



**ONE MILLION CHILDREN TO GET CHILD
BENEFIT INCREASES - MINISTER
COUGHLAN**

More than one million children will benefit from Child Benefit increases which come into effect from this week, Mary Coughlan T.D. Minister for Social and Family Affairs said today.

Some 170,000 families, who are paid by electronic funds transfer, will receive the increased payment on Tuesday. Families who are paid by book will get the increase for April and May in a voucher to be picked up at their local post office on the 6th of May. Renewal books being issued in June will include the increase.

The rate for the first two children is being increased by €8 per month and for the third and subsequent children by €10.

“As a result of these increases a family with two children will receive €143.28 more in 2003 than in 2000 and a family with three children will receive an extra €172.40,” said the Minister.

“This government is committed to supporting families and children, the resources put into Child Benefit over the last years proves this. Evidence of this commitment is our plan announced in Budget 2001, which will see investment in the scheme increase by an additional €1.27 billion annually,” added Minister Coughlan.

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Note to News Editors

Examples of increases in monthly Child Benefit Rates

Number of Children	New Rate €	Old Rate €	Increase €
1 Child	125.60	117.60	8.00
2 Children	251.20	235.20	16.00
3 Children	408.50	382.50	26.00
4 Children	565.80	529.80	36.00
5 Children	723.10	677.10	46.00
6 Children	880.40	824.40	56.00
7 Children	1037.70	971.70	66.00
8 Children	1195.00	1119.00	76.00