



**BALBRIGGAN TO HOST CONSULTATIVE SEMINAR ON
POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

A consultative seminar on poverty and social exclusion will be held at the Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan Co. Dublin on Tuesday, 29th April. People living in poverty, the organisations representing and working with them, local and regional authorities and service providers are invited to attend by the organisers, the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Combat Poverty Agency.

The seminar is part of a nationwide consultation process on poverty and social exclusion recently announced by Mary Coughlan TD Minister for Social and Family Affairs. The consultations will help the development, implementation and monitoring of the second National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Advance booking is advisable as there are a limited number of places at the seminar. Booking enquiries should be made to Elaine Byrne at tel. 01 602 6626 or byrnee@cpa.ie

Submissions can also be made in writing to the Office of Social Inclusion (NAPincl Consultation), Department of Social and Family Affairs, Floor 1,



Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1 or by email: osi@welfare.ie.
Closing date for receipt of submissions is 30th May 2003.

”I would welcome as large an attendance as possible at the Balbriggan seminar, and I would equally welcome written submissions from those unable to attend.

”I would hope to hear suggestions about emerging issues in relation to poverty, inequalities that lead to poverty and in particular gender dimensions of poverty, ideas on how local service providers can be involved further in tackling poverty and issues relating to children, disadvantaged families, older people, people with disabilities, and both rural and urban disadvantage,” said Minister Coughlan.

”The challenge of eradicating poverty requires not just action by the State but by society as a whole, “ said Minister Coughlan today.

”We are engaging in the current consultation process to draw on the experience of those living in situations of disadvantage and of those working with them in preparing this Plan of action. We want to ensure that our policies and programmes are effective, “ said Minister Coughlan.

The revised national Anti-Poverty strategy, Building an inclusive society, as well as the new Social Partnership Agreement, Sustaining progress, would be reflected in the plan, said Minister Coughlan.



Each member state of the European Union is required to submit a two year National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion (NAPincl) to the EU Commission by July 2003. This will be Ireland's second Plan to the EU and follows a previous Plan for 2001 – 2003. This is an ongoing process at EU level – in 2005 Ireland will be expected to review and develop a further plan.

Two thematic seminars will be held in Dublin City on the 14th and 28th of May.

ENDS
April 17th 2003