

## **NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update**

### **SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

#### **MINISTER ANNOUNCES MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE**

On 24 June, Minister Frank Fahey T.D, Minister for Labour Affairs announced that he had accepted the recommendation, agreed by both ICTU and IBEC and contained in *Sustaining Progress*, to increase the national minimum wage. The Minister signed an order increasing the national minimum hourly rate of pay to €7.00 from 1st February 2004.

Commenting on the decision to increase the hourly rate the Minister said: *"Building on the success of the introduction of the National Minimum Wage, this decision will increase the pay of those who are on the minimum wage and benefit part-time and young workers in particular"*.

The effect of the statutory order signed by the Minister will be to increase the national minimum hourly rate of pay from the current rate of €6.35 to €7.00.

### **SECTION 2: POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **FETAC LAUNCHES ITS STRATEGIC PLAN**

On 19 June, the Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, Síle DeValera TD, June, launched the FETAC Strategic Plan (2003 – 2006). FETAC Chief Executive, Stan McHugh described it as an important milestone in the continuing economic and social evolution of the country, as well as an essential framework for those interested in self-improvement and life-long learning.

FETAC has been operating for two years and has already made over 145,000 Awards. This Strategic Plan aims to provide a solid infrastructure through which further education and training is delivered, its quality assured and benefits guaranteed and has already received the stamp of approval of the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, who recently established a ten level National Framework.

The Strategic Plan identifies five key challenges and strategic themes and also sets out clear performance indicators to measure progress over the next three years. These indicators include the number, range and quality of FETAC Awards available to learners; the quality of services for learners and the partnership with providers; increased awareness of the FETAC

qualification and continual enhancement of its status and recognition at home and abroad. It will also deliver internal, customer and stakeholder satisfaction.

For copies of the Plan and further information on the work of FETAC:

**Further Education and Training Awards Council**

**East Point Plaza**

**East Point Business Park**

**Dublin 3**

**Tel: 01 8659500 Fax: 01 8650067**

**Email: [information@fetac.ie](mailto:information@fetac.ie) Website: [www.fetac.ie](http://www.fetac.ie)**

### **SECTION 3: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **WORKING AGAINST POVERTY GRANT SCHEME**

CPA is seeking applications for the **Working Against Poverty Scheme** for the last time before it transfers responsibility to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The grant is to support community and voluntary to influence policy at local, regional and national level in working to tackle poverty or the effects of poverty. The scheme funds four types of activity:

- Training & Skills Development for Influencing Policy
- Conferences, Seminars and Publications
- Research or Evaluation
- Policy Analysis and Promotion.

As there is only one call for applications this year instead of two, CPA are inviting applications for larger scale projects with funding of €20,000 – €24,000 available to support up to 10 projects of exceptional quality on a once-off basis. The remainder of the funding available under this scheme will be awarded as per usual with funding of up to €13,000 available.

The closing date for applications is **Thursday 18 September, 2003**. For further information, brochures & applications forms please contact:

**Fidelma Joyce, Policy Liaison Officer**

**Combat Poverty Agency**

**Bridgewater Centre**

**Conyngham Road**

**Islandbridge, Dublin 8**

**Tel: 01 6026630**

**Email: [joycef@cpa.ie](mailto:joycef@cpa.ie)**

#### **GRANT SUPPORT FOR LOCALLY BASED COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

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There are two new grant schemes provided by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to support locally based voluntary and community activity. Both new and existing groups can be funded and grants will be made in respect of:

1. **Equipment, Refurbishment and Premises Grants** - once-off grants to help voluntary and community groups working with disadvantaged groups or in disadvantaged areas for acquisition or refurbishment of premises, or the purchase of equipment or transport only.
2. **Education, Training and Research Grants.** Once-off grants to fund training, education or research initiatives aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of local communities and voluntary groups. This includes programmes that strengthen and increase the skills and knowledge of management committees and programmes to provide education or training to individuals from disadvantaged communities. Research or Publications, which further these aims, will also be considered.

Grants may be made to a range of locally based organisations and groups, including:

- Family Support Groups and Community Development Groups
- Women's and Men's groups & Travellers groups
- Co-ordinating Organisations whose members support eligible locally-based groups
- Voluntary Organisations with a focus on disadvantage
- Community development groups working in disadvantaged areas or with disadvantaged groups;
- Mutual support and self-help organisations, such as local personal development and community-based education groups, unemployed groups, etc.

The maximum grant available is 90% of the cost. The actual grant varies in the light of individual circumstances and needs and takes account of the overall demands that must be met. The closing date for receipt of applications is 5 p.m. on Thursday, 7 August 2003. For further information/application forms contact:

**Voluntary and Community Services Section**  
**Dept. of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs**  
PO Box 924  
Dublin 2  
Tel: 01 474 8684/4748686

### **SECTION 4: ROUND-UP**

## **NEW POVERTY & INEQUALITY REPORT PUBLISHED**

On 12 June, Mary Coughlan, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, **launched 'Poverty and Inequality'** a joint report by the Combat Poverty Agency and the Equality Authority. The report highlights the link between the promotion of equality and the anti-poverty process and concludes that government should adopt a strong integrated poverty and equality proofing approach when formulating policy.

The Minister highlighted the significant progress made addressing poverty, inequality and social exclusion under the revised National Anti Poverty Strategy (NAPS), the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Inclusion (NAPIncl), by the establishment of the Office for Social Inclusion (OSI) and by the work carried out by the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) in assessing the effectiveness of poverty proofing.

For copies of the report please contact:

**Combat Poverty Agency**  
**Bridgewater Centre**  
**Conyngham Road**  
**Islandbridge Road**  
**Dublin 8**  
**Tel: 01 6706746**  
**Fax: 01 6706760**  
**Email: [info@combatpoverty.ie](mailto:info@combatpoverty.ie)**  
**Website: [www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie)**

## **DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

Comhairle is currently compiling the eleventh edition of the Directory of National Voluntary Organisations 2003/2004. This Directory is the most comprehensive listing of national voluntary organisations in the country with over 500 organisations including charities, lobbying and campaigning bodies, support and resource agencies and social service providers.

It also contains information details of state and public bodies of interest to the voluntary sector. It is widely used by voluntary, community organisations and key public sector bodies as well as journalists, libraries and statutory services. Comhairle is contacting several hundred organisations to update the information in the previous edition and would like to hear from any national, regional or voluntary organisation wishing to be included in the directory.

The application form can be downloaded from the website: [www.comhairle.ie](http://www.comhairle.ie) and returned to Email: [directory@comhairle.ie](mailto:directory@comhairle.ie)

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### **MINISTER LAUNCHES NEW IMMIGRANT RIGHTS HANDBOOK**

On 1 July Mary Coughlan, T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs, launched the Immigrant Council of Ireland's handbook on immigrants' rights and entitlements in Ireland. The handbook has been funded by a grant of €60,000 approved by Minister Coughlan from her Department's scheme of grants for information and welfare rights projects.

The handbook is considered to be the first publication of its type focused on the needs of immigrants. The publication covers social welfare entitlements as well as all aspects of law, policy and practice relating to immigration in Ireland. Over 3,000 copies will be distributed nationwide to immigrants themselves as well as to information and advice workers in state and non-state organisations, including Citizen's Information Centres, health boards, employers and trade unions. The handbook will also form the basis for information leaflets to be published and translated into various languages. For copies of the handbook please contact:

**Immigrant Council of Ireland  
42 Upper Dorset Street  
Dublin 1  
Tel: 01 8656525**

### **NEW BOOKLET FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY BEREAVEMENT**

Comhairle has published a new booklet entitled *Information for those affected by Bereavement* produced in partnership with the Department of Social and Family Affairs. It provides information on dealing with the practical and material matters that arise following a death. It contains information on what to do immediately after a death, possible social welfare entitlements, taxes, financial and legal issues that may arise and where to go for further information and support. Copies are being distributed to Citizen's Information Centres, to hospitals and funeral directors.

Copies are available from:

**Comhairle  
Hume House  
Ballsbridge**

Tel: 01 6059000

Fax: 01 6059099

Email: [comhairle@comhairle.ie](mailto:comhairle@comhairle.ie)

Website: [www.comhairle.ie](http://www.comhairle.ie)

### **INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2003**

Voluntary Service International has published its booklet advertising opportunities to volunteer in almost 500 projects worldwide. Each project lasts for 2 to 3 weeks and range from community work to the environment, arts and cultural work. Volunteers wishing to participate in the projects need to be over 18. Copies of the booklet are available at a cost of €4.00 from:

**Voluntary Service International  
30 Mountjoy Square  
Dublin 1  
Tel: 01 8551011**

### **NEW INOU HANDBOOK FOR UNEMPLOYED**

The Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed 10th edition of the *Working for Work* is now available. This annual publication is designed to inform and assist unemployed people and others on how to (re)enter the labour market or how to access training and education.

It also informs them of their social welfare entitlements whilst seeking or participating in work, training and/or education. The handbook is now available from:

**INO  
Araby House  
8 North Richmond Street  
Dublin 1  
Tel: 01 8560088  
Email: [policy@inou.ie](mailto:policy@inou.ie)  
Website: [www.inou.ie](http://www.inou.ie)**

**Copies of all publications and documentation  
highlighted in this edition are available for  
reference or loan purposes from the  
Irish YouthWork Centre**