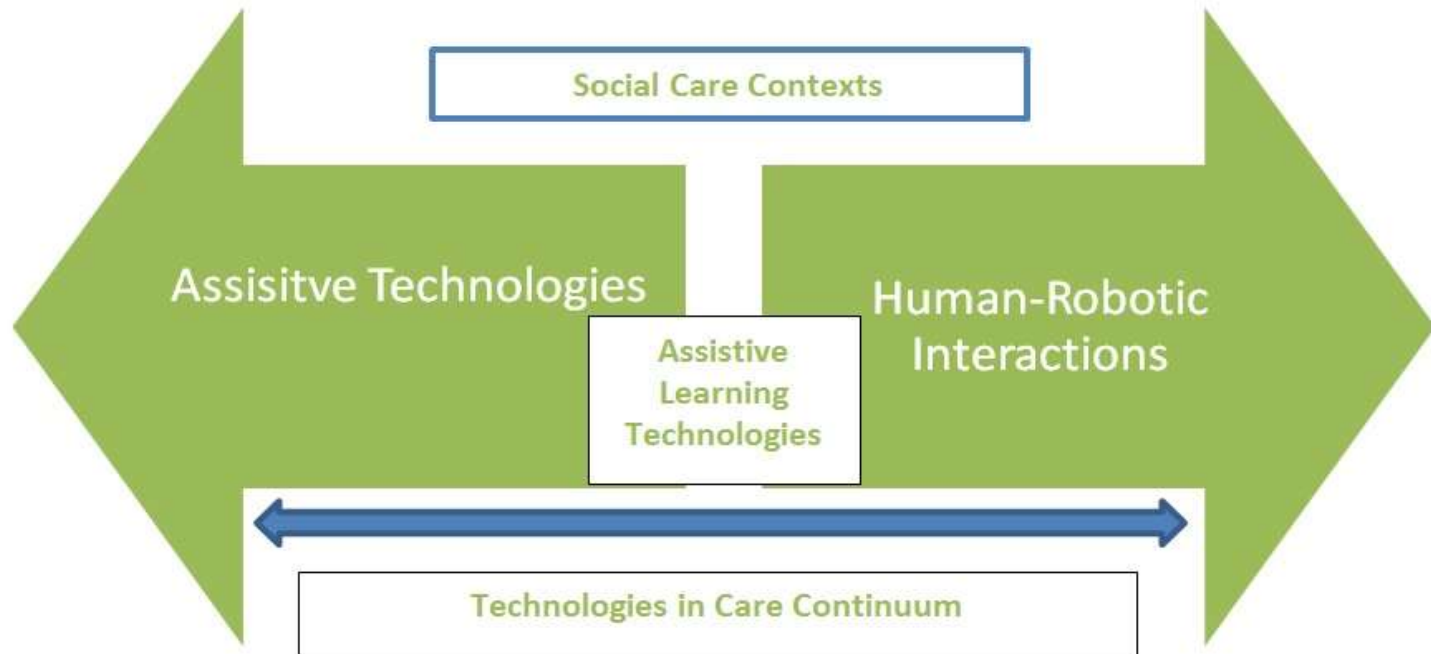


Figure 1: Technologies in Care Continuum

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- ❑ Some critiques of ATs, ALTs and HRI:
 - ❑ Sparrow and Sparrow (2006) believe that: “For the foreseeable future then, using robots to provide emotional care and companionship to people will be unethical” (p.156)
 - ❑ (i) the potential reduction in the amount of human contact; (ii) an increase in the feelings of objectification and loss of control; (iii) a loss of privacy; (iv) a loss of personal liberty; (v) deception and infantilisation; (vi) the circumstances in which elderly people should be allowed to control robots (Sharkey and Sharkey, 2012).
 - ❑ Dautenhahn (2007) proposes two future caregiving models underpinning what he calls the human-robot interaction (HRI). These are: robots as caregivers of humans and humans as caregivers of robots.

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What is your age?

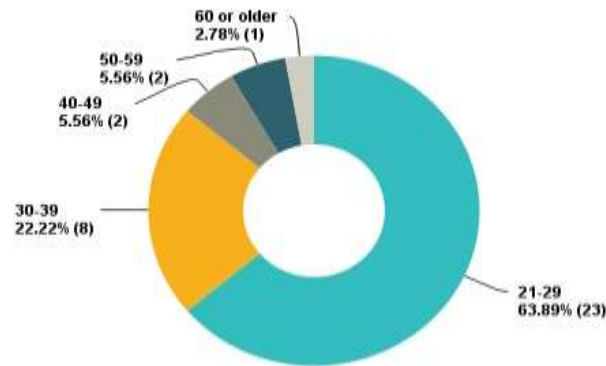


Chart 1: Age profile of respondents

Are you currently employed in a job that requires your professional honours degree (level 8)?

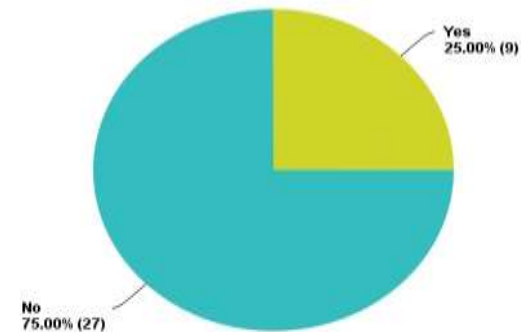


Chart 2: Employment status

When you think about the future in general are you

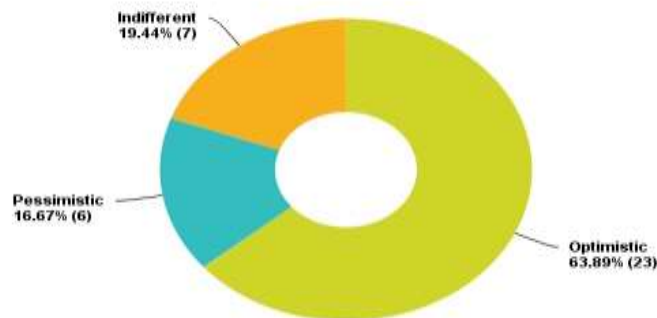


Chart 3: Perceptions of the future

When you think about the future of your profession are you

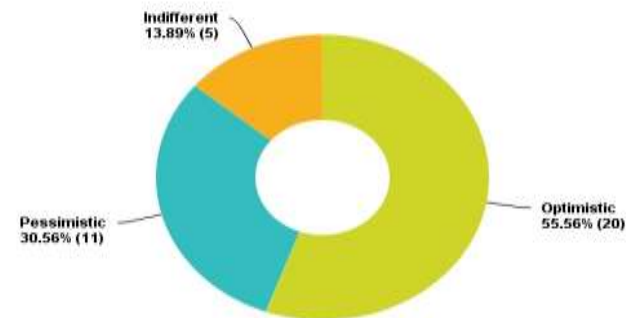


Chart 4: Perceptions about the future of SCP

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Thinking about the learning you have just completed on your honours degree programme (all four years), how prepared are you to fulfill the roles and responsibilities care providing employers expect of your you right now?

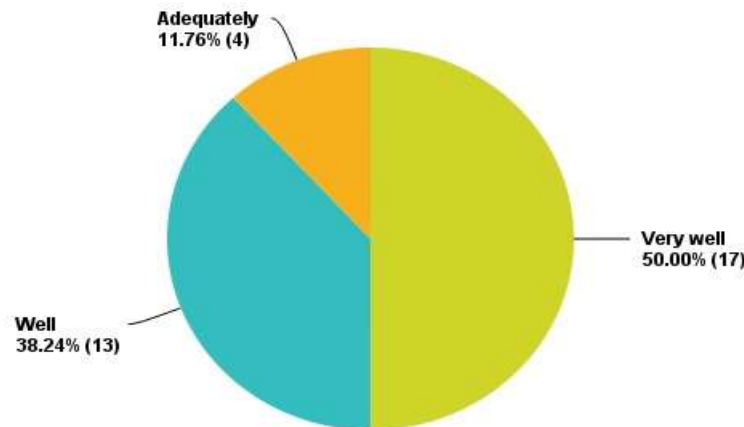


Chart 5: SCP work preparation 2015

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“IT, communication, empathy, thinking out of the box”.

“...ability to embrace new technologies”.

“Computer literacy, cloud technology, awareness of medical advance and disabilities and abilities of the clients”.

“Informatics, data management, using assistive technologies as part of care provision, technical skill as well as social care skills”.

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How do you think your honours degree learning experience has prepared you for the world of care work you imagine in 2020?

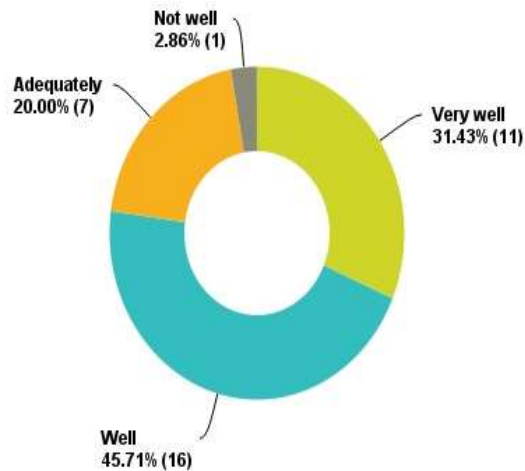


Chart 6: SCP work Preparedness 2020

How do you think your honours degree learning has prepared you for the world of care work you imagine in 2025?

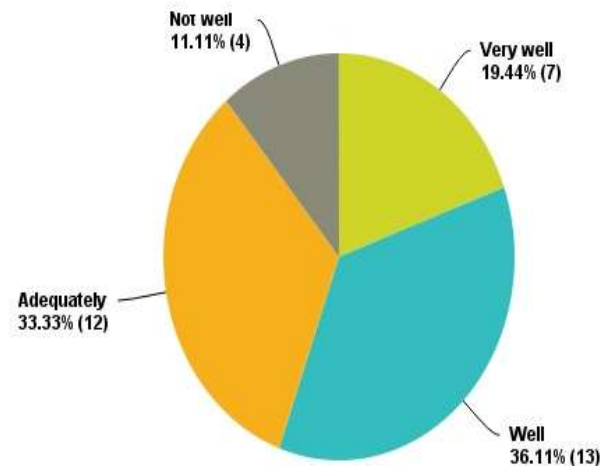


Chart 7: SCP Work Preparedness 2025

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- ❑ Respondents were asked to outline what *they think* will be most significant changes affecting the social care sector up to and including 2025:
 - ❑ “Technological advancement that will introduce robots into care system”.
 - ❑ “The focus of care will be changed. It is essential to have human interaction for 1:1 person centred care. If care is to be conducted by robots this link/connect from humans will be lost”.
 - ❑ “Need for more of social care workers, practitioners as western society is ageing fast. Need for assistive technologies and more qualified workforce. Might be shortages in qualified work force and therefore reduction in quality of care for people in low income (possible large nursing homes and moving back to the institutionalized care models”.

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❑ Respondents were asked to share their perspectives and insights on their greatest fears for their profession to 2025:

“Increase in the number of people finding themselves out of job or been forced to learn new things in the line of technology before they can be employed”.

“Robotics care”.

“Care given by robots”.

“Technology will be exploited as a cost saving measure and because the care sector will be mostly privatised many of the actual human contact element of social care provision will be replaced by technology. The results will be the isolation of vulnerable groups of people as opposed to what the values of social care set out”.

“That there will be enough employment and jobs readily available in SCP profession”.

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Do you think it is a good idea that robots will provide care?

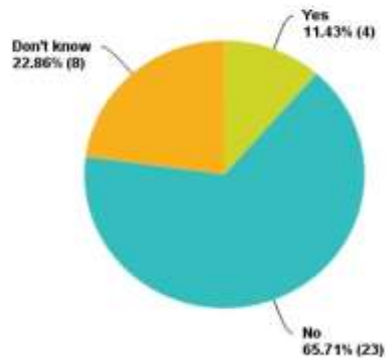


Chart 9: Robots providing care

How inevitable do you think it is that robots will provide care in the future?

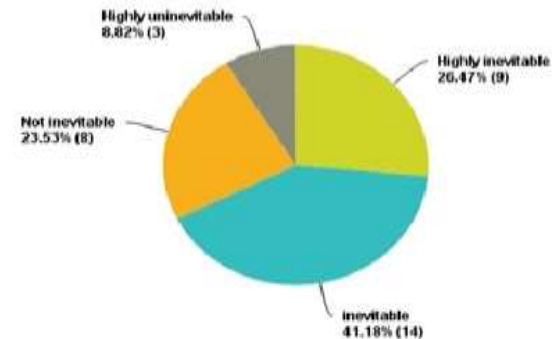


Chart 8: Inevitability of robotic care?

Can you envisage working with robots in the provision of care in the future?

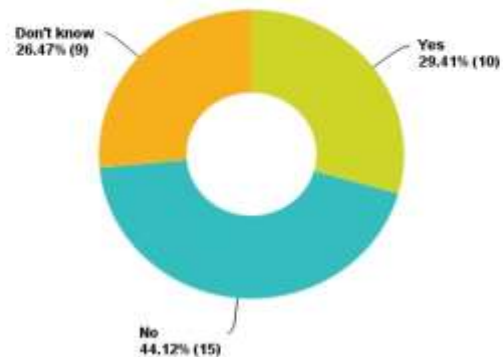


Chart 11: working with robots providing care

By what year do you think robots will provide care in Ireland?

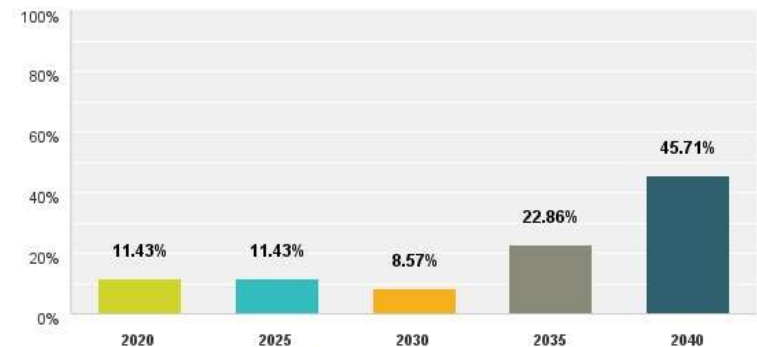


Chart 8: When will robots provide care?

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- ❑ Perspectives on opposition to robot provided social care:
 - ❑ **“No interaction, it's bizarre!!”**
 - ❑ **“No human interaction, love and care bring provided”.**
 - ❑ **“People need human attention. I fear if robots start to do the jobs of humans that vulnerable people will feel even more isolated”.**
 - ❑ **“Because robots do not supply empathy towards another human being. They are programmed to do a job and get it done”.**

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‘Thinking about the future world of care that may be provided by humans, advanced technologies and robots, please rank in order of importance (1-13) the following statements’:

- Professional care providers will require specialised training in working with advanced technologies and robots
- A European Union charter on the fundamental rights of human care workers co-providing care with robots needs to be developed
- Greater legal protections need to be developed for people being cared for by robots
- Modules such as the futures of care need to be mandatory on all social care programmes
- Learners on professional care degree programmes must be provided with modules that facilitate assistive technologies awareness and understanding, computer programming, code writing and mechatronics

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- Future professional care graduates ought to be capable of programming and maintaining care robots (Carebots)
- Greater awareness of the ethical implications around the co-delivery of care by humans and robots is essential
- Governments need to legislate the use of robots providing care
- Care provider enterprises (businesses) will be differentiated by those providing human to human care, robot to human care and human-robot to human care
- Governments need to implement an immediate moratorium (a specified delay period) on the use of robots in care
- Groups such as the IASCW need to adopt coherent positions on the provision of future care
- Lecturers delivering modules to care degree programmes must future proof the content of their modules
- A global convention on the rights and responsibilities of Carebots needs to be developed

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Ranked by respondents as follows:

1. Modules such as the Futures of Care need to be mandatory on all social care programmes
2. Greater awareness of the ethical implications around the co-delivery of care by humans and robots is essential
3. Professional care providers will require specialised training in working with advanced technologies and robots
4. A European Union charter on the fundamental rights of human care workers co-providing care with robots needs to be developed/
Greater legal protections need to be developed for people being cared for by robots

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- Unpacking the findings and policy implications**
- Updating and futuring of Social Care Practice learning programmes
- A national futures of technology and social care stakeholder dialogue
 - Educators
 - Workers representatives
 - Employers
 - Regulatory bodies
 - Technologists
- A national technologies and social care teaching and learning strategy
- Towards a European Union regulatory framework?

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