



Department of Social and Family Affairs

Strong Family Focus In Family Support Agency Plan Welcomed By Minister For Social And Family Affairs

Mary Coughlan TD, Minister for Social and Family Affairs today launched the first strategic plan of the Family Support Agency. The Agency which was formally established by the Minister on 6 May 2003 published its Strategic Plan to cover 2004 to 2006 in order to describe the direction, intention, activity and measurement of the work of the Family Support Agency at a high level over the next three years.

"The priorities set out in the Family Support Agency's Strategic Plan clearly capture the essence of the Agency's functions," Minister Coughlan said. "The key pillars on which the Agency is founded are reflected in the Strategy."

The Family Support Agency has identified several Strategic Priorities that set the overall direction for the organisation for the next three years. They capture the essence of the Agency's functions, delivering direct and indirect support services for families and contributing to the effectiveness of family policy and services through research. In addition, the importance of raising awareness of the leading role the Agency plays in delivering support services and related information for families throughout Ireland is highlighted.

"The Family Support Agency has just celebrated its first birthday, and I am pleased to acknowledge the Government's support for its valuable work which is evidenced by the six fold increase – to €7.61m this year - in Government funding for the development of marriage, child and relationship counselling services in the voluntary sector since 1997," Minister Coughlan said.

ENDS May 11th 2004