



Department of Social and Family Affairs

Forum on Family Policy held in Galway - Mary Coughlan Minister for Social and Family Affairs

The Department of Social and Family Affairs, today in Galway hosted a public consultative seminar on family policy - the fourth in a series of five family fora at which Minister Coughlan is hearing families' concerns.

"These national consultations will be an opportunity for family members, and those who work with them, to express the concerns and themes which influence family life today," said Minister Coughlan.

"Three fora have already been held, in Donegal, Kilkenny and Cork. There will be one further forum at Croke Park, Dublin on the 4th of December, which I will be attending to take the pulse of the nation on how best the Government can support families."

"Families still remain the basic units in our society forming a crucial social safety net for improving the well being of individual family members," added the Minister.

"As Minister responsible for Family Affairs I am determined to keep family issues central to Government policy, as illustrated by our 'Families First Policy'. This policy is evident in such initiatives as the establishment of the Family Support Agency and the nationwide consultative Family Fora."

The contributions to all the fora will be documented in a detailed report to be prepared at the end of the series of meetings.

ENDS

6th November 2003