



Minister Cullen launches 'Working for Work' publication

Minister for Social and Family Affairs **Martin Cullen** TD today (27 September 2007) visited the Dublin-based premises of the *National Organisation for the Unemployed* (INOUE) and launched the 14th edition of their handbook '*Working for Work*'.

This 136-page publication is a comprehensive document, which aims to bring together a wide range of information and supports available to unemployed people who are trying to return to work, or into training or education as a means of getting back into work.

Speaking this afternoon, Minister Cullen said: "I am pleased to launch the 14th edition of this informative and valuable handbook. Its focus on assisting the unemployed, particularly the long-term unemployed, in rejoining the workforce reflects both the policies of my Department and those of the INOUE". Minister Cullen added: "The need for a comprehensive and co-ordinated information pack which would enable unemployed people to compare the various support schemes and programmes available to them provided the initial springboard for this impressive publication. In a clear, concise way, it unravels many of the more complex issues and gives practical examples to convey the essential details of each programme, together with information on how to access programmes and where to seek further help when required. In that way it is a valuable guidebook that will help many along the route from welfare to work".



Department of Social and Family Affairs

Complimenting the INOU on the 20 years of work it has carried out assisting people with their entry or re-entry into the workplace, Minister Cullen said: "The INOU is in the unique position of being able to articulate and represent the needs of unemployed people through its network of nearly 170 centres and affiliate organisations".

Minister Cullen concluded: "The Government is committed to maintaining high levels of employment, low levels of unemployment and a strong business sector. We must continue to make jobs; endeavour to ensure people have the skills and confidence they need to take on those jobs and at a time when a person, for whatever reason finds themselves unemployed, that they receive an adequate income to allow them participate fully in society and the information they need to help them get back into the workforce".

Editor's Note:

The Department of Social and Family Affairs has provided core funding to the INOU towards the cost of maintaining and developing a welfare rights and information unit since 1992. €143,000 was allocated to the INOU for this purpose in 2007. Over €48,000 was allocated this year towards the cost of the 14th edition of the booklet.



Department of Social and Family Affairs

The publication launched today 'Working for Work' is widely distributed to, and used by, statutory and community sector staff who provide front-line services to unemployed people, people in receipt of social welfare payments and those facing poverty and social exclusion. To access a copy of this publication, please click on to the website **www.inou.ie**

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