

**SECTION 1: POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

**DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE IN IRELAND SEEKS SUBMISSIONS**

Mr Michael McDowell TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform announced the publication of a discussion document entitled *Immigration and Residence in Ireland*. The document sets out a range of issues to be considered and how they will be dealt with in the forthcoming Immigration and Residence Bill and in future policy.

The Minister is seeking comments on the issues outlined in the document and in particular the proposal contained within it. Contributions will feed into the development of future immigration policy as well as into the development of the proposed new immigration legislation.

There are several significant measures being proposed in the document include the following:

**Visas**

A new legislative basis for the visa system, improvements in customer service, and a review of the need for re-entry visas by those with a valid Irish residence permit.

**Border controls**

A review of existing border control legislative provisions to ensure their effectiveness, the use of biometric data in border controls and the provision of improved facilities for immigration control in airports and ports.

**Admission for a range of purposes**

Clearer procedures for the admission of migrants for a range of purposes including employment and self-employment, studies, family reunification and other purposes.

**Residence status**

The use of residence permits to establish entitlements to public services and the introduction of a new status of long term resident for those legally resident over five years in the State.

**Monitoring and compliance**

Co-operation and co-ordination across the public service to combat illegal immigration and people trafficking and smuggling.

**Removals**

A single procedure for considering asylum and other protection claims and a faster process for the removal of those who are illegally present.

**Administration and delivery of services**

Improved customer service and new administrative arrangements in the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS).

The document will be available in full and in summary formats on the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform website: [www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie). Copies are also available from the Government Publication Office at costs of €10.00 and €2.00 respectively.

The closing date for receipt of submissions is **Friday 29 July 2005**. Submissions may be sent by post in an envelope marked **Immigration and Residence in Ireland** to:

**Immigration and Citizenship Policy Unit  
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform,  
13-14 Burgh Quay,  
Dublin 2.**

Submissions may also be sent by e-mail to:

[immigrationpolicy@justice.ie](mailto:immigrationpolicy@justice.ie)

**NATIONAL DRUGS STRATEGY  
PROGRESS REPORT LAUNCHED**

Noel Ahern T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs today (29 March 2005) launched the National Drugs Strategy Progress Report 2001-04. The Report covers the period up to mid-2004 of the National Drugs Strategy, which runs for seven years from 2001 to 2008.

The key areas of progress to date are:

- Under the pillar of supply reduction, the Gardaí and Customs and Excise increased seizures of a range of drugs, including cocaine and cannabis
- Under the prevention pillar, substance misuse programmes are now on all school curricula. In addition, the National Awareness Campaign on Drugs was launched in May 2003 and a number of phases are being rolled out over three years

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

- Regarding treatment, considerable progress is also being made, in particular in increasing the number of methadone treatment places. The number of places is now approximately 7,300 exceeding the target of 6,500 set in the Strategy. Waiting lists for methadone treatment have also been substantially reduced
- The Prisons Service has recruited additional staff, including Prison Nurse Officers, in order to implement the Report on Prison-Based Drug Treatment Services. Training for Prison Officers is on-going and new drug-free areas have been opened in Wheatfield and the Dochas Centre, in addition to the one in St. Patrick's
- FÁS now have just under 1,120 places available in 54 drugs related projects on the special CE Scheme for recovering drug misusers
- Since its establishment, the NACD has completed a number of significant research projects including two bulletins from the Drug Prevalence Survey, Capture-Recapture Estimate on Opiate Misuse, An Overview of Cocaine Use in Ireland, A Study on Cannabis and A Review of Harm Reduction Approaches; and
- Ten Regional Drugs Task Forces have been established in the Health Board areas throughout the country during 2003 and are currently submitting their action plans to the National Drugs Strategy Team.

The Minister acknowledged that there are still gaps that remain to be filled over the remaining period of the Strategy leading to an increase of 18% for the Department's budget for drugs programmes in 2005.

The Minister also commented that the mid-term review of the Drugs Strategy is currently in its final stages. The report from the Steering Group overseeing the review will identify future priorities for the remaining period up to 2008.

For further information/copies of the report contact:

**Department of Community,  
Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs,  
Dún Aímhírgin  
43-49 Mespil Road,  
Dublin 4  
Tel: 01 6473000  
Fax: 01 6670826  
LoCall Number: 1890 474 847  
Press/Information Office: 01 6473130**

## **DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATION POLICY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

On Wednesday 4 May the Minister for Children Brian Lenihan TD launched the Consultation Document for the Development of a **Recreation Policy for Young People**.

The National Children's Office (NCO) has responsibility for the development of this policy, which will deal with recreation programmes and facilities that are funded by the Government.

The NCO wishes to engage in a consultation process on the development of the Recreation Policy. The consultation is aimed at organisations and individuals working with young people, teachers, parents and young people. The main focus of this policy will be on teenagers (twelve to eighteen year of age) to compliment the **National Play Policy**, which concentrated on children under twelve years of age.

The consultation document sets out the background to developing the policy (as part of the National Children's Strategy), identifies some of the potential barriers and motivators that hinder or encourage participation in recreation and set out the purposes objective of the policy.

A Steering Group is being established by the NCO to develop the Policy, taking into account the results of research recently undertaken with over 2,000 young people on the views about opportunities, barriers and support to recreation and leisure in Ireland and the views expressed during the consultation process.

For further information/details on the consultation process contact:

**Ms Anne O'Donnell  
Head of Communications  
National Children's Office  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
St Martin's House  
Waterloo Road  
Dublin 4  
Tel: 01 2420006  
Mobile: 086 3837320  
Fax: 01 6641929  
Email: [nco@health.gov.ie](mailto:nco@health.gov.ie)  
Website: [www.nco.ie](http://www.nco.ie)**

**SECTION 2: FUNDING**

**EUROPEAN YEAR OF  
CITIZENSHIP THROUGH  
EDUCATION SMALL GRANTS**

Arising out of ongoing work in Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC) the Council of Europe has proclaimed 2005 as the European Year of Citizenship through Education. The 'Year' is aimed at developing awareness and strengthening policy and practice in Citizenship through Education across all levels of education in both the formal and non-formal sectors. In this regard the target group for activities under the Year will primarily be policy makers and practitioners in citizenship education.

Ireland's activities throughout the European Year of Citizenship through Education are being coordinated through the Curriculum Development Unit (City of Dublin VEC) with direct support from the Department of Education and Science and Development Cooperation Ireland (a Directorate of the Department of Foreign Affairs).

The theme of Ireland's activities under the Year is **Building Learners' Capacity for Citizenship through Education: Promoting Participation, Encouraging Voice and Valuing Difference.**

Applications are now being sought for the distribution of small grants to support Citizenship through Education activities. Deadline for Receipt of applications is **5pm Friday, 13 May, 2005.** For further information go to:

<http://www.activelink.ie/ce/active.php?id=2363>

**SECTION 3: ROUND-UP**

**NONPROFIT SECTOR  
MAPPING PROJECT**

The Centre for Nonprofit Management at Trinity College is currently engaged in a project to map the Irish nonprofit sector and wishes to ensure that organisations which may not have received a questionnaire, or who received an initial questionnaire but misplaced it, have every opportunity to be involved in this important study.

This is the first time a large-scale attempt has been made to define the size, scope and value of the nonprofit sector. The Centre for Nonprofit Management is appealing to any organisations that have not completed

and returned a questionnaire yet to do so as soon as possible. If you have not received a copy of the questionnaire but would like to be part of this project you can download the questionnaire in .pdf format (you will need Acrobat Reader version 5.5 or over):

<http://www.activelink.ie/ce/active.php?id=1469>

If you have any queries or comments about this project please do not hesitate to contact:

**Geraldine Prizeman (01-6083230) or  
Virginie Noël (01-6083784).**

Additional information about the Mapping Project and the Centre for Nonprofit Management can be found on our website: <http://www.cnm.tcd.ie>

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY AWARDS**

Donal O' Kelly, playwright of The Cambria launched the call for nominations for the World Refugee Day Awards in the Chester Beatty Library Dublin on 13 April.

The World Refugee Day Awards are the main national event to mark the United Nations World Refugee Day in Ireland. The Awards aim to publicly recognize the positive contribution made by refugees, asylum seekers and local communities and highlight the brave and often unrecognized work of individuals and groups from both communities.

The World Refugee Day Awards takes place on the 16th June in the Civic Offices, Dublin City Council, Wood Quay, Dublin at 7pm. The closing date for nominations is Friday 20 May, 2005.

Further details on the awards and nomination forms available from Integrating Ireland and can be downloaded from their website:

**Integrating Ireland  
10 Upper Camden Street  
Dublin 2  
Tel: 01 4783490  
Email: [info@integratingireland.ie](mailto:info@integratingireland.ie)  
Website: [www.integratingireland.ie](http://www.integratingireland.ie)**

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

