



NEWSLETTER

INDEPENDENT SENATOR GERARD CRAUGHWELL



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1. Oireachtas Cardiovascular Health Briefing: Senator Craughwell Hosts Key Discussion on Ireland's Heart Health, 13th of May 2026.

Senator Craughwell recently hosted the Oireachtas Cardiovascular Health Briefing, held in collaboration with Medtronic, bringing together clinicians, researchers, patient advocates, and policymakers to highlight the urgent need for improved cardiovascular care across Ireland. The session focused on rising heart-health challenges, the importance of early detection, and the growing impact of cardiovascular disease on communities nationwide.

During the briefing, the Senator emphasised the value of evidence-based prevention, stronger community supports, and investment in modern cardiac services. Contributors also shared insights on innovative treatments, gaps in current care pathways, and opportunities to reduce avoidable illness through coordinated national action.

The event underscored a shared commitment across the health sector to improving outcomes for patients and strengthening Ireland's long-term cardiovascular strategy.



In retrospect 2026



2. Senator Joined Closing Resilience Panel at the 2026 Infrastructure Summit

At the Business Post's 2026 Infrastructure Summit on May 7th in the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Dublin, Senator Craughwell attended the event, underscoring the heightened political focus on strengthening Ireland's critical infrastructure.

The senator took part in the summit's closing Resilience Panel, which examined how Ireland had been working to enhance the security, reliability and recovery of essential systems across energy, transport, water, communications and defence infrastructure.

With attacks on vital assets now a reality rather than a theoretical risk, the panel discussed key vulnerabilities, the impact of climate change, the opportunities and risks associated with AI, and the need for stronger cross-sector collaboration and regulation.

The senator's contribution highlighted the Oireachtas' growing engagement with national resilience planning and the importance of coordinated, future-focused strategies to protect Ireland's most critical systems.



3. Senator Gerard Craughwell was among the featured speakers and readers at the Official Irish Anzac Day Dawn Service on Saturday, 25 April 2026, held at Grangegorman Military Cemetery in Dublin.

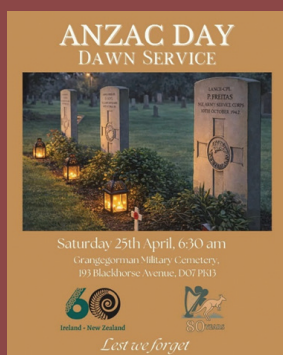
In the stillness of the early morning, members of Ireland's Australian and New Zealand communities gathered at Grangegorman Military Cemetery for the annual ANZAC Day Dawn Service. The ceremony, which honours those who served and fell in conflicts and peacekeeping missions, drew a large crowd on the spring fresh April air.

Lord Mayor of Dublin Councillor Ray McAdam, The Ambassador of Türkiye, Dr Jennifer Wellington, Senator Gerard Craughwell and Fr Paschal Hanrahan attended as guest speakers, reflecting on the shared history and enduring friendship between Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. The Senator spoke of the bravery of the ANZACs at Gallipoli and beyond, noting that their legacy "continues to inspire generations across the world."

The service featured traditional readings, the laying of wreaths, and a moving rendition of the Last Post. Representatives from the diplomatic corps, Defence Forces, and veteran groups were also present, marking the occasion with solemn respect.

The event honoured the 110th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing and was supported by the Australian and New Zealand Embassies in Ireland.

After the ceremony, the Senator met with attendees, including Irish-based veterans and families, acknowledging the significance of remembrance far from home.



4. Senator Craughwell to Launch "Cybersecurity Vision 2026" Position Paper on 15th of April, Setting Out a Bold Framework for National Digital Resilience

The Senator announced that Cybersecurity Vision 2026 is a comprehensive position paper outlining a forward-looking strategy for strengthening the nation's cybersecurity posture. The paper presents a detailed roadmap for modernizing digital defences, protecting critical infrastructure, and accelerating innovation across both public and private sectors. It reflects months of consultation with industry experts, academic researchers, and national security stakeholders.

"On 15 April, was outlined a clear and actionable vision for the future of our nation's cybersecurity," the Senator said. "The threats we face are evolving faster than ever, and our response must be equally ambitious. Cybersecurity Vision 2026 is designed to ensure that our institutions, businesses, and communities are protected, prepared, and positioned to lead."

SENATOR GERARD CRAUGHWELL

The position paper highlights several strategic priorities:

- 1. Strengthening national cyber readiness through modernized standards and coordinated threat-response capabilities.*
- 2. Expanding investment in critical infrastructure security, including energy, healthcare, transportation, and communications systems.*
- 3. Advancing innovation in artificial intelligence, quantum-resistant encryption, and next-generation threat-detection technologies.*
- 4. Addressing the cybersecurity workforce gap through targeted training, education, and talent-development initiatives.*
- 5. Deepening collaboration between government, industry, and academia to improve real-time information sharing and accelerate research.*

The Senator emphasized that the 2026 horizon represents a pivotal moment for shaping the country's digital trajectory. "This is not just a policy document - it is a call to action. Cybersecurity is now a foundation of national stability and economic strength, and we must treat it with the urgency it demands."



Cybersecurity Vision 2026, Position Paper Launch Panel: Senator Gerard Craughwell @Seanad Éireann, Joe McCann Director @Intercept Technologies, Lee Bristow Director of Cyber and AI Governance @Saros Consulting, Neal Mullen Chief Information Security Officer @the HSE, Eimer Murphy Managing Director @REIM Training Solutions LTD.

5. Senator Craughwell attends the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann (ONE)

The ceremony commenced with a ONE Veterans Guard of Honour for President of Ireland, Her Excellency Catherine Connolly, Saturday 28th of March 2026.

A quiet sense of continuity filled the air as Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann marked its 75th anniversary, an occasion that felt less like ceremony and more like a pause to acknowledge the weight of shared history. Veterans from different eras stood side by side, their stories separated by decades but bound by the same thread of service.

Senator Craughwell attended the commemoration, offering recognition not just to the organisation's long legacy but to the individuals who shaped it - those who served, those who struggled, and those who found in ONE a place of understanding. The presence of public representatives underscored how the organisation's work, once quiet and often unseen, has become an essential part of the State's commitment to its veterans.

Three-quarters of a century on, ONE remains defined by steady, unshowy solidarity.

The anniversary served as a reminder that while missions change and generations turn over, the need for community and care among veterans endures.



6. The 68th Plenary Conference of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) convened on Sunday, 22 March 2026, bringing together legislators from across the islands to discuss shared priorities and emerging challenges. Among the attendees was Senator Craughwell a senior member of the Upper House, who participated in a series of sessions focused on cross-border cooperation, economic resilience, and regional security.

The conference highlighted the importance of sustained dialogue between parliamentary representatives, particularly at a time of shifting political and economic landscapes. Delegates examined ongoing collaborative initiatives, reviewed recent committee findings, and explored new opportunities to strengthen institutional ties.

The 68th BIPA Plenary Conference concluded with a renewed commitment to fostering constructive partnerships and maintaining open channels of communication between the participating parliaments.



7. Senator Craughwell Attends the Emergency Services & Military Expo 2026 - panel discussion on pensions, 19th March 2026.

The Emergency Services & Military Expo brought together first responders serving and former members of An Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces and Reserve, Fire and Emergency Services, Prison Service, Coast Guard, ambulance and medical services - and the organisations that support them. During the event, Senator met with relevant emergency personnel, military representatives, and community leaders to discuss ongoing priorities in public safety, disaster preparedness, and national security.

The expo highlighted advancements in equipment, training, and interagency coordination, offering a valuable opportunity to recognize the work of those who serve on the front lines. The senator emphasized the importance of continued support for emergency services and the need to invest in resources that strengthen resilience across communities.



8. Saint Patrick's Day Observance at Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa, Renmore Barracks, Galway, 17th of March 2026.

On Saint Patrick's Day the garrison at Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa hosted a formal civic observance to honour the service and sacrifice of those who have served from Renmore. The event featured Senator Craughwell presence as a former member of An Chéad Chathlán Coisithe, who reflected on the enduring bonds between military service and public life.

The programme included ceremonial honours, a wreath-laying, and a reception in the barracks' museum where attendees viewed exhibits chronicling the site's military history from the 1880s to contemporary peacekeeping missions.

The observance offered an opportunity for civic leaders, Defence Forces personnel, and the public to pay tribute in a setting steeped in local and national history.



9. On the 12th of March 2026, Infinity IT, in partnership with SonicWall and ISME Ireland, hosted an in-person cybersecurity event: "Cyber Security in 2026: Unlocking Your Digital Defence" for Irish SME members, giving Irish SMEs practical insights into defending against today's growing digital threats.

Attendees heard guidance from Infinity IT's security specialists, who shared real-world examples and actionable steps for strengthening business resilience.

Independent Member of the Seanad, Senator Gerard Craughwell participated as a guest speaker, offering national-level perspective on the importance of cybersecurity readiness within Ireland's SME community. The event delivered a lively mix of expert advice, discussion, and practical strategies for businesses navigating an increasingly complex digital landscape.



10. On 11th of March 2026, Senator Craughwell and colleagues in support to the Seanad Public Consultation Committee, chaired by the Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Seanad, Senator Maria Byrne, seeking submissions from organisations and individuals engaged in cultural production or working in artistic industries, to consider proposals on how best to support and improve culture and arts infrastructure in Ireland. The topic was proposed by committee member Senator Francis Black.

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