



MINISTER COUGHLAN RESPONDS TO **EMIGRANT/IMMIGRANT NEEDS**

Mary Coughlan T.D. Minister for Social and Family Affairs today approved funding of €100,000 to Emigrant Advice, €70,000 to Emigrant Advice Network and €60,000 for the Immigrant Council of Ireland.

The Emigrant Advice will use the funding of €100,000 to carry out its core activities and to move into more suitable premises. Funding of €70,000 to Emigrant Advice Network (EAN) will be used to expand and develop the national network of emigration advice and information groups and towards the employment of a full-time development officer.

The Immigrant Council of Ireland will use its funding to publish (in six languages) a guide on rights and entitlements for immigrants in Ireland - considered to be the first targeted attempt at providing information to immigrants.

“I am delighted to approve this funding. It is important that we provide good quality and accessible information to people leaving and coming to our country. Access to information is essential part of our plans to create an equal and inclusive society,” said the Minister. “I welcome the innovative way in which the ICI’s guide will be made available in different languages,” added Minister Coughlan.



The funds are being provided under the Department's scheme of grants for information and welfare rights projects.

ENDS 24th March, 2003

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Note to News Editors

Emigrant Advice Network

The Emigrant Advice Network was established in 1996 and is an independent network of various organisations involved in the provision of information and advice to those planning to emigrate from Ireland.

The members of the network include a number of youth information centres, centres for the unemployed and two centres specifically providing advice to migrants, one in Dublin and the other in Cork.

Some of the aims of the EAN are:

- provide support for information providers dealing with emigrants and returning emigrants
- to raise public awareness of emigration and issues arising from it
- to improve service levels to emigrants, both here and abroad

The EAN can be contacted on 01 873 2844.

Emigrant Advice

Emigrant Advice is the main dedicated service to prospective emigrants in Ireland. It provides a pre-departure information and support service to intending emigrants. The focus is on helping those people most vulnerable when emigrating. It also helps people returning home after living abroad.

It is based in Dublin City Centre, under the auspices of Crosscare, the social care agency of the Dublin diocese. Some 2,192 queries were dealt with in 2002.

Emigrant Advice can be contacted on 01 872 6171.

Immigrant Council of Ireland

Sr. Stanilaus Kennedy established the Immigrant Council of Ireland last year as an independent organisation to promote the rights of immigrants through information, advice, advocacy and awareness.

3,000 copies of the guide on rights and entitlements for immigrants in Ireland will be published.



The ICI can be contacted on 01 865 6525.