



Annual Statistical Report (2006) Published

The Department of Social and Family Affairs today (20 December 2007) published a document - ***Statistical Information on Social Welfare Services, 2006*** - which outlines key statistics from the Department's programmes in **2006** together with broader trends over the last 10 years.

In 2006, 1.5 million people benefited directly from weekly social welfare payments which were paid to over 1 million recipients. The report shows that spending on the State Pension amounted that year to €3.3 billion, an increase of 11.3 % over 2005. Payments were made to some 340,000 people in this area. The statistical report also shows an increase in expenditure on the Carer's Allowance and Carer's Benefit by 27.6% and 74% respectively. The numbers in receipt of a carer's payment increased from 25,837 to 29,121 an increase of 12.7%.

Speaking about the statistical report, now in its 24th year of publication, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Martin Cullen TD, said: "Supports administered by the Department provide for the complex and often multi-faceted needs of people at every stage of life. Continuing to reflect the trend of recent years and re-affirming the Government's commitment to the welfare of all those in need of support, social welfare programmes expenditure increased to **€13.6 billion in 2006** - an increase of 11.7% over the previous year."



Department of Social and Family Affairs

The main features of the Department's activities in 2006 were:

- Over 1 million people were in receipt of a weekly Social Welfare payment, which was paid in respect of 1.5 million beneficiaries.
- Total Social Welfare expenditure was financed by the Exchequer (53.4%) and the Social Insurance Fund (46.6%).
- Expenditure on Old Age (now the State Pension) increased by 11.3% to €3.3 billion. Payments were made to some 340,000 people in this area.
- Family Income Supplement was paid in respect of 21,800 families with 43,861 children, an increase of 24.9% on the previous year. Expenditure on Family Income Supplement increased by 48.5% to €107 million.
- Overall expenditure on Employment Supports increased by €47 million in 2006, an increase of 19.4% over 2005.
- 562,860 families received a monthly Child Benefit payment, which was paid in respect of 1,083,980 children. Expenditure on Child Benefit increased by 8.2% to €2.1 billion.
- Expenditure on Carer's Allowance and Carer's Benefit increased by 27.6% and 74.0% respectively. (The numbers in receipt of a carer's payment increased from 25,837 to 29,121, an increase of 12.7%).



Department of Social and Family Affairs

- Expenditure on Jobseeker's Benefit and Jobseeker's Allowance rose by over €36 million and €101 million compared with 2005, increases of 8.8% and 15.2% respectively.
- Expenditure on the Supplementary Welfare Allowance amounted to over €635 million in 2006, an increase of 1.8% on 2005.
- Expenditure on Rent Supplements rose by over €19 million in 2006, an increase of 5.3%.
- The number of recipients of Rent Supplement at the end of 2006 was 59,860, an increase of 0.5% on 2005.

Issued by:

Michelle Hctor, 087 8563070

Oonagh Duffy, 087 254 9683

The report is accessible on the Department's website at the following web address: www.welfare.ie/publications/annstats/index.html