



Minister Cullen encourages voluntary and community groups to apply for counselling services funding

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Martin Cullen TD, today (31 January 2008) encouraged voluntary and community organisations which provide family counselling services to apply to the **Family Support Agency** for funding under their **2008 scheme of grants**.

The Statutory Agency has received **€10.95 million** in Budget 2008 – an increase of just over €1 million from the previous year - from the Department of Social and Family Affairs specifically for this grants initiative. In 2007, 553 organisations around the country benefited from this programme.

Grants are available to support activity in the areas of:

- **marriage counselling** services to help people deal with difficulties they are experiencing in their relationships;
- **marriage preparation** programmes;
- **counselling services to children** whose lives have been affected by parental separation; and
- **bereavement counselling** and support to families on the death of a family member.

Speaking about this funding programme, **Minister Martin Cullen TD** said: "Voluntary and community groups around the country which provide a counselling service play a pivotal and valued role in helping families and individuals cope during what can be particularly stressful times in their lives and in their relationships. The focus of the Family Support Agency's scheme of grants is on the development of support services in the community with the aim of enhancing stability in family life, assisting families in these difficult circumstances."



Department of Social and Family Affairs

Grant allocations seek to support a wide and accessible service delivered at as minimal a cost as possible to the client.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications under the scheme of grants is Friday 22 February 2008.

For an application form and for further information about the scheme of grants including assessment criteria, contact the Family Support Agency, St Stephen's Green House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. Website www.fsa.ie or telephone: 01 611 4100.

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