



**NEWS RELEASE**

**JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 2007**

**O2 ABILITY AWARDS 2007**

**The Department of Social and Family Affairs builds on its 2006 success by winning awards in all six categories of the O2 Ability Awards.**

The O2 Ability Awards, created and designed by the Aisling Foundation, celebrate organisations and their business leaders that are successfully working with employees with disabilities. The Awards examine all aspects of employment and reward professional excellence in this particular area of people management.

This year 50 organisations, drawn from both the public and private sectors, received awards.

In 2006, the Department received awards in 3 categories. At the O2 Ability Awards 2007 ceremony in Dublin Castle on Wednesday evening the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, the Department received awards in all six categories:

**Leadership**

**Environment Accessibility**

**Customer Service**

**Recruitment & Selection**

**Learning, Development & Progression**

**Retention & Wellbeing.**

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Martin Cullen TD, stated, "I am very pleased to see the Department receiving these awards which recognises clearly its excellent work in supporting employees with disabilities.



## **Department of Social and Family Affairs**

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The Department, in winning these awards, has demonstrated its commitment to providing an excellent service to people with disabilities as well as an inclusive working environment for all its employees, reflecting its pivotal role in working towards building an inclusive society.”

Mr John Hynes, Secretary General, who accepted the awards on behalf of the Department, paid tribute to the work of the Department staff who are involved in developing and promoting a supportive environment for customers of the Department and for staff with disabilities. “It is particularly satisfying to see the Department recognised in this way in view of our wider responsibility to this community under the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016: Building an Inclusive Society* and having regard to the Department’s commitments under the Government’s Disability Strategy.”

**ENDS**