



**An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection**

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Minister Ó Cuív launches 17th Annual “Working for Work” booklet

The 17th annual ‘**Working for Work**’ booklet published by the **Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed** (INOUE) was launched today (14 September 2010) by Minister for Social Protection, Éamon Ó Cuív, TD. This publication is produced with financial support from the Department of Social Protection, (which provided €171,000 in funding this year to the INOUE towards the cost of maintaining its welfare rights and information unit and the production of this booklet); FÁS and the Department of Education and Science.

Speaking at the offices of the INOUE in Dublin, Minister Ó Cuív said: “‘Working for Work’ is a comprehensive publication which brings together a wide range of information and supports aimed at unemployed people who are trying to return to work, education or training. The publication draws together information from a wide variety of service providers and serves as a valuable one-stop-shop for unemployed people who want to know what their entitlements are and what supports are available to them.”

The Minister continued: “The Government recognises that simply paying people during times of unemployment is not enough; it is vital that jobseekers be allowed to re-skill and re-educate themselves to meet the challenges, not only of the current labour market, but also those challenges that will face us as we emerge from the downturn.

“In this regard my Department is addressing the issues surrounding the movement toward long term unemployment through initiatives such as the Back to Education Allowance (€169 million is being provided for the 2010/11 academic year. Some practical changes to ease its qualifying conditions came in to effect from 19 July) and the Employer Job (PRSI) Incentive Scheme.”



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The recently-passed Social Welfare (Misc Provisions) Act 2010 has allowed the transfer to the Department of Social Protection of the Rural Social Scheme and the Community Services Programme from the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs. Minister Ó Cuív said: "I intend to build on these two schemes to give people more opportunities to work in the social economy. These schemes are good models with tried and tested delivery. Further details of the expansion of the schemes will be available shortly."

The Minister added: "I am very pleased to acknowledge the commitment and service that the INOU has provided for its members since 1987. Since the first edition of this booklet in 1994, "Working for Work" has provided jobseekers with a comprehensive guide to give them the tools to return to the workforce, a common goal of both my Department and the INOU." As well as providing a comprehensive guide on social welfare entitlements, the booklet contains information on the educational opportunities available to jobseekers from Family Resource Centres, Leader Programmes, Jobs Clubs, VEC's and FAS.

The Minister concluded: "Working for Work" is a credit to the INOU and those individuals who compile the booklet annually. I know it will be a great asset to the community you represent and my Department serves."

Note to the Editor

The booklet 'Working for Work' is available to order or to download on the INOU's website (www.inou.ie). Copies are **free** to unemployed people and those in receipt of Welfare payments.



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Details of all Department of Social Protection schemes and services are available on the Department's website, www.welfare.ie. Information leaflets can be downloaded from this site or a request can be made online for a booklet to be posted out.

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