



## Department of Social and Family Affairs

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### **€28 Per Week Increase In Family Income Supplement Thresholds**

### **€7 Per Week Increase In Minimum Family Income Supplement- Minister For Social And Family Affairs Mary Coughlan TD**

Budget 2004 increases in Family Income Supplement thresholds will take effect this month to benefit over 12,000 families by up to €16.80 per week. In addition, over 1,800 more families will become eligible for payment of Family Income Supplement.

Minister Coughlan said "Despite increasing pressures on the national economy, this Government has delivered Budget increases to those who are vulnerable, less well off or disadvantaged benefiting an estimated 970,000 who will claim a weekly social welfare payment. The Family Income Supplement is an important financial support to families with low income."

"I have also increased the minimum Family Income Supplement by €7 per week from €13 to €20. This will make this scheme more attractive to people at the lowest Family Income Supplement payment levels, improving take-up of the scheme," the Minister added.

It is estimated that about 950 families will benefit from this increase.

In addition, the Family Income Supplement will be disregarded for the assessment of entitlement to Rent/Mortgage Supplement with effect from this month.

Other changes taking effect this month:

- The duration of Adoptive Benefit to be increased from 14 to 16 weeks, following the enactment of proposed changes in Adoptive Leave legislation.
- Increase of €10 per week in the minimum rate of Maternity Benefit, from €141.60 to €151.60.

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	379.00	407.00
2 children	405.00	433.00
3 children	430.00	458.00
4 children	455.00	483.00
5 children	487.00	515.00
6 children	513.00	541.00
7 children	534.00	562.00
8 children or more	556.00	584.00

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.



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**Ends 31st December 2003**

For further information:

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