



## **Department of Social and Family Affairs wins eGovernment Award for accessible website**

The newly redesigned website ['www.welfare.ie'](http://www.welfare.ie) has won an eGovernment award for most accessible Government website.

The Department of Social and Family Affairs' winning entry contains comprehensive information on all of the Department's schemes and services, as well as policy and legislation, in an easy-to-use, consistent and modern design. Website accessibility for all was one of the key considerations in the redevelopment of ['www.welfare.ie'](http://www.welfare.ie). The site is accessible to people with disabilities and is user friendly for all customers.

Ireland's eGovernment Awards, which are in their seventh year, are run by Public Sector Times newspaper and web experts Elucidate, in association with Eircom. The Awards are a benchmark for excellence in Irish eGovernment services and standards and recognise the innovators, developers and experts who are pioneering changes in how the Irish Government delivers services to its citizens. Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. presented all the winners with their awards at a special ceremony in Dublin.

Visits to ['www.welfare.ie'](http://www.welfare.ie) have increased by almost 25% in the past year with , for example, some 230,000 visitors in January 2009 compared to 185,000 visitors in January 2008. Pages providing information for jobseekers and the Department's contact details are the most popular accounting for nearly half of all visits (48% in December 2008).

**ENDS**