



**€39 PER WEEK INCREASE IN THRESHOLDS FOR  
FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENT**

**€14 PER WEEK INCREASE IN MATERNITY BENEFIT**

**Minister for Social Affairs Séamus Brennan TD**

Budget 2005 increases in Family Income Supplement (FIS) thresholds will take effect next month and will directly benefit over 14,500 families, including over 30,000 children. The increases of €39 in the weekly income thresholds will add an extra €23.40 per week to the weekly payments of virtually all existing FIS recipients.

In addition, the threshold increase will mean that over 2,600 more families will become eligible for payment of Family Income Supplement.

Minister Brennan said: "The Family Income Supplement is designed to provide vital cash supports for employees on low earnings with families, while at the same time preserving the incentive to remain in employment. Currently more than 14,500 families, including 30,366 children, are in receipt of Family Income Supplement from my Department which is an increase of almost 18% on last year's figures. All the families on Family Income Supplement will further benefit directly from the €10 and €12 Child Benefit increases in the Budget."

Almost 6,800 new applications for Family Income Supplement were granted by the Department up to the end of November 2004 in addition to a further 13,250 renewals of entitlement to FIS, an increase of over 3,600 on the corresponding numbers in the previous year.



## Department of Social and Family Affairs

---

"A number of improvements to the Family Income Supplement Scheme in recent years, including the assessment of FIS on the basis of net rather than gross income, and the progressive increases in the income limits, have made it easier for lower income households to qualify under this Scheme. I am determined to continue in 2005 to target those vulnerable families on low incomes who need to be supported and given particular attention. The economic surge Ireland continues to enjoy can only be considered a real success when the benefits of it reach all of the people, especially those struggling on the margins of society," the Minister added.

Other Budget changes taking effect this month which will benefit families include:

- Increase of €14 per week in the minimum rate of Maternity Benefit, from €151.60 to €165.60.
- Increase in rate of Maternity Benefit from 70% to 75% of reckonable weekly earnings.

The following table sets out the previous and the current income thresholds for Family Income Supplement:

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Previous Income € Limit</b>	<b>Current Income € Limit</b>
1 child	407.00	446.00
2 children	433.00	472.00
3 children	458.00	497.00
4 children	483.00	522.00
5 children	515.00	554.00
6 children	541.00	580.00
7 children	562.00	601.00
8 children or more	584.00	623.00

Family Income Supplement is calculated at 60% of the difference between net weekly income (i.e. gross pay less Tax, Employees PRSI, Health Contribution, Superannuation) and the income limit for your family size.

**Ends**