



**NEWS RELEASE**

**December 1 2008**

**Minister Hanafin launches Mental Health Ireland  
Information leaflet**

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. today (*Monday, December 1st*) launched an information leaflet on Social Welfare ***Entitlements/ Benefits for people with Enduring Mental Health Problems.***

The leaflet, which was produced by Mental Health Ireland, draws together all the benefits and entitlements provided by the Department of Social and Family Affairs to meet the information needs of those with mental health problems. Speaking at today's launch in Dun Laoghaire Minister Hanafin said **we are all aware of how important clear and accurate information is and how important it is to have that information readily available. It is always good to have relevant information at the first point of contact for the majority of people. Over the years Mental Health Ireland have tirelessly worked to promote positive mental health by identifying the needs of those with a mental health problems and advocating their rights. The production of this leaflet is another good example of the valuable work done by Mental Health Ireland.**"

The design, print and distribution of the information leaflet was part funded by the Department of Social and Family Affairs. Welfare schemes such as Disability Allowance and the Household Benefits package, which are administered by the Department of Social and Family Affairs, are outlined in this information leaflet as are schemes administered by the Community Welfare Officer such as Rent Supplement and Supplementary Welfare Allowance. Minister Hanafin continued, **"this information leaflet is intended to complement the wide range of information leaflets produced by the Department as well as those**



**available through the Citizens Information Board. It will direct people with a mental health problem towards the schemes and services that are best suited to their individual needs."**

In conclusion Minister Hanafin commended Mental Health Ireland's Association network of workers and volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise to the service and who will ensure that the information gets to the people who most need it.

**ENDS**

**Notes for Editors:**

Mental Health Ireland (M.H.I.) is a national voluntary organisation established in 1966, which aims to promote positive mental health and to actively support persons with a mental illness. MHI is made up of a network of over 100 local Mental Health Associations (MHAs) throughout the country who are affiliated to and share the same aims and objectives as the national body. Mental Health Ireland is affiliated to Mental Health Europe and The World Federation for Mental Health.