



## Main Social Welfare Changes and Rates of Payments

**Éamon Ó Cuív T.D., Minister for Social Protection**

*€20.62 billion being spent on Social Protection in 2011*

### **Older people are fully protected**

- ◆ Older people will continue to get their State Pension and other payments as well as the Free Travel, Free TV Licence, Telephone Allowance and Electricity or Gas Allowance at current levels.
- ◆ In addition, allowances such as the Living Alone Allowance, Over 80 Age Allowance, Fuel Allowance and Islander Allowance will not change.

### **Helping people back to work – 15,000 new places**

- ◆ New work scheme to be launched with 5,000 places providing work opportunities in the community for the unemployed.
- ◆ 10,000 extra work place positions and internships will be provided in the public and private sector (Department of Education and Skills).
- ◆ Employer Job (PRSI) Incentive scheme – closing date for new applications extended to the end of 2011.

### **New lower rates of payment for people under 66 years of age**

- ◆ Weekly personal rates of the main social welfare payments for people **under age 66** will reduce by €8 (average 4.1%). Main rate in 2011 will be €188 per week (€185.80 in 2007).
- ◆ The weekly personal rate of Supplementary Welfare Allowance will reduce by €10 (5.1%).
- ◆ Qualified Adult Allowance will reduce by 4.1% per week (€5.30 in most cases).

### **Child Benefit rates will reduce but there will be no change to other supports for children**

- ◆ Child Benefit rates will be €140 per month for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> child, €167 per month for the 3<sup>rd</sup> child and €177 for the 4<sup>th</sup> and subsequent children.
- ◆ Additional benefit and grants for multiple births will continue to be paid.
- ◆ There will be no change to the weekly Qualified Child Increase paid to those getting weekly social welfare payments.
- ◆ The following schemes have been fully maintained: Family Income Supplement, Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, Domiciliary Care Allowance and Widowed Parent Grant.

### **Carers**

- ◆ The half rate Carer's Allowance will continue to be paid to people who are full-time carers and who are getting another welfare payment. Extra payment for caring for more than one person is retained.
- ◆ Carers will continue to get the annual Respite Care Grant of €1,700 for each care recipient.
- ◆ Carer's Allowance rates for carers aged 66 years and over will not change. Rates for carers **under age 66** years will reduce by €8 (3.8%).

For more information telephone **Department of Social Protection** on  
1890 66 22 44 (LoCall) 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday and

**Citizens Information Phone Service** on 1890 777 121 (LoCall) 9am - 9pm Monday to Friday

Contact your nearest Social Welfare Local Office or Citizens Information Centre

Information is also available on [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) and [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

**Note: The rates charged for the use of 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.**

# ***SOCIAL WELFARE RATES 2011***

<b><i>PAYMENT RATES FOR OLDER PEOPLE - UNCHANGED</i></b>				
	Personal Rates		Qualified Adult Allowance	
	Current Rates	2011 Rates	Current Rates	2011 Rates
<b><i>Social Insurance Payments</i></b>				
<b>State Pension (Contributory)/(Transition)</b>				
Under age 80	€230.30	<b>€230.30</b>	€153.50 (under 66)	<b>€153.50 (under 66)</b>
Aged 80 and over	€240.30	<b>€240.30</b>	€206.30 (over 66)	<b>€206.30 (over 66)</b>
<b>Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension/Deserted Wife's Benefit</b>				
Age 66 and under 80	€230.30	<b>€230.30</b>		
Aged 80 and over	€240.30	<b>€240.30</b>		
<b>Invalidity Pension</b>				
Aged 65	€230.30	<b>€230.30</b>	€206.30 (over 66)	<b>€206.30 (over 66)</b>
<b>Death Benefit Pension</b>				
Aged 66 and under 80	€234.70	<b>€234.70</b>		
Aged 80 and over	€244.70	<b>€244.70</b>		
<b><i>Social Assistance Payments</i></b>				
<b>State Pension (Non-Contributory)</b>				
Aged 66 and under 80	€219.00	<b>€219.00</b>	€144.70	<b>€144.70</b>
Aged 80 and over	€229.00	<b>€229.00</b>		
<b>Carer's Allowance</b>				
Aged 66 and over	€239.00	<b>€239.00</b>		

<b>New Child Benefit Rates</b>				<b>Family Income Supplement (FIS) for families in employment. Income limits unchanged</b>		
Number of children	Monthly Rate	Monthly Rate	Annual Value	Family Size	2010 Weekly Income Limit	2011 Weekly Income Limit
	2010 €	2011 €	2011 €		2010 €	2011 €
1 child	150	<b>140</b>	1,680	1 child	506	<b>506</b>
2 children	300	<b>280</b>	3,360	2 children	602	<b>602</b>
3 children	487	<b>447</b>	5,364	3 children	703	<b>703</b>
4 children	674	<b>624</b>	7,488	4 children	824	<b>824</b>
5 children	861	<b>801</b>	9,612	5 children	950	<b>950</b>
6 children	1,048	<b>978</b>	11,736	6 children	1,066	<b>1,066</b>
7 children	1,235	<b>1,155</b>	13,860	7 children	1,202	<b>1,202</b>
8 children	1,422	<b>1,332</b>	15,984	8 children	1,298	<b>1,298</b>

## **Other child support measures which will not change**

- ◆ The Qualified Child Increase for families who are dependent on a weekly social welfare payment will remain unchanged at €29.80 per week
- ◆ The rates of the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance will continue to be paid at €200 for children aged 2-11 years and €305 for children aged 12-17 years.
- ◆ Domiciliary Care Allowance, which is paid in respect of certain children under 16 years of age who need full-time care and attention, will continue to be paid at €309.50 per month.
- ◆ As set out above, Family Income Supplement weekly income thresholds will remain unchanged.

## ***REVISED PAYMENT RATES FOR PEOPLE UNDER AGE 66***

	Personal Rates		Qualified Adult Allowance (under 66 years)	
	Current Rates €	2011 Rates €	Current Rates €	2011 Rates €
<b><i>Social Insurance Payments</i></b>				
Jobseeker's Benefit/Illness/Health & Safety/Injury Benefit	196.00	<b>188.00</b>	130.10	<b>124.80</b>
Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension/Deserted Wife's Benefit	201.50	<b>193.50</b>		
Carer's Benefit/Constant Attendance Allowance	213.00	<b>205.00</b>		
Invalidity Pension	201.50	<b>193.50</b>	143.80	<b>138.10</b>
Disablement Pension	227.00	<b>219.00</b>		
Death Benefit Pension	226.50	<b>218.50</b>		
<b><i>Social Assistance Payments</i></b>				
Jobseeker's Allowance/ Farm Assist/Pre-Retirement	196.00	<b>188.00</b>	130.10	<b>124.80</b>
One Parent Family Payment	196.00	<b>188.00</b>		
Supplementary Welfare Allowance	196.00	<b>186.00</b>	130.10	<b>124.80</b>
Widow's/Widower's (Non-Contributory) Pension/ Deserted Wife's Allowance/Prisoner's Wife's Allowance	196.00	<b>188.00</b>		
Carer's Allowance	212.00	<b>204.00</b>		
Disability Allowance/Blind Pension	196.00	<b>188.00</b>	130.10	<b>124.80</b>
<b><i>Other Social Welfare Payments</i></b>				
Maternity/Adoptive Benefit (minimum rate)	225.80	<b>217.80</b>		
(maximum rate)	270.00	<b>262.00</b>		
Guardian's Payment (Contributory)/(Non-Contributory)	169.00	<b>161.00</b>		

### ***People of Working Age (under age 66)***

#### **Jobseeker's Allowance and Supplementary Welfare Allowance**

- ◆ The rate of Jobseeker's Allowance or Supplementary Welfare Allowance paid to people aged 18-21 inclusive will remain unchanged at €100 per week.
- ◆ The rate of Jobseeker's Allowance or Supplementary Welfare Allowance paid to recipients aged 22, 23 and 24 years is being reduced to €144 per week with effect from January 2011.

#### **Rural Social Scheme and Community Employment Scheme (CE)**

- ◆ Rates will be revised in line with the changes in social welfare rates (€208 for a single person).

#### **Treatment Benefits**

- ◆ The Treatment Benefit scheme will continue to be limited to free examinations provided for under Dental and Optical Benefits. Hearing aid grants payable under this scheme will be fully maintained.

#### **Rent Supplement**

- ◆ The Rent Supplement Scheme will be reformed. This will include an additional €2 per week contribution by certain welfare recipients towards the cost of rent, consequential on the reduction in the personal rate of Supplementary Welfare Allowance.

### ***Supports for people who have been bereaved which remain unchanged***

- ◆ The rates of the Widowed Parent Grant (€6,000) and the Bereavement Grant (€850) will not change.

## Examples of social welfare annual supports available for various individuals

	Personal Rate	Qualified Adult Increase (over 66)	Free Travel (average value)	Total	Possible Additional Increases			
					Living Alone Increase	Fuel Allowance (not incl. Smokeless Fuel)	Over 80 Increase	Household Benefits
Single Pensioner State Pension (Contributory)	€11,975.60	€0.00	€113	€12,088.60	€400.40	€640.00	€520	€996
Pensioner Couple State Pension (Contributory)	€11,975.60	€10,727.60	€226	€22,929.20	€0.00	€640.00	€520	€996
Single Pensioner State Pension (Non Contributory)	€11,388.00	€0.00	€113	€11,501.00	€400.40	€640.00	€520	€996

Jobseeker Allowance couple – no earnings, 2 children (one under 11, one over 11)	Jobseeker's Allowance + IQC	Child Benefit	Fuel Allowance (not incl. Smokeless Fuel)	Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance x 2	Total
	€19,364.80	€3,360	€640.00	€505	€23,869.80

Lone Parent – net earnings of €145 per week, 1 child under 11 years	Net Earnings	One Parent Family Payment + IQC	Child Benefit	Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance x 1	Total	Possible Additional Increase
						Fuel Allowance (not incl. Smokeless Fuel)
	€7,540.00	€11,325.60	€1,680	€200	€20,745.60	€640.00

Lone parents can earn up to €425 per week and still retain a significant portion of their One Parent Family Payment.

Couple under 66 years, husband on Disability Allowance, no children, spouse in receipt of ½ rate Carer's Allowance	Personal rate & Qualified Adult Increase	½ rate Carer's Allowance	Respite Care Grant	Fuel Allowance (not incl. Smokeless Fuel)	Household Benefits & Free Travel	Total
	€16,265.60	€5,304	€1,700	€640.00	€1,109.00	€25,018.60

Working couple (low income), 4 children (2 under 11, 2 over 11)	Net Earnings	Family Income Supplement (FIS)	Child Benefit	Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance x 4	Total	Income from Social Welfare Payments
		€28,600	€8,580	€7,488	€1,010	€45,678

The above examples are for illustrative purposes only. Individual circumstances may differ. Depending on circumstances, the claimant may also be entitled to Rent Supplement or Mortgage Interest Supplement.