



**Hanafin approves €11million to support families through Marriage, Child and Bereavement Counselling Services**

Almost €11 million is being allocated to 600 voluntary and community groups nationwide which provide a wide range of marriage, child and bereavement counselling services and supports. Announcing the grants Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D., today (*5th June 2008*) said that supporting families through difficult times is a key focus for her and the increased funding being announced will help communities throughout the country.

Minister Hanafin said **“this funding of €10.9 million will enable groups involved in counselling to help men, women and children through traumatic events and times in their families’ lives. This year’s allocation has increased by over €1 million – a 10% increase - on 2007 funding levels. This means that established groups will receive enhanced support and over 80 first-time applicants will receive grant aid.”**

**“Some of the larger voluntary counselling organisations will also, for the first time, operate on a three year multi annual funding basis from 2009. This will enable them to develop services over a longer period of time and give continuity to their communities”** said Minister Hanafin. Since 2004, over €40 million has been allocated to counselling and support services through the Department’s Family Support Agency.

More than 50 groups will receive grants in excess of €40,000. For example, Accord Headquarters, Maynooth and Accord Dublin, which is responsible for 11 centres serving the Dublin/Wicklow region, are established, major providers of marriage counselling and marriage preparation and have been granted over €1



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million and over €740,000 respectively. Barnardos, which works with vulnerable children and families, will receive a grant of over €210,000 while Rainbows, a nationwide bereavement support network, has been granted over €310,000.

Minister Hanafin went on to say **“I believe that families are central to our society and I am keen to support practical initiatives which help all members of the family to enhance stability in their lives during periods of stress and trauma that they may encounter.”**

Marriage and relationship counselling accounts for 57% of this year's funding, bereavement counselling and support 22%, child counselling 14% and marriage preparation 7%. This year, for the first time, groups who have received a grant of over €20,000 may use up to 2% of the grant towards professional development and training of counselling staff.

### **ENDS**

**For more information, contact: Niamh Fitzgerald, 087 254 7232**

### **Note for Editors:**

### **2008 Scheme of Grants for Marriage, Child and Bereavement Counselling Services**

#### **County by county breakdown of total grants awarded**

Carlow	€100,550
Cavan	€ 87,200
Clare	€144,020
Cork	€858,300
Donegal	€222,200
Dublin	€4,581,270



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Galway	€358,200
Kerry	€376,100
Kildare	€1,341,800
Kilkenny	€50,600
Laois	€48,900
Leitrim	€32,200
Limerick	€263,700
Longford	€53,450
Louth	€428,400
Mayo	€374,400
Meath	€150,460
Monaghan	€87,500
Offaly	€71,100
Roscommon	€368,700
Sligo	€103,735
Tipperary	€229,000
Waterford	€252,665
Westmeath	€93,200
Wexford	€145,500
Wicklow	€124,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>€10,948,000</b>