Department of Social and Family Affairs



Over €19 Million In Respite Care Grants Paid To Carers This Year

An estimated 21,000 carers have received an increased respite care grant this year. The annual grant was increased by €100, from €735 to €835 and to €1,670 for carers who are caring for more than one person.

"Our commitment to helping Carers is reiterated in the recently published Government Progress Report. This increase, which results in more than a trebling of the payment since its introduction in 1999, acknowledges the valuable and unheralded work done by carers and demonstrates our commitment to them," said Minister Coughlan.

"It is important that we care for the carers. This grant empowers Carer's to chose the form of respite that best suits their own unique circumstances," added Minister Coughlan.

The annual respite Care payment is made to all carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit and to carers who are providing full-time care and attention to those in receipt of a Constant Attendance Allowance or Prescribed Relatives Allowance. The respite payment is doubled for people caring for more than one person.

The Respite Care Grant was introduced in June 1999 in recognition of the importance of respite to carers.

"I am committed to ensuring that we continue our work to build an inclusive and caring society. This latest increase in the respite care grant is another indication of our aim in building a caring society.

"We made the commitment to expand the limits for the carer's allowance so that all those on average incomes can qualify.

"In the last Budget, the income disregards were increased by €40 a week for single people and €80 for couples brining the disregards to €250/€500 respectively- and these income disregards will continue to be examined in the context of future budgets.

ENDS August 9th 2004

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