



Family Support Agency



Annual Report Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

2007



**Promoting and  
Supporting Family and  
Community Well-Being**

Ag Cur Chun Cinn agus  
ag Tacú le Folláine an  
Teaghlaigh agus an Phobail



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**As Chairperson of the Family Support Agency, I am delighted to present to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs the Agency's Annual Report for 2007.**

The fifth year of the Agency's existence, activities in 2007 were primarily characterised by the launch and implementation of our new Strategic Plan (2007-2009). The successful outcomes of the Agency's first strategic plan (2004-2006) provided a real impetus to approach the second phase in the organisation's operations with focus and determination. I am very pleased to report that in each of the five priority areas we identified in the new strategic plan, the Agency has recorded substantial progress, and is reaching a wider audience with its continued expansion of services.

Having visited Family Resource Centres throughout the country, I have seen at first hand the high quality of services being provided by them and the contribution they make to the communities in which they operate. Among the notable achievements of the year were the provision of six additional Family Resource Centres, each tailored to servicing the community where they are located, bringing the total number to 106. There has also been an increase in support for counselling organisations around the country in respect of marriage, relationship, child and bereavement counselling services.



# 1

## **Chairperson's Statement** **Ráiteas an Chathaoirligh**





**Mar Chathaoirleach ar an nGníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh, tá áthas orm an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil don bhliain 2007 a chur faoi bhráid an Aire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh.**

Bhí seoladh agus cur i gcrích an Phlean nua Straitéisigh (2007-2009) ina phríomhthréith d'imeachtaí na Gníomhaireachta atá ann le cúig bliana anois. Chuir na torthaí rathúla a bhí le céad phlean straitéiseach na Gníomhaireachta (2004-2006) fuinneamh ar fáil chun tabhairt faoin dara céim d'oibríochtaí na heagraíochta ar bhealach dírithe agus diongbháilte. Tá an-áthas orm a thuairisciú gur léirigh an Gníomhaireacht dul chun cinn substaintiúil agus go bhfuil sí ag sroichint lucht éisteachta níos leithne leis an leathnú leanúnach seirbhísí, i ngach ceann de na cúig limistéar tosaíochta a d'aithníomar sa phlean nua straitéiseach.

Tar éis dom cuairt a thabhairt ar Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh ar fud na tíre, chonaic mé ar an láthair ardchaighdeán na seirbhísí a sholáthraíonn siad agus an rannchuidiú a thugann siad do na pobail a n-oibríonn siad iontu. I measc éachtaí suntasacha na bliana bhí soláthar sé Lárionad Acmhainne Teaghlaigh breise, gach ceann díobh cóirithe chun freastal ar an bpobal ina bhfuil siad suite agus is é a líon anois 106. Tháinig méadú freisin ar an tacaíocht d'eagraíochtaí comhairlithe ar fud na tíre i ndáil le seirbhísí comhairlithe pósta, caidrimh, leanaí agus lucht méala.

2007 also saw the Agency's Family Mediation Service marking 21 years of operation. During 2007 it has assisted almost 1,500 couples through mediation. With dramatic changes over two decades in both the number and nature of requests for assistance, the Service has admirably illustrated its adaptability, making the necessary adjustments to allow its mediators deal with each type of situation.

Research was a priority area of the Family Support Agency throughout 2007, bolstered by the provision of a technical research support structure. The commissioning of a major review into the Agency's Family Mediation Service took place, and the final report and recommendations of this comprehensive research are expected in early 2009. Grant aid was provided by the Agency for studies into family dynamics and types, as well as family and child contact centres. Other research links with bodies such as Combat Poverty Agency and Crisis Pregnancy Agency continued during the year.

The year also witnessed a fruitful collaborative process with Barnardos, in jointly developing an informative series of booklets, 'Parenting Positively'. This and other successful partnerships throughout 2007 demonstrated the multiple benefits to families arising from a pooling of resources and expertise by organisations in this arena. These experiences bode well

for similar joint ventures involving the Family Support Agency into the future.

A number of other initiatives took place during 2007 which promoted the diverse range of supports provided by the Agency, and these are outlined in detail in this Annual Report.

The achievements of the Family Support Agency in 2007 would not have been possible without the commitment and skilled work of its staff. I wish to pay tribute to everyone at the Agency under the expert leadership of Chief Executive, Pat Bennett, for their continued dedication and commitment to providing quality services for families in need. My sincere thanks and appreciation also goes to my fellow Board members for their ongoing support and wisdom.

Finally, I would like to thank the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D., her predecessors, Seamus Brennan T.D. and Martin Cullen T.D., and the officials in the Department for providing the resources to enable us to enhance the services that we support throughout the country.



**Mr. Michael O'Kennedy SC**  
*Chairperson*

Ba é 2007 freisin cothrom bliana 21 bliain thús oibríochtaí Sheirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh na Gníomhaireachta. I rith 2007 chabhraigh sí le 1,500 lánúin trí eadráin a dhéanamh. Le hathruithe drámata thar an bhfiche bliain atá imithe, in uimhir agus i nádúr na n-iarratas i gcomhair cúnamh, léirigh an tSeirbhís go fónta a solúbthacht ag déanamh na gceartuithe is gá chun a chur ar chumas na n-eadránaithe déileáil le gach cineál teagmhais.

Limistéar tosaíochta den Ghníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh ba ea an Taighde i rith 2007, arna thacú ag strúchtúr tacaíochta taighde theicniúil a cuireadh ar fáil.

Coimisiúnaíodh athbhreithniú mór ar Sheirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh na Gníomhaireachta agus tá súil le tuarascáil dheireanach agus moltaí an taighde uileghabhálaigh seo go luath sa bhliain 2009. Chuir an Ghníomhaireacht cabhair dheontais ar fáil le haghaidh staidéar ar dhinimic agus cineálacha teaghlaigh agus lárionaid teagmhála linbh agus teaghlaigh chomh maith. Lean ceangail taighde eile le comhlachtaí mar An Ghníomhaireacht um Bochtaineacht a Chomhrac agus An Ghníomhaireacht Ghéarchéime Toirchis i rith na bliana.

Bhí próiseas torthúil comhoibríthe le Barnardos i mbliana freisin le comhfhorbairt sraith leabhrán faisnéiseach, 'Tuismitheoireacht Dearfa'. Léirigh sé seo agus páirtíochtaí rathúla eile i rith 2007 na hilsochair a chuaigh do theaghlaigh ag eascairt as comhthiomsú na n-acmhainní

agus oilteacht ar thaobh na n-eagraíochtaí san airéine seo. Is maith an mana í an taithí seo do chomhfhiontair chosúla a mbeidh an Ghníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh páirteach iontu amach anseo.

Bhí roinnt tionscnamh eile ann sa bhliain 2007 a chothaigh an réimse ilghnéitheach tacaíochtaí a sholáthair an Ghníomhaireacht agus tá siad seo leagtha amach go beacht sa tuarascáil bhliantúil seo.

Níorbh fhéidir éachtaí na Gníomhaireachta um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh sa bhliain 2007 a chur i gcrích gan tiomantas agus obair oilte na foirne. Ba mhaith liom ómós a thabhairt do gach duine sa Ghníomhaireacht faoi cheannas oilte an PhríomhFheidhmeannaigh, Pádraig Binéid, faoina ndílseacht agus a dtiomantas leanúnach chun seirbhísí d'ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil do theaghlaigh atá ar an anás. Tá mo bhuíochas agus mo mheas ag dul freisin do mo chomhbhaill Bhoird faoina dtacaíocht agus a gcríonnacht.

Sa deireadh thiar, ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil freisin le hAire na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh, Máire Ní Aibhthín T.D., a réamhtheachtaithe, Séamas Ó Braonáin T.D. agus Máirtín Ó Cuilinn T.D. agus leis na hoifigigh sa Roinn as ucht na hacmhainní a chur ar fáil dúinn a chuir ar ár gcumas na seirbhísí a thacaímid ar fud na tíre a mhéadú.



**An tUasal Micheál Ó Cinnéide CS**  
*Cathaoirleach*

2007 saw the completion of the first year of our three year Strategic Plan 2007-2009. I am pleased to report that on all fronts we have made real progress in the implementation of that Strategy and in so doing fulfilled our role as a key provider, both indirectly through the many communities that provide services at local level and directly through the Family Mediation Service.



In 2007 a further six Centres were added to the Family Resource Programme giving us 106 Family Resource Centres. 2007 also saw the consolidation of Family Resource Centres through the funding of an additional worker in 40 centres. During the year a number of Regional Support Agencies were appointed for the training and support needs of projects for the duration of the National Development Plan 2007-2013.

We were able to increase the number of voluntary organisations whom we support from 541 to 553. These voluntary organisations provide marriage/relationship, child and bereavement counselling in local communities. Funding this year was €9.929m. This represents an increase of 10% in funding compared to 2006.

On the Research side of the Agency grant aid was awarded to the ESRI to undertake a study exploring family figures and





# Chief Executive's Report

## Tuarascáil an Phríomh- Fheidhmeannaigh

Ba é 2007 an chéad bhliain dár bPlean Straitéiseach trí bliana 2007-2009. Tá áthas orm a thuairisciú go ndearnamar fiordhul chun cinn ar gach fronta i gcur i gcrích na straitéise sin agus dá réir sin chomhlíonamar ár gcion feidhme mar phríomhsholáthraí, go hindíreach leis an raidhse pobal a sholáthraíonn seirbhísí ag leibhéal áitiúil agus go díreach leis an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh.

Sa bhliain 2007 cuireadh sé Lárionad bhreise leis an gClár Acmhainne Teaghlaigh agus anois tá 106 Lárionad Acmhainne Teaghlaigh. Buanaíodh na Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh sa bhliain 2007 freisin trí chistiú oibrí bhreise in 40 lárionad. Ceapadh i rith na bliana roinnt Gníomhaireachtaí Tacaíochta Réigiúnacha d'oiliúint agus do riachtanais tacaíochta tionscadal fad a mhairfidh an Plean Forbartha Náisiúnta 2007-2013.

Bhíomar in ann líon na n-eagraíochtaí deonacha a dtugaimid tacaíocht dóibh a mhéadú ó 541 go 553. Cuireann na heagraíochtaí deonacha seo ar fáil comhairliú pósta/caidrimh, linbh agus báis i bpobail áitiúla. Ba é an cistiú i mbliana ná €9.929m. Is méadú 10% sa chistiú é seo i gcomparáid le 2006.

Maidir le cúrsaí Taighde agus an Gníomhaireacht bronnadh cabhair dheontais ar an ESRI chun staidéar a bheartú ag iniúchadh figiúirí agus treochtaí teaghlaigh. Fuair an eagraíocht Teaghlach

trends. The organisation One Family received grant aid to investigate Family and Child contact centres.

The Family Mediation Service marked 21 years in operation from 1986-2007 with a successful conference in Croke Park launched by Martin Cullen T.D., then Minister for Social and Family Affairs. In 2007 the Family Mediation Service worked with almost 1,500 couples.

On the Information side we agreed to support a Triple Parenting Initiative Pilot Programme in Longford/Westmeath and as a result of collaboration between the Agency and Barnardos we launched a set of 9 booklets aimed at supporting parents of children aged 6 to 12 years.

While the above gives an overview of the key functions of the Agency all of these are underpinned by the work carried out in the Corporate Services section of the Agency. This section's work includes all Human Resource related matters such as recruitment and industrial relations issues together with the Accounts and Payroll system.

These achievements and many others outlined in this report would not have been possible without the support and commitment of many people. I would like to acknowledge the support of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D., and her predecessors, Seamus Brennan T.D. and Martin Cullen T.D. and the officials in the Department.

I thank our Chairperson, Mr. Michael O'Kennedy SC and the Board for their continued and unstinting support for me and all the Agency staff to whom I also extend my sincerest thanks for their dedication and hard work.

To the service providers I would like to thank you once again for your support and huge commitment to your communities. We have a clear Strategic Plan and we are committed to realising the goals outlined in the plan.



**Pat Bennett**

*CEO*

Amháin cabhair dheontais chun lárionaid teagmhála Teaghlaigh agus Linbh a scrúdú.

Tá an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh 21 bliain ag feidhmiú 1986-2007 agus mar chomhartha ar seo bhí comhdháil rathúil i bPáirc an Chrócaigh arna sheoladh ag Máirtín Ó Cuilinn T.D. a bhí mar Aire na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh ag an am. Sa bhliain 2007 phléigh an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh le beagnach 1,500 lánúin.

Ó thaobh na faisnéise de d'aontaíomar tacaíocht a thabhairt do Threoirchlár Thionscnamh na Tréthuismitheoireachta i Longfort agus san Iarmhí agus de bharr an chomhoibríthe idir an Ghníomhaireacht agus Barnardos sheolamar sraith de 9 leabhrán agus é d'aidhm acu tacaíocht a thabhairt do thuismitheoirí leanaí atá idir 6-12 bliain d'aois.

A fhad agus a thugann an méid atá ráite thuas léargas ginearálta ar phríomhfheidhmeanna na Gníomhaireachta tá siad seo go léir tacaíthe ag an obair a dhéantar i roinn na Seirbhísí Corparáideacha den Ghníomhaireacht. Cuimsíonn obair na roinne seo gach ceist a bhaineann le hAcmhainní Daonna cosúil le hearcaíocht, ceisteanna a bhaineann le caidreamh tionsclaíoch in éineacht leis an gcóras cuntas agus párolla.

Níorbh fhéidir na héachtaí seo agus go leor eile a sonraíodh sa tuarascáil seo a chur i gcrích gan tacaíocht agus tiomantas go leor daoine. Ba mhaith liom tacaíocht Aire na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh, Máire Ní Aibhthín T.D., agus a réamhtheachtaithe Séamas Ó Braonáin T.D. agus Máirtín Ó Cuilinn T.D. agus na hoifigigh sa Roinn a admháil.

Gabhaim buíochas leis an gCathaoirleach, an tUasal Mícheál Ó Cinnéide CS agus leis an mBord as ucht a dtacaíocht leanúnach agus raidhsiúil dom féin agus d'fhoireann uile na Gníomhaireachta lena ngabhaim fíorbhuíochas as ucht a dtiomantais agus a n-obair chrua.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil libhse, na soláthraithe seirbhíse, as an tacaíocht agus an tiomantas mór a thug sibh do bhur bpobail. Tá Plean soiléir Straitéiseach againn agus táimid ceangailte chun na spriocanna atá sonraithe sa phlean a chur i gcrích.



**Pádraig Binéid**

POF

## Chairperson



**Mr. Michael O'Kennedy**  
Senior Counsel

The Board of the Family Support Agency is appointed by the Minister for Social and Family Affairs. The members appointed have expertise and experience in the fields of family and community services, counselling, family mediation, research and family law.

# 3

## Board Bord

## Members



**Ms. Clare Cashman**  
Project Co-Ordinator,  
Millennium Resource  
Centre, Ballingarry,  
Co. Tipperary



**Ms. Paddie Connellan**  
Member of Prison  
Visiting Committee,  
Nurse, Aromatherapist  
and Reflexologist



**Senator Maria Corrigan**  
Psychologist and  
Member of Dun  
Laoghaire-Rathdown  
County Council



**Mr. Geoffrey Corry**  
Staff Representative



**Ms. Helen Faughnan**  
Department of Social  
and Family Affairs



**Ms. Angela Gaule**  
Consultant Mediator  
and Member of the  
Mediators Institute  
of Ireland



**Ms. Rita Hayes**  
Member of the Prison  
Visiting Committee,  
Involved in Bereavement  
Counselling



**Mr. Dick Hickey**  
Director St. Brigid's  
Family Resource Centre,  
Waterford



**Dr. Colm O'Connor**  
Clinical Psychologist  
and Director of Cork  
Marriage Counselling  
Centre



**Ms. Bríd Rocks**  
Principal, Scoil Ui Mhuiri,  
Dunleer, Co. Louth  
Dip. Counselling and  
Psychotherapy



**Ms. Muriel Walls**  
Solicitor and family  
law specialist

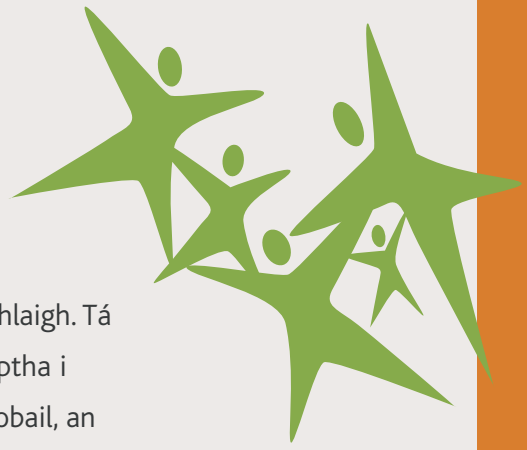
See Appendix 1 for details of Board meetings in 2007 and for details of Board Sub-Groups.

## Cathaoirleach



**Mr. Michael O'Kennedy**  
Comhairle Shinsearach

Tá Bord na Gníomhaireachta um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh ceaptha ag Aire na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh. Tá oilteacht agus taithí ag na baill cheaptha i réimsí na seirbhísí teaghlaigh agus pobail, an chomhairlithe, na headrána teaghlaigh, an taighde agus an dlí theaghlaigh.



## Baill



**Ms. Clare Cashman**  
Comhordaitheoir tionscnaimh  
Lárionad acmhainne na  
Mílaoise, Baile an Gharraí  
Co. Thiobraid Arann



**Ms. Paddie Connellan**  
Ball de Choiste Chuarite na  
bPríosún, Cumhatheireapóir  
agus Reifléacsceolaí



**An Seanadóir  
Maria Corrigan**  
Siceolaí agus Ball de  
Chomhairle Contae Dhún  
Laoghaire/Rath Dhúin



**Mr. Geoffrey Corry**  
Ionadaí Foirne



**Ms. Helen Faughnan**  
Roinn na nGnóthaí  
Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh



**Ms. Angela Gaule**  
Eadránaí Comhairleach  
agus Ball Institiúid na  
nEadránaithe Éireann



**Ms. Rita Hayes**  
Ball de Choiste Chuarite  
na bPríosún, Páirteach sa  
Chomhairliú Báis



**Mr. Dick Hickey**  
Stiúrthóir Lárionad  
Acmhainne Teaghlaigh,  
Port Láirge



**Dr. Colm O'Connor**  
Siceolaí Cliniciúil agus  
Stiúrthóir Lárionad  
Chomhairlithe Pósta  
Chorcaí



**Ms. Bríd Rocks**  
Príomhoide, Scoil Uí Mhuirí,  
Dún Laoir, Co. Lú, Dip. sa  
Chomhairliú agus sa  
tSíciteiripe



**Ms. Muriel Walls**  
Aturnae agus  
Speisialtóir sa  
Dlí Teaghlaigh

Féach Agúisín 1 do mhionsonraí faoi chruinnithe Boird sa bhliain 2007 agus do mhionsonraí faoi FhoGhrúpaí Boird.

## 4.1 Role

The Family Support Agency, established on the 6th of May 2003, has a statutory role in relation to support services for families and family policy. The Agency's functions, as prescribed in the Family Support Agency Act, 2001, are set out in Appendix 2.

## 4.2 Strategic Priorities

The Family Support Agency's second Strategic Plan, which was developed in consultation with its stakeholders, sets out five Strategic Priorities for the Agency over the 3 years from 2007 to 2009.

**Strategic Priority 1: Support and strengthen families through the delivery of high quality support services in the form of a network of Family Resource Centres, a range of grant supported counselling services, and a family mediation service.**

**Strategic Priority 2: Foster a supportive community environment for families in partnership with the community, voluntary and statutory sectors.**

**Strategic Priority 3: Contribute to the effectiveness of family policy and services by undertaking or commissioning research into matters related to the Agency's functions or such other matters as the Minister may request.**

4

# Role and Strategic Priorities

Ról agus Tosaíochtai Straitéiseacha





## 4.1 Ról

Tá ról reachtúil i ndáil le seirbhísí tacaíochta do theaghlaigh agus polasaí teaghlaigh ag an Gníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh a bunaíodh ar an 6ú Bealtaine 2003. Tá feidhmeanna na Gníomhaireachta mar a forordaíodh san Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh 2001, leagtha amach in Aguisín 2.

## 4.2 Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha

Leagann an dara Plean Straitéiseach den Gníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh, a forbraíodh i gcomhairle leis na geallchoimeádaithe, amach cúig Thosaíocht Straitéiseacha in imeacht na dtrí bliana ó 2007 go 2009.

**Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 1: Teaghlaigh a thacú agus a neartú trí sheirbhísí tacaíochta d'ardchaighdeán a sholáthar i bhfoirm mogalra de Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh, réimse de sheirbhísí comhairlithe tacaithe ag deontais, agus seirbhís eadrána teaghlaigh.**

**Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 2: Timpeallacht thacúil phobail a chothú do theaghlaigh i bpáirtíocht leis na rannóga pobail, deonacha agus reachtúla.**

**Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 3: Cur le héifeacht an pholasaí teaghlaigh agus seirbhísí trí thaighde a bheartú nó a choimisiúnú ar cheisteanna a bhaineann le feidhmeanna na Gníomhaireachta nó ceisteanna eile dá sórt faoi mar a iarann an tAire.**

**Strategic Priority 4: Promote the Family Support Agency as a key provider of support services and related information for families in Ireland.**

**Strategic Priority 5: Develop an effective, adaptable and capable organisation with a culture of pride, innovation and performance, which fosters participation, personal and career development at all levels.**

Section 5 sets out progress across the 5 Strategic Priorities in 2007.

**Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 4: An Ghníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh a chothú mar phríomhsholáthraí na seirbhísí tacaíochta agus faisnéis a bhaineann le hábhar do theaghlaigh in Éirinn.**

**Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 5: Eagraíocht éifeachtach, sholúbtha agus chumasach a fhorbairt le cultúr mórtais, nuála agus comhaill, a chothaíonn rannpháirtíocht, an fhorbairt phearsanta agus ghairm bheatha ag gach leibhéal.**

Leagann Roinn 5 amach an dul chun cinn trasna na gcúig Thosaíocht Straitéiseacha sa bhliain 2007.

## 5.1 Progress in 2007

In 2007, the Family Support Agency continued to develop its organisation structure in line with the priorities set out in the Agency's 2007-2009 Strategic Plan. Also, throughout 2007 the Agency continued the process of building and enhancing relationships with its stakeholders to ensure the delivery of high quality services for families.

The Agency's achievements in 2007 include:

- Provision of a direct family mediation service to almost 1,500 couples nationwide
- Funding to 553 voluntary and community organisations providing counselling services
- Funding to 106 Family Resource Centres
- Agency's Accounts System implemented and operating from January 2007
- Agency's Payroll implemented and operating from January 2007
- Phase 1 of Internal Audit Plan completed – Review of Internal Financial Controls
- Relocation of 2 FMS Centres – Dundalk and Raheny





## Work of the Agency in 2007

### Obair na Gníomhaireachta sa bhliain 2007



#### 5.1 Dul chun cinn sa bhliain 2007

Sa bhliain 2007 lean an Gníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh chun a struchtúr eagraíochta a fhorbairt ag teacht leis na tosaíochtaí a leagadh amach i bPlean Straitéiseach na Gníomhaireachta 2007-2009. I rith 2007 freisin lean an Gníomhaireacht le próiseas tógála agus méadaithe na gcaidreamh lena geallchoimeádaithe le soláthar seirbhísí d'ardchaighdeán do na teaghlaigh a chinntiú.

Áirítear i measc éachtaí na Gníomhaireachta i 2007:

- Soláthar seirbhís dhíreach eadrána teaghlaigh do bheagnach 1,500 lanuin ar fud na tíre
- Cistiú 553 eagraíocht dheonach agus pobail ag soláthar seirbhísí comhairlithe
- Cistiú 106 Lárionad Acmhainne Teaghlaigh
- Córas cuntas na Gníomhaireachta curtha i bhfeidhm agus ag obair ó Eanáir 2007
- Párolla na Gníomhaireachta curtha i bhfeidhm agus ag obair ó Eanáir 2007
- Céim 1 den Phlean Iniúchta Inmheánach comhlánaithe – Athbhreithniú ar Rialála Airgeadais Inmheánacha
- Athlonnú dhá Lárionad FMS – Dún Dealgan agus Ráth Eanaigh

- Direct recruitment of staff to the Agency, 12 open competitions
- Grant aid awarded to two research projects under the Agency's Call for Research
- Successful conference in Croke Park to mark 21 years in operation of the Family Mediation Service
- Commissioning of a major review into the Agency's Family Mediation Service
- Collaboration with Barnardos to develop 'Parenting Positively' series of booklets for parents of children aged 6 to 12 years

These achievements required ongoing commitment from the Board and staff of the Agency and regular consultation with the Agency's stakeholders.

The Family Support Agency wishes to acknowledge the continued support of the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

The Family Support Agency's organisational structure and staffing in 2007 are detailed in Appendix 3. The Agency's 16 premises throughout the country are listed in Appendix 4.

## 5.2 Finance and Accounts

The Family Support Agency's expenditure in 2007 was €33.26m. This allowed for the continuation and development of the

family support services for which the Agency has responsibility.

The Agency's Accounts and Financial Statement for 2007 are at Appendix 5.



*Corporate Services: Niamh Egan EO, Ann O'Riordan HEO, Bill O'Dea AP, Deirdre Fradl HEO, Michael Hanrahan CO.*

## 5.3 The Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme

The Family Support Agency has a responsibility to support, promote and develop the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme.

### Policy Priorities

The main aim of the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme is to help combat disadvantage by improving the function of the family unit. It emphasises the involvement of local communities in developing approaches to tackle problems and in creating successful partnerships

- Earcaíocht dhíreach foirne ar an nGníomhaireacht, 12 comórtas oscailte
- Cabhair dheontais bronnta ar dhá thionscadal taighde faoi Ghairm na Gníomhaireachta i gcomhair Taighde
- Comhdháil rathúil i bPáirc an Chrócaigh chun an 21 bliain d'fheidhmiú na Seirbhíse Eadrána Teaghlaigh a chomharthú
- Coimisiúnú athbheithnithe mhóir ar Sheirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh na Gníomhaireachta
- Comhoibriú le Barnados chun an tsraith leabhrán 'Tuismitheoireacht Dearfa' a fhorbairt do thuismitheoirí leanaí atá idir 6 agus 12 bliain

Theastaigh tiomantas leanúnach ón mBord agus ó fhoireann na Gníomhaireachta agus comhairle rialta le geallchoimeádaithe na Gníomhaireachta chun na héachtaí seo a chur i gcrích.

Ba mhaith leis an nGníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh tacaíocht leanúnach Roinn na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh a admháil.

Tá struchtúr eagraíochtúil agus foireann na Gníomhaireachta um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh 2007 sonraithe in Aguisín 3. Tá 16 áitreabh na Gníomhaireachta ar fud na tíre liostáilte in Aguisín 4.

## 5.2 Airgeadas agus Cuntais

Ba é caiteachas na Gníomhaireachta um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh sa bhliain 2007

€33.26m. Lamháil sé seo do leanúint agus forbairt na seirbhísí tacaíochta teaghlaigh a bhfuil an Gníomhaireacht freagrach astu.

Tá Cuntais agus Ráiteas Airgeadais na Gníomhaireachta don bhliain 2007 in Aguisín 5.



*Seirbhísí Corparáideacha: Niamh Egan EO, Ann O'Riordan HEO, Bill O'Dea AP, Deirdre Fradl HEO, Michael Hanrahan CO.*

## 5.3 Clár an Lárionaid Acmhainne Seirbhísí Teaghlaigh agus Pobail

Tá de fhreagracht ar an nGníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh Clár an Lárionaid Acmhainne Seirbhísí Teaghlaigh agus Pobail a thacú, a chothú agus a fhorbairt.

### Tosaíochtaí Polasaí

Is í príomhaidhm Chlár an Lárionaid Acmhainne Seirbhísí Teaghlaigh agus Pobail cuidiú chun an míbhuntáiste a chomhrac trí fheidhm an aonad teaghlaigh a fheabhsú. Leagann sé béim ar rannpháirtíocht na bpobal áitiúil agus iad ag forbairt teachta i láthair chun dul i ngleic le fadhbanna agus

between the voluntary and statutory agencies in their areas. Family Resource Centres operate from community development practices and principles and involve people from marginalised and vulnerable groups and areas of disadvantage at all levels in the project.

### Services and Activities

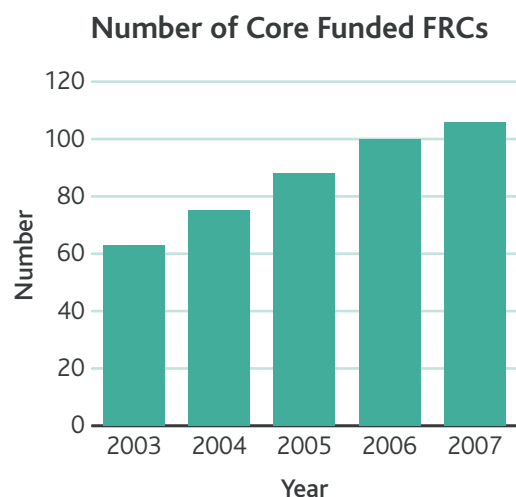
The services provided and activities supported by the resource centres are designed to meet local community needs. They uphold the community development ethos and the principle of inclusiveness, both central to the values of the Family Support Agency:

- Information, advice and support to target groups and families in the area.
- Practical assistance to community groups such as training, information and advice.
- Education courses and training opportunities.
- Child-care facilities for those attending courses provided by the project.
- Initiatives to enhance the role of young fathers in the lives of their children.
- Involvement of men in the life of the community.

- Lone Parents Groups.
- Women's groups.
- The use of local centres to act as a meeting point for various groups and services e.g. C.I.C., MABS, AA, residents meetings etc.
- After-school clubs.

### Core Funded Centres

Since the Agency gained responsibility for the Programme in 2003, the number of core funded centres has increased from 63 to 106 in 2007.



In addition 2007 saw the consolidation of Family Resource Centres through the NDP funding of additional workers in 40 centres.

### Funding

Support for the development of the FRC programme is being provided under the National Development Plan 2007-2013.

ag cruthú páirtíochtaí rathúla idir na gníomhaireachtaí deonacha agus reachtúla ina limistéir. Feidhmíonn Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh de réir cleachtaí agus prionsabail forbartha pobail agus bíonn daoine ó ghrúpaí imeallaithe agus leochaileacha agus ó limistéir mhíbhuntáiste páirteach ag gach leibhéal sa tionscadal.

### Seirbhísí agus Imeachtaí

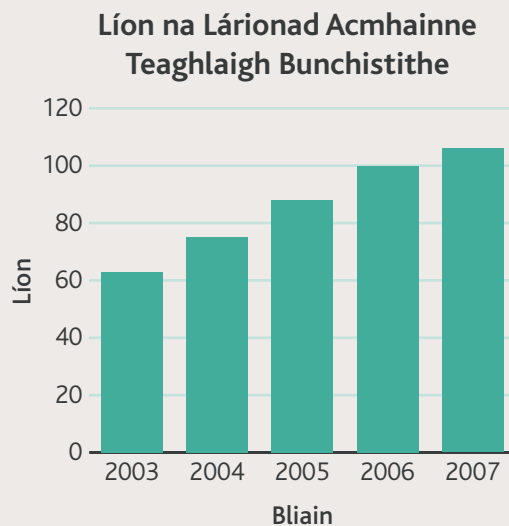
Tá na seirbhísí a sholáthraíonn agus na himeachtaí a thacaíonn na lárionaid acmhainne deartha chun freastal ar riachtanais an phobail. Seasann siad le sprid forbartha an phobail agus le prionsabal na cuimsitheachta ar cuid lárnach iad de luachanna na Gníomhaireachta um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh:

- Faisnéis, comhairle agus tacaíocht a thabhairt do ghrúpaí sprice sa limistéar.
- Cúnamh praiticiúil do ghrúpaí pobail cosúil le hoiliúint, faisnéis agus comhairle.
- Cúrsaí oideachais agus deiseanna oiliúna.
- Áiseanna cúraim linbh dóibh siúd atá ag freastal ar chúrsaí a sholáthraíonn an tionscadal.
- Tionscnaimh chun ról na n-aithreacha óga i saol a gclainne a mhéadú.
- Rannpháirtíocht na bhfear i saol an phobail.

- Grúpaí na dTuismitheoirí Aonair.
- Grúpaí Ban.
- Feidhmiú na lárionad áitiúil mar ionad cruinnithe do ghrúpaí agus seirbhísí éagsúla m.sh. C.I.C., MABS, AA, cruinnithe cónaitheoirí etc.
- Clubanna tar éis na scoile.

### Lárionaid Bunchistithe

Ó fuair an Gníomhaireacht freagracht as an gClár sa bhliain 2003, mhéadaigh ar líon na lárionad bunchistithe ó 63 go 106 sa bhliain 2007.

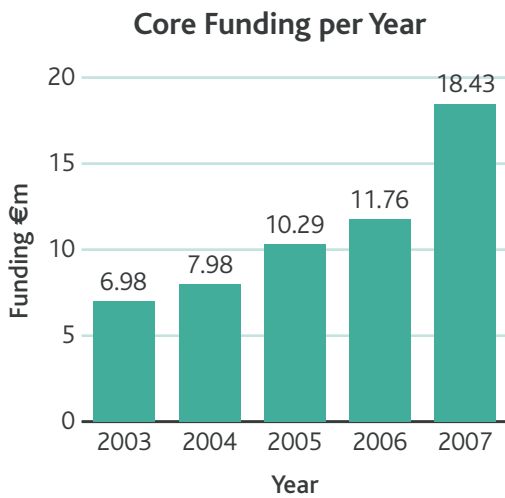


De bhreis air sin buanaíodh na Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh trí chistiú na n-oibríthe breise i 40 lárionad don TFN.

### Cistiú

Tá an tacaíocht d'fhorbairt an chláir LAT á soláthar faoin bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta 2007-2013. Mhéadaigh ar an gcistiú don chlár le €18.43m caite sa bhliain 2007.

The funding for the Programme has increased with €18.43m spent in 2007.



### Networking

The Agency encourages networking among Family Resource Centres at a regional and national level. To encourage and strengthen such networking, €56,560 was allocated to the Family Resource Centre (FRC) National Forum in 2007. The Agency also held quarterly meetings with the Family Resource Centre National Forum.

### Evaluation

A report based on information provided for 2006 and 2007 by Family Resource Centres using SPEAK (Strategic Planning and Self-evaluation System) is being compiled at present. Information provided through SPEAK from each Family Resource Centre is collated into a national programme database, creating a database of enormous potential to understand the

full programme and its impacts, and most importantly to influence the direction of the programme and related areas of policy and practice.

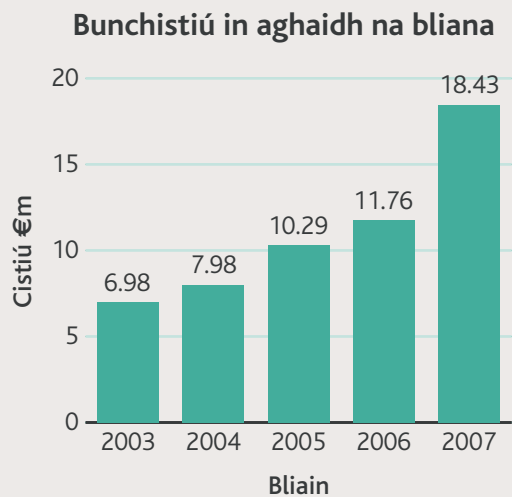
Training and refresher training on the SPEAK evaluation model is continuing for new and established groups in the Programme.

### Support Agencies/Specialist Support Agencies

Following a tendering process in 2007 for the Training and Support Needs of projects in the Programme, a number of Regional Support Agencies were appointed for the duration of the NDP 2007-2013. A number of Specialist Support Agencies are also contracted by the Agency to provide support and advice to projects and to promote good practice.



*FRC Section (left to right): Ann Butler EO, Siobhan Kennedy CO, Rita Fitzsimons HEO, Christina O'Connor AP, Imelda Martin EO.*



### Líonrú

Spreagann an Ghníomhaireacht an líonrú i measc na Lárionad Acmhainne Teaghlaigh ag leibhéal réigiúnach agus náisiúnta. Chun líonrú dá shórt a spreagadh agus a neartú, dáileadh €56,560 ar Fhóram Náisiúnta an Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh (LAT) sa bhliain 2007. Thionóil an Ghníomhaireacht cruinnithe ceatharbhlíantúla le Fóram Náisiúnta an Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh.

### Luacháil

Tá tuarascáil atá bunaithe ar fhaisnéis a sholáthair Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh don bhliain 2006 agus 2007 ag feidhmiú SPEAK (Pleanáil Straitéiseach agus Córas Féin-luachála) á tiomsú faoi láthair. Tiomsaítear isteach sa chlár náisiúnta bunachar sonraí faisnéis a chuireann SPEAK ar fáil ó gach Lárionad Acmhainne Teaghlaigh ag cruthú bunachar sonraí a bhfuil acmhainn mhór aige chun an clár uile agus a éifeachtaí a thuiscint agus rud is tábhachtaí fós anáil a chur faoi threo an

chláir agus limistéir ghaolmhara an pholasaí agus an chleachta.

Tá oiliúint agus úroiliúint faoi mhúnla luachála SPEAK ag dul ar aghaidh go leanúnach do ghrúpaí nua agus bunaithe sa chlár.

### Gníomhaireachtaí Tacaíochta/ Gníomhaireachtaí Tacaíochta Speisialta

I ndiaidh próiseas tairisceana sa bhliain 2007 d'Oiliúint agus do Riachtanais Tacaíochta na dtionscadal sa Chlár ceapadh roinnt Gníomhaireachtaí Tacaíochta Réigiúnacha fad a mhairfidh an PFN 2007-2013. Conraíonn an Ghníomhaireacht freisin roinnt Gníomhaireachtaí Tacaíochta Speisialta chun tacaíocht agus comhairle a chur ar fáil do thionscadail agus chun an dea-chleachtadh a chothú.



*Rannóg LAT (clé go deas): Ann Butler EO, Siobhan Kennedy CO, Rita Fitzsimons HEO, Christina O'Connor AP, Imelda Martin EO.*

## 5.4 Grants for Marriage, Child and Bereavement Counselling Services

The Family Support Agency administers the Scheme of Grants to Voluntary Organisations providing Marriage, Child and Bereavement Counselling Services. The Agency has a responsibility to support, promote and develop the provision of marriage and relationship counselling, marriage preparation and family support services.

During 2007 a total of €9.929m was spent on the Scheme of Grants which represented an increase of 10% compared to 2006. €25,000 was also allocated for networking between these counselling organisations.

### Allocation of funding

A total of 569 applications were received from organisations seeking grant funding of which 553 were approved for payment (541 were approved for payment in 2006). 71 of these organisations were applying for grant funding for the first time.

### Priorities governing funding allocations

- The continued financial support of established major providers of services so that they can continue to provide and develop their services.
- Supporting the establishment of a regional network of family support

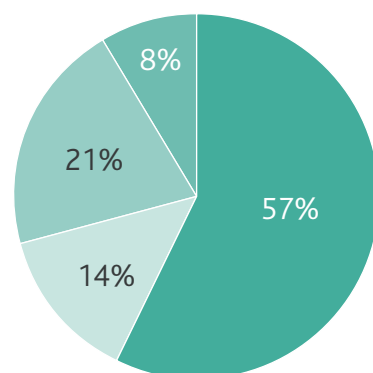
services by investing in locally based service providers in key areas throughout the country.

- An emphasis on supporting service providers in disadvantaged communities.

### Breakdown of funding

The breakdown of the overall allocation of the funding to the different services is as follows:

Grant Category	Funding Amount
Marriage Counselling	€5.692m
Marriage Preparation	€0.842m
Child Counselling	€1.345m
Bereavement	€2.050m



- Marriage Counselling
- Child Counselling
- Bereavement Counselling
- Marriage Preparation

### Governance

Some 57 organisations throughout the country were visited in 2007 to verify the validity of the application and to ascertain

## 5.4 Deontais le haghaidh Seirbhísí Comhairlithe Pósta, Leanaí agus Lucht Méala

Riarann an Gníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh Scéim na nDeontas d'Eagraíochtaí Deonacha a chuireann Seirbhísí Comhairlithe Pósta, Leanaí agus Lucht Méala ar fáil. Tá de fhreagracht ar an nGníomhaireacht comhairle a sholáthar maidir le pósadh agus caidreamh, ullmhú don phósadh agus seirbhísí tacaíochta teaghlaigh a chothú agus a fhorbairt.

I rith 2007 bhí €9.929m caite ar Scéim na nDeontas agus ba mhéadú 10% é seo i gcomparáid le 2006. Dáileadh €25,000 ar líonrú idir na heagraíochtaí comhairlithe seo.

### Dáileadh an chistithe

Fuarthas 569 iarratas san iomlán ó eagraíochtaí ag lorg cistiú deontais agus ceadaíodh 553 díobh i gcomhair íocaíochta (ceadaíodh 541 i gcomhair íocaíochta sa bhliain 2006). Bhí 71 de na heagraíochtaí seo ag cur isteach ar chistiú deontais den chéad uair.

### Tosaíochtaí a rialaíonn dáileadh an chistithe

- An tacaíocht leanúnach airgeadais a thabhairt do na príomhsholáthraithe bunaidh seirbhísí le go mbeidh siad in ann leanúint ar aghaidh chun a seirbhísí a chur ar fáil agus a fhorbairt.
- Tacaíocht a thabhairt do bhunú mogalra réigiúnach de sheirbhísí

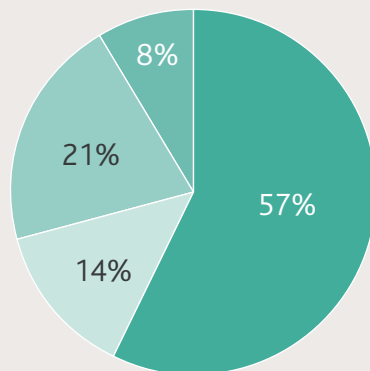
tacaíochta teaghlaigh trí infheistiú i soláthraithe seirbhíse atá bunaithe go háitiúil in eochairlimistéir ar fud na tíre.

- Béim a chur ar thacaíocht a thabhairt do sholáthraithe seirbhíse i bpobail mhíbhuntáiste.

### Miondealú an chistithe

Is mar a leanas atá miondealú dáileadh iomlán an chistithe ar na seirbhísí éagsúla:

Catagóir Deontais	Méid an Chistithe
Comhairliú Pósta	€5.692m
Ullmhú Pósta	€0.842m
Comhairliú Linbh	€1.345m
Bás	€2.050m



- Comhairliú Pósta
- Comhairliú Linbh
- Bás
- Ullmhú Pósta

### Rialúchán

Tugadh cuairt ar 57 eagraíocht éigean sa bhliain 2007 chun bailíocht an iarratais a dheimhniú agus chun méid agus mianach na seirbhíse a fháil amach. Ar an iomlán fuarthas

the extent and quality of the service. Overall the standard of services provided by these organisations was found to be satisfactory.

These visits also facilitate the development of a network of contacts to feed-back views to the Family Support Agency on the future development of services.

### Review of the Scheme of Grants for Marriage, Child and Bereavement Counselling Services

The recommendations of the Review of the Grant Scheme for Voluntary Organisations providing Marriage, Child and Bereavement Counselling Services were examined and their implementation commenced with the introduction of a short application form for voluntary organisations providing Bereavement Support.

### 5.5 Family Mediation Service

The Family Support Agency also has responsibility for the Family Mediation Service, a free, professional and confidential service for couples, married and non-married, who have decided to separate or divorce and who together want to negotiate the terms of their separation or divorce with the help of a trained mediator. The Family Mediation Service is also available for individuals who have never lived together but may have a child to parent and wish to come

to mediation to negotiate parenting and contact arrangements; it is also available for same-sex couples who are separating. Mediation can also assist in other family issues such as grandparent access to grandchildren post separation, and issues around children in care between natural parents and foster parents.

Family mediation assists separating couples to look at the resources and options open to them and to reach an agreement that meets the needs and interests of both and the needs and interests of their children.



*At the opening of a new Family Mediation Service Office in Raheny, Dublin: Polly Phillimore, Service Manager; Fiona McAuslan, Mediator; Sheila Healy, Area-Co-ordinator; Mr. Michael O'Kennedy SC, FSA Chairperson and Mairin Ui Fhaolain, CO.*

### The Process of Mediation

When the clients arrive at a Family Mediation centre they are seen together by their mediator. The mediator explains that in this process:

amach go raibh caighdeán na seirbhísí a sholáthraíonn na heagraíochtaí seo sásúil.

Éascaíonn na cuairteanna seo freisin forbairt mogalra de theagmhálacha chun tuairimí a aischothú chuig an Ghníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh maidir le forbairt na seirbhísí sa toadhcháí.

### Athbhreithniú Scéim na nDeontas do Sheirbhísí Comhairlithe Pósta, Linbh agus Báis

Scrúdaíodh moltaí Athbhreithnithe Scéim na nDeontas d'Eagraíochtaí Deonacha a sholáthraíonn Seirbhísí Comhairlithe Pósta, Linbh agus Báis agus tosaíodh ar iad a chur i gcrích le tabhairt isteach foirm ghearr iarratas d'eagraíochtaí deonacha a sholáthraíonn Tacaíocht maidir leis an mBás.

## 5.5 An tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh

Tá an Ghníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh freagrach freisin as an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh, seirbhís saor in aisce phrofisiúnta agus rúnda do lánúineacha idir phósta agus neamhphósta a bhfuil beartaithe acu scaradh nó colscaradh a dhéanamh agus a dteastaíonn uathu téarmaí an scartha nó an cholscartha a phlé le cabhair eadránaí oilte. Tá an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh infhaighte freisin do dhaoine nár chónaigh le chéile riamh ach a ráineodh go mbeadh leanbh ag tuismitheoir amháin díobh agus a dteastaíonn uathu dul chun eadrána chun socruithe teagmhála agus tuismitheoireachta a phlé; tá an

tseirbhís ar fáil freisin do lánúineacha aonghnéis atá ag scaradh. Is féidir leis an eadráin cabhair a thabhairt maidir le ceisteanna eile teaghlaigh cosúil le fáil na seantuismitheoirí ar chlann clainne i ndiaidh scartha agus ceisteanna a bhaineann le páistí i gcúram idir tuismitheoirí nádúrtha agus tuismitheoirí altrama.

Cabhraíonn an eadráin teaghlaigh le lánúineacha atá ag scaradh chun breathnú ar na hacmhainní agus na roghanna atá ar fáil dóibh chun teacht ar shocrú a fhreastlaíonn ar riachtanais agus suimeanna na beirte agus ar riachtanais agus suimeanna na bpáistí.



Ag oscailt Oifig nua Seirbhíse Eadrána Teaghlaigh i Ráth Eanaigh, Baile Átha Cliath: Polly Phillimore, Bainisteoir Seirbhíse; Fiona McAuslan, Eadránaí; Sheila Healy, Comhordaitheoir Limistéir; Mr Michael O'Kennedy SC, FSA Chairperson and Mairin Uí Fhaolain, CO.

### Próiseas na hEadrána

Nuair a ráiníonn na cliaint lárionad Eadrána Teaghlaigh labhraíonn an t-eadránaí leo le chéile. Míníonn an t-eadránaí maidir leis an bpróiseas seo:

- the clients are the decision makers
- the mediator's role is to facilitate their discussions and to manage their negotiations
- the mediator is neither a counsellor nor a legal adviser
- Assets – how will the assets be divided?
- Debts – how will they manage debts and other outgoings?
- Contents of the family home – how will the contents be allocated?

At this initial session the mediator hears why the clients have opted for mediation, what their expectations are from mediation and what issues they need to discuss in order to reach agreement. The clients then create their own agenda of issues for negotiation.

#### Issues for family mediation frequently include:

- The family home – where will each person live and where will the children live?
- Other jointly owned property – how will this be divided?
- Parenting – how will the children spend time with each of their parents and how will the parents communicate about their children?
- Financial support – will support be paid for one or other party and the children and how much will each person have to live on?
- Pensions – what entitlements are there and how will they be distributed?

Having set the agenda the parties provide information on their future financial requirements. They substantiate their income and earnings – where property is involved it may be necessary to obtain a valuation. Financial advice may need to be sought if there are complicated financial issues or company valuations, as well as the value and benefits of any pension scheme. If the parties have not already sought legal advice, they may need to do so in the course of mediation.

When the parties have reached agreement on the above issues, the mediator draws up a Note of Mediated Agreement. The clients can then take the Note of Mediated Agreement to their respective solicitors to be drawn up into a legal Deed of Separation. Family mediation can take anything from two to six sessions to complete depending on the level of communication between the parties and the complexity of the issues involved. At the end of the process couples with children are invited to bring them along to explain the future arrangements agreed so that children are reassured that both

- Gurb iad na cliaint a dhéanann na cinntí
- Gurb é ról an eadránaí a gcuid plé a éascú agus a gcuid caibidlíochta a bhainistiú
- Nach comhairleoir nó moltóir dleathach é an t-eadránaí

Ag an seisiún tosaigh seo cloiseann an t-eadránaí an fáth gur roghnaigh na cliaint an eadráin, a bhfuil siad ag coinne leis ón eadráin agus na ceisteanna is gá leo a phlé d'fhonn teacht ar shocrú. Cruthaíonn na cliaint ansin a gclár ábhair ceisteanna féin atá le plé.

### Áirítear go minic ar na ceisteanna eadrána teaghlaigh:

- Teach an teaghlaigh – cá gcónóidh gach duine agus cá gcónóidh na páistí?
- Sealúchas eile a shealbhaítear i gcomhpháirt – cén chaoi a roinnfear seo?
- Tuismitheoireacht – cén chaoi a gcaithfidh na páistí am lena dtuismitheoirí beirt agus cén chaoi a mbeidh na tuismitheoirí i dteagmháil maidir leis na páistí?
- Tacaíocht airgid – an íocfar tacaíocht le páirtí amháin nó eile maille leis na páistí agus cé mhéad ar a mairfidh gach duine?
- Pinsin – cad iad na teidlíochtaí atá ann agus cén chaoi a ndáilfear iad?

- Sócmhainní – cén chaoi a roinnfear na sócmhainní?
- Fiacha – cé a dhéanfaidh bainistiú ar na fiacha agus caiteachas eile?
- Inneachar theach an teaghlaigh – cén chaoi a ndáilfear é?

Agus an clár ábhair leagtha amach cuireann na páirtithe ar fáil faisnéis faoina riachtanais airgid sa todhcháí. Tugann siad bunús lena n-ioncam agus a dtuarastal – san áit go bhfuil sealúchas i gceist b'fhéidir go dteastódh luacháil. B'fhéidir go mbeadh comhairle airgeadais ag teastáil má tá ceisteanna casta airgeadais nó luachála comhlachta, chomh maith le luach agus sochair scéim phinsin ar bith. Murar lorg na páirtithe comhairle dhleathach cheana féin b'fhéidir go dteastódh seo i rith na headrána.

Nuair a thagann na páirtithe ar shocrú maidir leis na ceisteanna thuas, dréachtann an t-eadránaí Nóta Socraithe Eadránaithe. Tá na cliaint in ann ansin an Nóta Socraithe Eadránaithe a thabhairt dá n-aturnae féin chun go ndrúchtfar é ina Ghníomhas dleathach Scartha. Glacann an eadráin teaghlaigh amuigh is istigh ar dhá go dtí sé sheisiún le críochnú, ag brath ar leibhéal na teagmhála idir na páirtithe agus castacht na gceisteanna. Ag deireadh an phróisis tugtar cuireadh do lánúineacha le páistí iad a thabhairt leo chun na socruithe ar glacadh leo amach anseo a mhíniú sa chaoi go gcuirtear na páistí ar a suaimhneas gur ar mhaithe leo atá na tuismitheoirí.

parents continue to have their best interests at heart.

The Family Support Agency's Family Mediation Service has a total of sixteen centres nationally. The Family Support Agency has full-time Family Mediation Service centres in Cork, Dublin, Galway and Limerick and part-time Family Mediation Service centres in Athlone, Blanchardstown, Castlebar, Dundalk, Letterkenny, Portlaoise, Raheny, Sligo, Tallaght, Tralee, Waterford and Wexford. The Family Mediation Service relocated its Dublin Marino office to Raheny in October 2007. The pilot project set up in 2006 by the Family Mediation Service at the invitation of the Ballymun Law Centre was reviewed in September 2007 and extended for another year to September 2008 at which point it will be reviewed again.

The Family Mediation Service marked 21 years in operation from 1986 to 2007 with a conference in Croke Park on 11 September 2007 launched by Martin Cullen T.D., then Minister for Social and Family Affairs. Dr Gregory Firestone, Director of the University of South Florida Conflict Resolution Collaborative, was the international guest speaker and Professor Tony Fahey and Geoffrey Shannon were among other distinguished speakers.

The service has been dealing with an increasing number of referrals from the courts. The majority of these referrals are dealing with parenting issues.



*Mr. Martin Cullen T.D., then Minister for Social & Family Affairs (centre) officially opened the new Raheny office; pictured here with Mr. Michael O'Kennedy SC, FSA Chairperson (left) and Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Executive, FSA (right).*

### Statistical data

From 1986-1996, an average of 250 couples a year used the Family Mediation Service. The number using the Service has increased dramatically over the years. In the period January to December 2007, the Service worked with almost 1,500 couples. Of these 514 completed the process; a further 364 did not proceed after the intake session, 64 returned to their marriages and the remaining couples were carried forward to 2008. Full statistics for 2007 are given below:

Tá iomlán de shé lárionad déag go náisiúnta ag Seirbhís eadrána na Gníomhaireachta um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh. Tá lárionaid Seirbhísí Eadrána Teaghlaigh lánaimseartha ag an nGníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh i gCorcaigh, Áth Cliath, Gaillimh agus Luimneach agus Seirbhísí Eadrána Teaghlaigh páirtaimseartha in Áth Luain, Baile Bhlainséir, Caisleán an Bharraigh, Dún Dealgan, Leitir Ceanainn, Port Laoise, Ráth Eanaigh, Sligeach, Tamhlacht, Trá Lí, Port Láirge agus Loch Garman. D'athlonnadh an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh a hoifig i Marino Áth Cliath go Ráth Eanaigh i nDeireadh Fómhair 2007. Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar an treoirthionscadal a bhunaigh an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh sa bhliain 2006 ar chuireadh ó Lárionad Dlí Bhaile Mhonaigh i Lúnasa 2007 agus leanfaidh sé bliain eile go Lúnasa 2008 nuair a dhéanfar athbhreithniú air arís.

Chomharthaigh an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh 21 bliain ag feidhmiú ó 1986-2007 le comhdháil i bPáirc an Chrócaigh ar 11 Meán Fómhair 2007 arna sheoladh ag Máirtín Ó Cuilinn T.D., Aire na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh ag an am. Ba é an Dr Gregory Firestone Stiúrthóir Fuascailt na Coinbhleachta Chomhoibritheach Ollscoil Florida Theas an t-aoichainteoir idirnáisiúnta agus i measc na gcainteoirí céimiúla eile bhí an tOllamh Antaine Ó Fathaigh agus Geoffrey Shannon.

Tá an tseirbhís ag déileáil le líon méadaitheach tarchur óna cúirteanna. Tá formhór na dtarchur seo ag déileáil le ceisteanna tuismitheoireachta.



*D'oscail An tUasal Martin Cullen T.D. (sa lár), a bhí ina Aire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh ag an am, oifig nua Ráth Eanaigh; tá sé sa phictiúr seo leis an Uasal Michael O'Kennedy SC, Cathaoirleach an FSA (ar chlé) agus an tUasal Pat Bennett, Príomh-Fheidhmeannach an FSA (ar dheis).*

### Sonraí Staitistiúla

Ó 1986-1996 d'úsáid 250 lánúin ar meán an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh. Mhéadaigh go drámata ar líon na ndaoine a úsáideann an tSeirbhís in imeacht na mblianta. Sa tréimhse ó Eanáir go Nollaig 2007 d'oibrigh an tSeirbhís le beagnach 1,500 lánúin. Chríochnaigh 514 díobh seo an próiseas; níor lean 364 eile ar aghaidh i ndiaidh an chéad sheisiúin, d'fhill 64 ar an bpósadh agus tugadh an chuid eile de na lánúineacha ar aghaidh go 2008. Tá na staidrimh iomlána don bhliain 2007 tugtha thíos:

## Nationwide

No. of couples carried forward from 2006	No. of couples who attended mediation in 2007	No. of couples who did not proceed after first session
283	1214	364

2007	No. of couples who continued in mediation after first session	Reached agreement	Return to Marriage	Assisted but did not complete process
Total	850	514	64	272
Total in %	100	60.5	7.5	32

## Eastern Region (Dublin, Dundalk, Raheny, Blanchardstown and Ballymun)

2007	No. of couples participating in mediation	Reached agreement	Return to Marriage	Assisted but did not complete process
Total	349	246	14	89
Total in %	100	70.5	4	25.5

## Western Region (Galway, Castlebar, Sligo and Letterkenny)

2007	No. of couples participating in mediation	Reached agreement	Return to Marriage	Assisted but did not complete process
Total	121	57	10	54
Total in %	100	47	8	45

## Midwestern Region (Limerick, Athlone, Portlaoise and Tallaght)

2007	No. of couples participating in mediation	Reached agreement	Return to Marriage	Assisted but did not complete process
Total	230	123	23	84
Total in %	100	53.5	10	36.5

## Southern Region (Cork, Waterford, Wexford and Tralee)

2007	No. of couples participating in mediation	Reached agreement	Return to Marriage	Assisted but did not complete process
Total	150	88	17	45
Total in %	100	59	11	30

## Ar fud na tíre

Líon na lánúineacha a tugadh ar aghaidh ó 2006	Líon na lánúineacha a d'fhreastail ar eadráin i 2007	Líon na lánúineacha nár lean ar aghaidh tar éis an chéad sheisiúin
283	1214	364

2007	Líon na lánúineacha a lean leis an eadráin tar éis an chéad sheisiúin	Thángthas ar shocrú	D'fhill ar an bpósadh	Cúnamh ach gan an próiseas a chríochnú
lomlán	850	514	64	272
lomlán %	100	60.5	7.5	32

## Réigiun an Oirthir (Áth Cliath, Dún Dealgan, Ráth Eanaigh, Baile Bhlainséir agus Baile Monaigh)

2007	Líon na lánúineacha páirteach san eadráin	Thángthas ar shocrú	D'fhill ar an bpósadh	Cúnamh ach gan an próiseas a chríochnú
lomlán	349	246	14	89
lomlán %	100	70.5	4	25.5

## Réigiún an Iarthair (Gaillimh, Caisleán an Bharraigh, Sligeach agus Leitir Ceanainn)

2007	Líon na lánúineacha páirteach san eadráin	Thángthas ar shocrú	D'fhill ar an bpósadh	Cúnamh ach gan an próiseas a chríochnú
lomlán	121	57	10	54
lomlán %	100	47	8	45

## Réigiún an Láriarthair (Luimneach, Áth Luain, Port Laoise agus Tamhlacht)

2007	Líon na lánúineacha páirteach san eadráin	Thángthas ar shocrú	D'fhill ar an bpósadh	Cúnamh ach gan an próiseas a chríochnú
lomlán	230	123	23	84
lomlán %	100	53.5	10	36.5

## Réigiún an Deiscirt (Corcaigh, Port Láirge, Loch Garman agus Trá Lí)

2007	Líon na lánúineacha páirteach san eadráin	Thángthas ar shocrú	D'fhill ar an bpósadh	Cúnamh ach gan an próiseas a chríochnú
lomlán	150	88	17	45
lomlán %	100	59	11	30

## 5.6 Research

2007 saw significant progress in the development of the Agency's research programme.



*Aideen Mooney AP, Head of Research.*

### Technical Research Support

In May 2007 Dr Kieran McKeown was appointed to provide technical research support to the Agency, following a competitive tendering process. Dr McKeown is one of the foremost authorities on family policy research in Ireland and over the last 20 years has worked as a full-time independent research consultant. In that time Dr McKeown has carried out over 100 different research projects addressing issues of economic and social importance on behalf of a diverse range of Government departments, statutory agencies and voluntary bodies.

Dr McKeown's role in providing technical research advice at all stages in the research process is designed to ensure the technical efficiency and integrity of the process as well as ensuring the quality of the research being funded by the Agency.

### Commissioned Research

Having already reviewed the operations of the scheme of counselling grants operated by the Agency in 2006, this year saw the focus of commissioned research on reviewing the Agency's Family Mediation Service. The Family Mediation Service is a confidential service provided free of charge to couples, married and non-married, who have decided to separate or divorce and who together want to negotiate the terms of their separation or divorce.

Following a lengthy internal process to determine the most appropriate research approach, an open tender process was undertaken which led to the contract being awarded to FGS Consulting. The study will comprise a number of elements including analysis of the data on clients and a survey of former clients of the service, a survey of stakeholders as well as review of relevant literature in the area. Work will commence in January 2008 and it is anticipated that the final report, including recommendations which should guide the future development of the service, will be available in early 2009.

## 5.6 Taighde

Bhí dul chun cinn tábhachtach i bhforbairt chlár taighde na Gníomhaireachta sa bhliain 2007.



*Aideen Mooney AP, Ceannaire Taighde.*

### Tacaíocht Taighde Theicniúil

I mBealtaine 2007 ceapadh an Dr Ciarán Mac Eoin chun tacaíocht taighde theicniúil a chur ar fáil don Ghníomhaireacht, i ndiaidh próiseas tairisceana iomaíoch. Duine dóbh siúd is údarásaí maidir le taighde polasaí teaghlaigh in Éirinn is ea an Dr Mac Eoin agus thar an 20 bliain atá imithe d'oibrigh sé mar chomhairleoir taighde lánaimseartha neamhspleách. I rith an ama sin chuir an Dr Mac Eoin i bhfeidhm níos mó ná 100 tionscadal taighde éagsúil ag tabhairt aghaidh ar cheisteanna a bhfuil tábhacht eacnamaíoch agus sóisialta leo thar ceann réimse ilghnéitheach ranna rialtais, gníomhaireachtaí reachtúla agus comhlachtaí deonacha.

Tá ról an Dr Mhic Eoin maidir le comhairle thaighde theicniúil a sholáthar ag gach céim i bpróiseas an taighde deartha chun éifeachtacht theicniúil agus ionracas an phróisis a chinntiú agus chun mianach an taighde a chistíonn an Ghníomhaireacht a chinntiú freisin.

### Taighde Coimisiúnaithe

Tar éis go ndearnadh athbhreithniú cheana féin ar oibríochtaí scéim na ndéontas comhairlithe arna oibriú ag an nGníomhaireacht sa bhliain 2006, dírfodh i mbliana ar thaighde coimisiúnaithe ar athbhreithniú Sheirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh na Gníomhaireachta. Seirbhís rúnda í an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh a sholáthraítear saor in aisce do lánúineacha, idir phósta agus neamhphósta, a bhfuil beartaithe acu scaradh nó colscaradh a dhéanamh agus a dteastaíonn uathu téarmaí an scartha nó an cholscartha a phlé le chéile.

I ndiaidh próisis fhada inmheánaigh chun an teacht i láthair don taighde is cuí a shocrú, beartaíodh próiseas oscailte tairisceana agus bronnadh an conradh ar Chomhairliú FGS dá bharr seo. Cuimseoidh an staidéar roinnt eilimintí lena n-áirítear anailís ar shonraí na gcliant, suirbhé ar iarchliant na seirbhíse, suirbhé ar na geallchoimeádaithe chomh maith le hathbhreithniú ar an litríocht ábhartha sa limistéar. Tosóidh an obair in Eanáir 2008 agus táthar ag súil go mbeidh an tuarascáil dheireanach, moltaí a threoróidh forbairt na seirbhíse sa todhchaí san áireamh, infhaighte go luath sa bhliain 2009.

## Call for Research

The 2007 Call for Research, inviting applications for research grants on issues relevant to the Agency, was advertised in February 2007. 9 valid applications were received. Following a rigorous assessment process, it was decided to grant aid 2 of the applications.

Grant aid was awarded to the ESRI to undertake a study exploring Family Figures and Trends including Family Dynamics and Family Types in Ireland, based on Census data over a period of time. A draft report of the findings of the study should be available by the end of 2008.

One Family also received grant aid from the Agency to investigate Family and Child contact centres in Ireland, including an assessment of the need for such centres and how best can this need be met. This study is also scheduled for completion in late 2008.

## In-House Research

As part of its response to the Department of Social and Family Affairs in relation to the Government Discussion Paper "Proposals for Supporting Lone Parents", the Agency collaborated with the support agency DESSA (Disability Equality Support Services Agency) to survey 100 Family Resource Centres throughout the country to establish the level and nature of childcare facilities in the centres. The

report detailing the findings from the survey provided a comprehensive insight into the complexity of childcare provided by the FRCs and into the families availing of these services. These findings provided the Agency with robust basis for its response to the Department as well as its response on other childcare related issues.

## Other Activities

The Research function continued to develop its collaborative relationship with other bodies including the Combat Poverty Agency and the Crisis Pregnancy Agency. In addition it began the process of developing a family research strategy which would identify gaps in the existing knowledge about the family, avoid duplication of research effort and promote synergy between different promoters of family research in Ireland.

## 5.7 Information

In 2007 the Family Support Agency continued its role in promoting and disseminating information about issues in relation to marriage and relationship education, family mediation, parenting and family responsibilities and related matters. The Agency carried out these in a number of ways:

## Gairm don Taighde

Fógraíodh an Ghairm don Taighde 2007, ag lorg iarratas ar dheontais taighde a bhaineann leis an nGníomhaireacht, i bhFeabhra 2007. Fuarthas 9 iarratas bailí. I ndiaidh próiseas docht measúnaithe, beartaíodh cúnamh a bhronnadh ar dhá cheann de na hiarratais.

Bronnadh cabhair dheontais ar an ESRI chun staidéar a bheartú ag iniúchadh figiúirí agus treochtaí teaghlaigh lena n-áirítear Dinimic Theaghlaigh agus Cineálacha Teaghlaigh in Éirinn, bunaithe ar shonraí an Daonáirimh thar thréimhse ama. Ba chóir go mbeadh dréacht-tuarascáil ar bhreithiúnas an staidéir infhaighte roimh lár na bliana 2008.

Fuair Teaghlach Amháin freisin cabhair dheontais ón nGníomhaireacht chun lárionaid teagmhála Teaghlaigh agus Leanáí in Éirinn a scrúdú, lena n-áirítear measúnú ar an ngá atá le lárionaid dá sórt agus an chaoi is fearr le freastal ar an ngá seo. Tá an staidéar seo sceidealta le críochnú i lár 2008.

## Taighde Inmheánach

Mar chuid den fhreagra ar Roinn na nGnóthaí Teaghlaigh agus Sóisialta i ndáil le Páipéar Phlé an Rialtais 'Moltaí um Thacaíocht a thabhairt do Thuismitheoirí Aonair' chomhoibrigh an Gníomhaireacht leis an ngníomhaireacht tacaíochta DESSA (An Gníomhaireacht Seirbhísí Tacaíochta um Chomhionannas Míchumais) chun suirbhé a chur ar chéad Lárionad Acmhainne Teaghlaigh ar fud na tíre chun leibhéal agus

nádúr na n-áiseanna cúraim leanáí sna lárionaid a bhuanú. Chuir an tuarascáil a shonraigh breithiúnas an tsuirbhé seo ar fáil léargas uileghabhálach ar chastacht an chúraim linbh a chuireann na LAT – anna ar fáil agus ar na teaghlaigh a bhaineann fónamh as na seirbhísí seo. Chuir an breithiúnas seo ar fáil don Gníomhaireacht foras tathagach don fhreagra ar an Roinn chomh maith leis an bhfreagra ar cheisteanna eile a bhaineann le cúram leanáí.

## Imeachtaí eile

Lean an fheidhm thaighde uirthi chun an gaol comhoibrithe le comhlachtaí eile a fhorbairt lena n-áirítear An

Gníomhaireacht um Bochtaineacht a Chomhrac agus An Gníomhaireacht Ghéarchéime Toirchis. De bhreis ar sin thosaigh sí próiseas a d'fhorbródh straitéis taighde theaghlaigh a d'aithneodh bearnaí san fhaisnéis atá ann faoi láthair faoin teaghlach, a sheachnódh cóipeáil na hiarrachta taighde agus a chothódh sineirgíocht idir tionscnóirí éagsúla an taighde theaghlaigh in Éirinn.

## 5.7 Faisnéis

Sa bhliain 2007 lean An Gníomhaireacht Teaghlaigh leis an ról atá aici i gcothú agus i gcaobhscaoileadh faisnéise faoi cheisteanna a bhaineann le pósadh agus oideachas caidrimh, eadráin teaghlaigh, tuismitheoireacht agus freagrachtaí teaghlaigh agus nithe gaolmhara. Chuir an

- **Strategic Plan 2007-2009** – the Agency launched its second Strategic Plan in January. The focus for the Agency in the coming years is to build on its success by refining the existing programmes, strengthening the co-operation between various parts of the Agency and between the Agency and other organisations working in related areas, and building capacity of the organisation.

- **Information Provision** – throughout 2007 the Family Support Agency worked closely with other organisations (statutory and non-statutory) in promoting and disseminating information on matters related to its functions:

1. In June the Agency provided some funding for the conference 'Building Resilience in Children, Families & Communities' held in NUI Galway.
2. In August the Agency supported the Triple P Parenting Initiative Pilot programme in Longford/Westmeath by providing for the projected cost of materials/resources for the pilot programme.
3. In October the Board approved funding for an advertising campaign run by Treoir to address

misinformation which abounds on the rights of unmarried fathers in relation to their children. This campaign will run in 2008.

4. In November, as a result of collaboration between the Agency and Barnardos, a set of nine practical booklets aimed at supporting parents of children aged six to twelve through a range of parenting challenges were launched. There is a booklet for parents on general parenting skills designed to help them better understand and support their children's development. The others in the series deal with some of life's most complex life issues and cover the following topics:

- Coping with Death
- Coping with Separation
- Coping with Domestic Abuse
- Coping with Bullying.

Each issue is addressed in two companion booklets, one for parents and the other for parents to read with their children. All nine booklets are written in a question and answer format.

Ghníomhaireacht iad seo i gcrích ar roinnt bealaí:

■ **Plean Straitéiseach 2007-2009** – Sheol an Ghníomhaireacht an dara Plean Straitéiseach i Mí Eanáir. Tá an Ghníomhaireacht dírithe sna blianta atá romhainn ar thógáil ar an rath trí na cláir atá ann faoi láthair a íonú, an comhoibriú idir na codanna éagsúla den Ghníomhaireacht agus idir an Ghníomhaireacht agus eagraíochtaí eile atá ag oibriú i réimsí gaolmhara a neartú, agus tógáil ar acmhainn na heagraíochta.

■ **Soláthar na Faisnéise** – i rith 2007 d'oibrigh An Ghníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh go dlúth le heagraíochtaí eile (idir reachtúil agus neamhreachtúil) i gcothú agus i gcraobhscaoileadh faisnéise faoi cheisteanna a bhaineann lena feidhmeanna:

1. I Meitheamh chuir an Ghníomhaireacht roinnt cistithe ar fáil don chomhdháil 'Ag Tógáil ar an Teacht Aniar i bPáistí, Teaghlaigh agus Pobail' a tionóladh in ONÉ Gaillimh.
2. I Lúnasa thacaigh an Ghníomhaireacht le Treoirchlár Tionscnamhach Tuismitheoireachta Trí T i Longfort agus san Iarmhí trí sholáthar a dhéanamh do chostas

measta ábhar/acmhainní an treoirchláir.

3. I nDeireadh Fómhair d'fhaomhaigh an Bord cistiú d'fheachtas fógraíochta arna réachtáil ag Treoir chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar eolas contráilte a bhfuil raidhse de ann maidir le cearta na n-aithreacha neamhphósta i ndáil lena bpáistí. Réachtálfar an feachtas i 2008.
4. I Samhain, de thoradh comhoibríthe idir an Ghníomhaireacht agus Barnardos, seoladh sraith de naoi leabhrán praiticiúla agus é d'aidhm acu tacaíocht a thabhairt do thuismitheoirí leanaí atá idir sé agus dhá bhliain déag d'aois, trí réimse dúshláin tuismitheoireachta. Tá leabhrán do thuismitheoirí ar scileanna tuismitheoireachta go ginearálta deartha chun cabhrú leo forbairt a gcuid gclainne a thuiscint agus a thacú ar bhealach níos fearr. Pléann an chuid eile sa tsraith seo le cuid de na ceisteanna is casta den bheatha agus cuimsíonn siad na hábhair seo a leanas:
  - Ag déileáil leis an mBás
  - Ag déileáil le scaradh

The booklets are available free of charge from Barnardos National Children's Resource Centre and on [www.barnardos.ie](http://www.barnardos.ie) and [www.fsa.ie](http://www.fsa.ie)



Information Section: Deirdre Roche EO & Mary Lloyd AP, Information Officer.

**Media and Presentations** – To coincide with the openings of relocated Family Mediation centres and with openings of Family Resource Centres press releases were issued highlighting the services available at those centres. The Agency has also had extensive press coverage on its counselling grants.

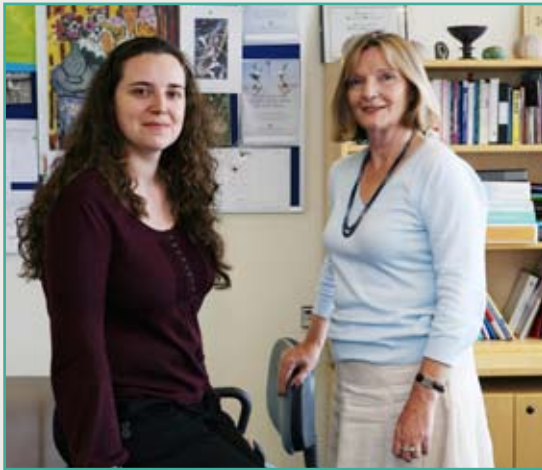
One of the highlights of the year was the marking of 21 years of the Family Mediation Service. A conference was held in Croke Park in September. A number of the Agency's mediators spoke about their findings from their Master theses on aspects of mediation in the Agency.



- Ag déileáil le mí-úsáid teaghlaigh

- Ag déileáil le bulaíocht

Tugtar aghaidh ar gach ceist in dhá lámhleabhrán, ceann amháin do thuismitheoirí agus an ceann eile do thuismitheoirí le léamh leis na páistí. Tá na naoi leabhrán go léir scríofa i bhformáid cheiste agus freagra.



An Rannóg Faisnéise: Deirdre Roche EO & Mary Lloyd AP, Oifigeach Faisnéise.

Tá na leabhráin le fáil saor in aisce ó Lárionad Acmhainne Náisiúnta na bPáistí Barnardos agus ar [www.Barnardos.ie](http://www.Barnardos.ie) agus [www.fsa.ie](http://www.fsa.ie)

**Na Meáin agus Léiriúcháin** – D’fhonn a bheith comhthráthach le hoscailt na lárionad Eadrána Teaghlaigh athlonnaithe agus le hoscailt na Lárionad Acmhainne Teaghlaigh, cuireadh amach preaseisiúintí ag leagan béime ar na seirbhísí atá infhaighte ag na lárionaid sin. Bhí freisin tuairisceoireacht fhorleathan ar na nuachtáin faoin nGníomhaireacht maidir lena deontais chomhairlithe.

Ceann de bhuaicphointí na bliana ba ea comharthú 21 bliain den tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh. Tionóladh comhdháil i bPáirc an Chrócaigh i Lúnasa. Labhair roinnt d’eadránaithe na Gníomhaireachta faoina mbreithiúnas sa tráchtas Máistreachta acu ar ghnéithe den eadráin sa Gníomhaireacht.

### Family services in Carlow and Kilkenny benefit from €1m funding

**BY JOHN CLARY**  
Carlow and Kilkenny received a landmark boost of nearly €1 million from the Family Support Agency (FSA) to help support and develop family services in the two counties. The funding, which is the largest ever granted to the agencies, is to be used to improve and expand the range of services provided to families in the counties. The funding will be used to support a range of services including family mediation, family support, and family counselling. The funding will also be used to support the development of new services and to improve the quality of existing services. The funding is part of a larger €10 million investment in family services across the country.

### Funding from Family Support Agency



Cullen admits cyber bullying fears

### One-third of couples in mediation faced domestic violence

Research has found that one in three couples who go through family mediation have experienced domestic violence. The study, conducted by the Family Mediation Institute, found that 33 per cent of couples who had used mediation services in the past year had experienced domestic violence. This is a significant finding as it highlights the need for mediation services to be able to support couples who have experienced domestic violence. The study also found that 47 per cent of couples who had used mediation services in the past year had experienced financial difficulties. This suggests that mediation services can be a valuable resource for couples who are facing financial challenges.

### Mediation service opens new offices

The Family Mediation Service has opened new offices in Carlow and Kilkenny. The new offices will provide a range of mediation services to couples who are facing family disputes. The services include mediation, family support, and family counselling. The new offices are part of a larger investment in family services across the country. The Family Mediation Service is a not-for-profit organization that provides mediation services to couples who are facing family disputes. The service is free of charge and is available to couples who are facing any type of family dispute. The service is also available to couples who are facing financial difficulties. The service is a valuable resource for couples who are facing family challenges.

### Booklets aim to help families through challenging times

New booklets have been developed to help families cope with challenging times. The booklets are available in both English and Irish and cover a range of topics including family mediation, family support, and family counselling. The booklets are part of a larger investment in family services across the country. The booklets are a valuable resource for families who are facing challenges. The booklets are available for free and can be downloaded from the website. The booklets are also available in hard copy form. The booklets are a great way to learn more about family services and how to use them. The booklets are a valuable resource for families who are facing challenges.

### Family disputes need 'conversation'

Family disputes often need a 'conversation' to be resolved. This is the message from a new report by the Family Mediation Institute. The report found that 70 per cent of couples who used mediation services in the past year had resolved their disputes through conversation. This suggests that mediation services can be a valuable resource for couples who are facing family disputes. The report also found that 60 per cent of couples who used mediation services in the past year had resolved their disputes through conversation. This suggests that mediation services can be a valuable resource for couples who are facing family disputes. The report is a valuable resource for couples who are facing family challenges.

# Appendix 1 – Board Meetings in 2007 and Board Sub-Groups

## 1. Board Meetings

29 January	26 February	26 March
30 April	28 May	25 June
16 July	30 July	24 September
22 October	26 November	17 December

## 2. Board Sub-Groups

Sub-Group	Members
Audit Committee	Muriel Walls (Chair), Paddie Connellan, Dick Hickey, Angela Gaule, Helen Faughnan
Counselling	Colm O'Connor (Chair), Dick Hickey, Bríd Rocks
Family Mediation Service	Clare Cashman (Chair), Paddie Connellan, Geoffrey Corry, Angela Gaule, Rita Hayes, Dick Hickey, Colm O'Connor, Bríd Rocks
Family Resource Centre Programme Sub Group for inclusion of groups in the FRC programme	Bríd Rocks (Chair), Clare Cashman, Marie Fenlon (Le Cheile), John Fitzsimons (St. Andrews Resource Centre), Michelle Griffin (Combat Poverty Agency), Eileen Kavanagh (Dunrath), Susan Shaw (Triskele)
Subgroup for FRC Terms/ Conditions	Clare Cashman (Chair), Helen Faughnan, Dick Hickey, Bríd Rocks, Paddie Connellan
Oireachtas Committee	Michael O'Kennedy (Chair), Muriel Walls, Pat Bennett
Research	Colm O'Connor (Chair), Clare Cashman, Paddie Connellan, Helen Faughnan, Rita Hayes
Strategic Planning Information	Dick Hickey (Chair), Paddie Connellan, Angela Gaule, Bríd Rocks, Geoffrey Corry
Remuneration Sub-committee	Michael O'Kennedy (Chair), Dick Hickey, Bríd Rocks, Helen Faughnan

# Aguisín 1 – Cruinnithe Boird i 2007 agus Fo-Ghrúpaí Boird

## 1. Cruinnithe Boird

29 Eanáir	26 Feabhra	26 Márta
30 Aibreán	28 Bealtaine	25 Meitheamh
16 Iúil	30 Iúil	24 Meán Fómhair
22 D. Fómhair	26 Samhain	17 Nollaig

## 2. Fo-Ghrúpaí Boird

Fo-Ghrúpa	Baill
Coiste Iniúchta	Muriel Walls (Chair), Paddie Connellan, Dick Hickey, Angela Gaule, Helen Faughnan
Comhairliú	Colm O'Connor (Chair), Dick Hickey, Bríd Rocks
Seirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh	Clare Cashman (Chair), Paddie Connellan, Geoffrey Corry, Angela Gaule, Rita Hayes, Dick Hickey, Colm O'Connor, Bríd Rocks
Láirionad Acmhainne Teaghlaigh FoGhrúpa Cláir do chuimsiú na ngrúpaí i gclár an LAT	Bríd Rocks (Chair), Clare Cashman, Marie Fenlon (Le Cheile), John Fitzsimons (St. Andrews Resource Centre), Michelle Griffin (Combat Poverty Agency), Eileen Kavanagh (Dunrath), Susan Shaw (Triskele)
Fo-Ghrúpa don LAT Téarmaí/Coinníollacha	Clare Cashman (Chair), Helen Faughnan, Dick Hickey, Bríd Rocks, Paddie Connellan
Coiste Oireachtais	Michael O'Kennedy (Chair), Muriel Walls, Pat Bennett
Taighde	Colm O'Connor (Chair), Clare Cashman, Paddie Connellan, Helen Faughnan, Rita Hayes
Faisnéis faoin bPleanáil Straitéiseach	Dick Hickey (Chair), Paddie Connellan, Angela Gaule, Bríd Rocks, Geoffrey Corry
Fochoiste Íocaíochta	Michael O'Kennedy (Chair), Dick Hickey, Bríd Rocks, Helen Faughnan

## Appendix 2 – Statutory Functions

The functions of the Family Support Agency, as prescribed in the Family Support Agency Act 2001, Section 4, are set out below:

4. (1) The functions of the Agency shall be –
  - (a) to provide a family mediation service,
  - (b) to provide, where the Agency considers it necessary or expedient –
    - (i) family mediation through such other persons as it considers appropriate,
    - (ii) training in family mediation, either by itself or such other persons as it considers appropriate,
  - (c) to support, promote and develop the provision of marriage and relationship counselling and family support services,
  - (d) to promote and disseminate information about issues in relation to marriage and relationships education, family mediation, parenting and family responsibilities and related matters and in this regard to co-operate with other public authorities in providing information to assist persons in balancing their work and family responsibilities,
  - (e) to support, promote and develop the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme of the Minister,
  - (f) to undertake or commission research into matters related to its functions or such other matters as the Minister may request,
  - (g) to provide at the request of the Minister or on its own initiative advice, information and assistance to the Minister in relation to the development of any aspect of its functions,

## Aguisín 2 – Feidhmeanna Reachtúla

Tá feidhmeanna na Gníomhaireachta um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh, mar atá forordaithe san Acht fán Gníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh 2001, Alt 4, leagtha amach mar seo leanas:

4. (1) Is iad feidhmeanna na Gníomhaireachta –

- (a) seirbhís eadrána teaghlaigh a chur ar fáil
- (b) mar a mheasann an Gníomhaireacht é a bheith riachtanach nó caothúil –
  - (i) eadráin teaghlaigh a chur ar fáil trí mheán daoine eile a mheasann sí a bheith oiriúnach,
  - (ii) oiliúint in eadráin teaghlaigh a chur ar fáil í féin nó trí mheán daoine eile a mheasann sí a bheith oiriúnach,
- (c) tacú le soláthar seirbhísí comhairliúcháin um pósadh agus caidreamh agus le seirbhísí tacaíochta teaghlaigh; iad sin a chur chun cinn agus a fhorbairt
- (d) faisnéis faoi shaincheisteanna oideachais maidir le pósadh, le caidreamh, le headráin teaghlaigh, le tuismitheoireacht agus le freagrachtaí teaghlaigh agus nithe gaolmhara a chur chun cinn agus a chraobhscaoileadh agus obair i gcomhar ina leith sin le húdaráis phoiblí eile chun faisnéis a chur ar fáil chun cabhrú le daoine cothromóid a bhaint amach ina ndualgais teaghlaigh agus oibre.
- (e) tacú le Clár Acmhainní Sheirbhísí Acmhainní Teaghlaigh agus Pobail an Aire a chur chun cinn agus a fhorbairt.
- (f) tabhairt faoi thaighde nó taighde a choimisiúnú i nithe a bhaineann lena fheidhmeanna agus le nithe eile mar a iarrann an tAire.
- (g) ar iarratas ón Aire nó as a stuaim féin, comhairle, faisnéis agus cúnamh a chur ar fáil don Aire maidir le forbairt ar ghné ar bith dá feidhmeanna.

- (h) to provide, subject to the consent of the Minister, and in accordance with criteria established under section 7, financial assistance to voluntary bodies in respect of any matter related to the Agency's functions and for this purpose to administer—
  - (i) the scheme of the Minister known as the Scheme of Grants to Voluntary Organisations providing Marriage, Child and Bereavement Counselling Services.
  - (ii) the programme of the Minister known as the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme, and
  - (iii) such other schemes, grants and other facilities for financial assistance as may, from time to time, be authorised by the Minister after consultation with the Minister for Finance,
- (i) to prepare strategic plans in accordance with section 9,
- (j) to perform any additional functions assigned to the Agency under Section 5

4. (2) The Agency in performing the functions conferred on it by or under this Act shall have regard to –

- (a) the need to assist in particular, persons involved in the process of separation or divorce to reach agreement where possible, especially in disputes involving children.
- (b) the need for co-operation with other relevant public authorities and voluntary bodies
- (c) Government policy in particular social inclusion policy.

4. (3) The Agency shall have all such powers as are necessary for or incidental to the performance of its functions under this Act.

- (h) faoi réir ag toil an Aire, agus de réir na gcritéar arna mbunú faoi Alt 7, cúnamh airgid a chur ar fáil do chomhlachtaí deonacha maidir le hábhar ar bith a bhaineann le feidhmeanna na Gníomhaireachta agus ar son an chuspóra seo riarachán a dhéanamh ar —
- (i) scéim an Aire ar a dtugtar Scéim na nDeontas don Earnáil Dheonach
- (ii) clár an Aire ar a dtugtar Clár na nIonad Acmhainní do Sheirbhísí Teaghlaigh agus Pobail, agus
- (iii) scéimeanna, deontais agus áiseanna eile a bhaineann le cúnamh airgid is féidir leis an Aire a údarú ó am go ham i gcomhairle leis an Aire Airgeadais,
- (i) pleananna Straitéise a ullmhú de réir Alt 9
- (j) feidhm ar bith eile a a shannaítear chun na Gníomhaireachta faoi Alt 5 a chomhlíonadh.

4. (2) I gcomhlíonadh na bhfeidhmeanna atá sannaithe ag an Acht seo nó faoi, beidh aird ag an nGníomhaireacht ar na nithe seo a leanas –

- (a) an gá atá le cúnamh a thabhairt go háirithe do dhaoine a bhíonn páirteach sa phróiseas scarúna nó colscartha chun teacht ar réiteach más féidir, go háirithe in aighnis a bhaineann le leanaí
- (b) an gá atá le coimhoibiru le húdaráis phoiblí ábhartha eile agus le comhlachtaí deonacha
- (c) polasaí an Rialtais, polasaí um chuimsiú nó comhghlacadh sóisialta, ach go háirithe.

4. (3) Beidh na cumhachtaí uile atá riachtanach nó teagmhasach do chomhlíonadh a cuid feidhmeanna ag an nGníomhaireacht faoin Acht seo.

# Appendix 3 – Organisational Structure and Staffing

**Pat Bennett**

**Chief Executive**

## 1. Corporate Services

Bill O’Dea	AP
Deirdre Fradl	HEO
Anne O’Riordan	HEO
Niamh Egan	EO
Michael Hanrahan	CO

## 2. Research

Aideen Mooney*	AP
Niamh Egan/Deirdre Roche	EO (Research & Information)

## 3. Information

Mary Lloyd*	AP
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## 4. Family Resource Centres and Counselling Grants

Christina O’Connor	AP
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### Family Resource Centres

Rita Fitzsimons	HEO
Imelda Martin	EO
Anne Butler	EO
Siobhán Kennedy	CO
Linda Ogunbufunmi	CO

### Counselling Grants

Olive Shanley	HEO
Marian Finn	EO
Deirdre Roche/Greg Ryan	CO

## 5. Family Mediation Service

**Service Co-Ordinator** Polly Phillimore

### Area Co-Ordinators

Sheila Healy  
 Majella Foley-Friel\*/Eimear Hayden\*  
 Siun Kearney\*/Bernadette Barry Murray\*  
 Jim Sykes\*

# Aguisín 3 – Struchtúr Eagraíochtúil agus Foireann

Pádraig Ó Binéid

Príomh-Fheidhmeannach

## 1. Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Bill O’Dea	AP
Deirdre Fradl	HEO
Anne O’Riordan	HEO
Niamh Egan	EO
Michael Hanrahan	CO

## 2. Taighde

Aideen Mooney*	AP
Niamh Egan/Deirdre Roche	EO (Taighde agus Faisnéis)

## 3. Faisnéis

Mary Lloyd*	AP
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## 4. Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh agus Deontais Chomhairlithe

Christina O’Connor	AP
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### Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh

Rita Fitzsimons	HEO
Imelda Martin	EO
Anne Butler	EO
Siobhán Kennedy	CO
Linda Ogunbufunmi	CO

### Deontais Chomhairlithe

Olive Shanley	HEO
Marian Finn	EO
Deirdre Roche/Greg Ryan	CO

## 5. Seirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh

**Comhordaitheoir Seirbhíse** Polly Phillimore

**Comhordaitheoirí Limistéir** Sheila Healy

Majella Foley-Friel\*/Eimear Hayden\*

Siun Kearney\*/Bernadette Barry Murray\*

Jim Sykes\*

## Mediators

Ann Doran*	Geoffrey Corry*	Marie Keely*
Ann O’Kelly*	Jane Mc Colgan*	Martin Long*
Anna Slattery*	Julie Mc Auliffe*	Patricia Bolton*
Claudia Greene*	Karen Markey*	Patricia Fleming
Collette Morrison*	Karen Quirke*	Paula Desmond*
Colma Nic Aodha Bhui*	Lyle Mc Elderry*	Rosemary Hanratty*
Fiona Mc Auslan*	Mary Earley*	Yvette O’Malley*

## Administration

Anne Troy\*/Antoinette O’Donovan\* SO

## Clerical Officers

Angela Comerford*	Evelyn Mc Garrigle*	Marie Geraghty*	Rachel O’Donovan
Ann Connor*	Hazel Balding*	Mary O’Sullivan*	Ruth Baldacchino
Ann Devitt*	Helen Golden*	Martina Doyle*	Sandra Moran*
Catherine Kavanagh*	Mairin Ui Fhaoilin*	Michelle Coyle-Henry*	Sandra Murphy*
Cecilia Maguire*	Margaret Farrell*	Noelle O Connell*	Tara O’Connell*
Collette O’Connor*	Margaret Tierney	Noreen Mullin*	

\* *Indicates Part-time/Workshare staff*

## Eadránaithe

Ann Doran*	Geoffrey Corry*	Marie Keely*
Ann O'Kelly*	Jane Mc Colgan*	Martin Long*
Anna Slattery*	Julie Mc Auliffe*	Patricia Bolton*
Claudia Greene*	Karen Markey*	Patricia Fleming
Collette Morrison*	Karen Quirke*	Paula Desmond*
Colma Nic Aodha Bhui*	Lyle Mc Elderry*	Rosemary Hanratty*
Fiona Mc Auslan*	Mary Earley*	Yvette O'Malley*

## Riarachán

Anne Troy\*/Antoinette O'Donovan\* SO

## Oifigigh Chléireachais

Angela Comerford*	Evelyn Mc Garrigle*	Marie Geraghty*	Rachel O'Donovan
Ann Connor*	Hazel Balding*	Mary O'Sullivan*	Ruth Baldacchino
Ann Devitt*	Helen Golden*	Martina Doyle*	Sandra Moran*
Catherine Kavanagh*	Mairin Ui Fhaoilin*	Michelle Coyle-Henry*	Sandra Murphy*
Cecilia Maguire*	Margaret Farrell*	Noelle O Connell*	Tara O'Connell*
Collette O'Connor*	Margaret Tierney	Noreen Mullin*	

*Cuireann \* foireann pháirtaimseartha/phostroinnte in iúl*

# Appendix 4 – Premises

## Family Support Agency's Headquarters

Floor 4, St. Stephens Green House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

Phone: 01-6114100

Website: [www.fsa.ie](http://www.fsa.ie)

Email: [info@fsa.ie](mailto:info@fsa.ie)

## Full-time Family Mediation Service Offices

**Cork** – Hibernian House, 80A South Mall, Cork

Phone: 021-4252200

**Dublin** – Floor 1, St Stephens Green House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

Phone: 01-6344320

**Galway** – Floor 1, Ross House, Merchants Road, Galway

Phone: 091-509730

**Limerick** – Floor 1, Mill House, Henry Street, Limerick

Phone: 061-214310

## Part Time Family Mediation Service Offices

**Athlone** – Suite 10, First Floor, Inish Carraig Business Centre, Golden Island, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Phone: 090-6420970

**Blanchardstown** – West End House, West End Business Park, Snugborough Road Extension, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Phone: 01-8118650

**Castlebar** – C/o Family Centre, Chapel Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Phone: 094-9035120

**Dundalk** – 10 Seatown, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Phone: 042-9359410

# Aguisín 4 – Áitreabh

## Ceanncheathrú na Gníomhaireachta um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh

Urlar 4, Teach Fhaiche Stiabhna, Ardán Phort an Iarla, Áth Cliath 2

Guthán: 01-6114100

Suíomh Idirlín: [www.fsa.ie](http://www.fsa.ie)

Ríomhphost: [info@fsa.ie](mailto:info@fsa.ie)

## Oifigí Lánaimseartha na Seirbhíse Eadrána Teaghlaigh

**Corcaigh** – Teach Hibernian, 80A An Meal Theas, Corcaigh

Guthán: 021-4252200

**Áth Cliath** – Urlar 1, Teach Fhaiche Stiabhna, Ardán Phort an Iarla, B. Á. C. 2

Guthán: 01-6344320

**Gaillimh** – Urlár 1, Teach Rois, Bóthar an Cheannaí, Gaillimh

Guthán: 091-509730

**Luimneach** – Urlár 1, Teach an Mhuilinn, Sráid Anraí, Luimneach

Guthán: 061-214310

## Oifigí Páirtaimseartha na Seirbhíse Eadrána Teaghlaigh

**Áth Luan** – Sraith 10, An chéad Urlar, Lárionad Gnó Inis Charraige, Golden Island, Áth Luan, Co. na hIarmhí

Guthán: 090-6420970

**Baile Bhlainséir** – Teach an Chinn Iartharaigh, Páirc Ghnó an Chinn Iartharaigh, Síneadh Bhóthair Snugborough, Baile Bhlainséir, Áth Cliath 15

Guthán 01-8118650

**Caisleán an Bharraigh** – f/ch An Lárionad Teaghlaigh, Sráid an tSéipéil, Caisleán an Bharraigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo

Guthán: 094-9035120

**Dún Dealgan** – 10 Seatown, Dún Dealgan, Co. Lú

Guthán 042-9359410

**Letterkenny** – 3rd Floor, Riverfront House, Pearse Road, Letterkenny

Phone: 074-9102240

**Portlaoise** – Level 2, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Phone: 057-8695730

**Raheny** – Skillings House, 1st floor offices, Raheny Shopping Centre, Howth Rd, Dublin 5

Phone: 01-8510730

**Sligo** – Abbey Street, Sligo

Phone: 071-9137430

**Tallaght** – The Rere, Tallaght Social Services Centre, The Square, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Phone: 01-4145180

**Tralee** – Unit 2, Market Place, Maine Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Phone: 066-7186100

**Waterford** – 13B Wallace House, Maritana Gate, Canada Street, Waterford

Phone: 051-860460

**Wexford** – 32 Key West, Custom House Quay, Wexford

Phone: 053-63050

**Leitir Ceanainn** – 3ú Urlár, Teach Riverfront, Bóthar Mhic Phiarais, Leitir Ceanainn  
Guthán: 074-9102240

**Portlaoise** – Leibhéal 2, Teach Grattan, Lárionad Gnó Grattan, Portlaoise, Co. Laoise  
Guthán: 057-8695730

**Ráth Eanaigh** – Teach Skillings, oifigí an chéad urláir, Lárionad Siopadóireachta Ráth Eanaigh, Bóthar Bhinn Éadair, Áth Cliath 5  
Guthán: 01-8510730

**Sligeach** – Sráid na Mainistreach, Sligeach  
Guthán: 071-9137430

**Tamhlacht** – The Rere, Lárionad Seirbhísí Soisialta Thamhlachta, An Chearnóg, Tamhlacht, Áth Cliath 24  
Guthán 01-4145180

**Trá Lí** – Aonad 2, Plás an Mhargaidh, Sráid Maine, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí  
Guthán: 066-7186100

**Port Láirge** – 13B Teach de Bhailís, Geata Maritana, Sráid Cheanada, Port Láirge  
Guthán: 051-860460

**Loch Garman** – 32 An Cé Siar, Cé Theach an Chustaim, Loch Garman  
Guthán: 053-63050

# Appendix 5 – Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2007

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Section</b>
Information	1
Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General	2
Statement of Responsibilities of the Board	3
Statement on System of Internal Financial Control	4
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Cashflow Statement	8
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## **To the Minister for Social and Family Affairs**

In accordance with the terms of Section 25 of the Family Support Agency Act, 2001, the Family Support Agency presents its Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2007.

# Aguisín 5 – Tuarascáil agus Ráitis Airgeadais don Bhliain dar críoch 31 Nollaig 2007

Clár Ábhair	Alt
Faisnéis	1
Tuarascáil an Ardreachtair Cuntas agus Ciste	2
Ráiteas Faoi Fhreagrachtaí an Bhoird	3
Ráiteas ar Chóras Rialaithe Airgeadais Inmheánaigh	4
Ráiteas Faoi Pholasaithe Cuntasóireachta	5
Cuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais	6
Clár Comhardaithe	7
Ráiteas Sreabhtha Airgid	8
Nótaí ar Ráitis Airgeadais	9

## Chuig Aire na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh

De réir téarmaí Míre 25 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh, 2001, cuireann an Gníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh a Tuarascáil agus a Cuntais i láthair don bhliain dár críoch 31 Nollaig 2007.

## 1. Information

### Members of the Board

Ms. Clare Cashman  
Ms. Paddie Connellan  
Mr. Geoffrey Corry  
Ms. Helen Faughnan  
Ms. Rita Hayes  
Mr. Dick Hickey  
Senator Maria Corrigan  
Ms. Angela Gaule  
Dr. Colm O'Connor  
Mr. Michael O'Kennedy (Chairperson)  
Ms. Bríd Rocks  
Ms. Muriel Walls

### Chief Executive

Mr. Pat Bennett

### Headquarters

The Family Support Agency  
St. Stephens Green House  
Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 2

### Auditor

Comptroller and Auditor General  
Dublin Castle  
Dublin 2

### Accountants

Mazars Chartered Accountants  
Block 3 Harcourt Centre  
Harcourt Road  
Dublin 2

### Solicitor

A&L Goodbody  
IFSC  
North Wall Quay  
Dublin 1

## 1. Faisnéis

### Baill an Bhoird

Ms. Clare Cashman  
Ms. Paddie Connellan  
Mr. Geoffrey Corry  
Ms. Helen Faughnan  
Ms. Rita Hayes  
Mr. Dick Hickey  
An Seanadóir Maria Corrigan  
Ms. Angela Gaule  
Dr. Colm O'Connor  
Mr. Michael O'Kennedy (Cathaoirleach)  
Ms. Bríd Rocks  
Ms. Muriel Walls

### PríomhFheidhmeannach

Mr. Pat Bennett

### Ceanncheathrú

An Ghníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh  
Teach Fhaiche Stiabhna  
Ardán Phort an Iarla  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

### Reachtaire

An tArd-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste  
Caisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

### Cuntasóirí

Cuntasóirí Cairte Mazars  
Bloc 3 Lárionad Fhearchair  
Bóthar Fhearchair  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

### Aturnae

A&L Goodbody  
IFSC  
Cé an Phoirt Thuaidh  
Baile Átha Cliath 1

## **2. Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas**

I have audited the financial statements of the Family Support Agency (the Agency) for the year ended 31st December 2007 under Section 25 of the Family Support Agency Act, 2001.

The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the Accounting Policies, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and related notes.

### **Respective Responsibilities of the Agency and the Comptroller and Auditor General**

The Agency is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Act and for ensuring the regularity of transactions. The Agency prepares the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. The accounting responsibilities of the Board of the Agency are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. I also report whether in my opinion proper books of account have been kept. In addition, I state whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

I report any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or whether the transactions do not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report if I have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of my audit.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control reflects the Agency's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and report any material instance where it does not do so, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information of which I am aware from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control covers all financial risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the risk and control procedures.

## 2. Tuarascáil an Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste le cur faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais

Tá ráitis airgeadais na Gníomhaireachta um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh (na Gníomhaireachta) don bhliain dár críoch Mí na Nollag 2007 arna n-íniúchadh agam díreach anois, faoi Alt 25 den Acht Fan nGníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh, 2001.

Cuimsíonn na ráitis airgeadais, a ullmhaíodh de réir na bpolasaithe cuntasafóichta ar a bhfuil cur síos iontu, na Polasaithe Cuntasafóichta, an Cuntas Sochair agus Dochair, an Clár Comhardaithe agus na nótaí a bhaineann leo.

### **Freagrachtaí na Gníomhaireachta agus an Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste faoi seach**

Tá an Ghníomhaireacht freagrach as na ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú faoi réir ag an Acht agus as rialtacht na mbearta gnó a chinntiú. Ullmhaíonn an Ghníomhaireacht na ráitis airgeadais faoi réir ag an gCleachtas Ginearálta Cuntasóireachta Inghlactha in Éirinn. Tá cur síos ar fhreagrachtaí cuntasafóichta Bhord na Gníomhaireachta sa Ráiteas um Fhreagrachtaí.

Is é atá mar fhreagracht ormsa na ráitis airgeadais a iniúchadh faoi réir ag na coinníollacha ábhartha dlíthiúla agus reachtaíochta agus ag na Caighdeáin Idirnáisiúnta um Chuntasafóichta (Ríocht Aontaithe agus Éire).

Tuairiscím mo thuairim maidir le pé acu an dtugtar léiriú cóir cothrom ag teacht leis an gCleachtas Ginearálta Cuntasóireachta Inghlactha in Éirinn sna ráitis airgidis, nó nach dtugtar. Ina theannta sin, tuairiscím pé acu an bhfuil na ráitis airgeadais ag teacht le leabhar na gcuntas, nó nach bhfuil.

Tuairiscím sampla ábhartha ar bith inar úsáideadh airgead chun críocha eile seachas mar a bhí beartaithe dóibh agus bearta nach mbíonn ag teacht lena n-údaráis rialaithe.

Ina theannta sin, tuairiscím go bhfuair nó nach bhfuair mé an fhaisnéis ar fad a theastaigh chun críocha mo chuid iniúcháireachta.

Déanaim athbhreithniú cé acu a gcuireann Ráiteas ar Rialúchán Airgeadais Inmheánach comhlíonadh na hÁisíneachta leis an gCód Cleachtas do Rialachas Chomhlachtaí Stáit in iúl nó nach gcuireann agus déanaim tuairisc ar uair ar bith nach ndéanann sé nó má tá an ráiteas míthreorach nó muna réitíonn sé le heolas eile atá faighte agam ón iniúcháireacht atá déanta agam ar na ráitis airgeadais. Níl aon dualgas orm a chur san áireamh cé acu a gclúdaíonn an Ráiteas ar Rialúchán Airgeadais Inmheánach gach priacal airgeadais agus rialachais nó tuairim a bheith agam ar éifeachtacht na nósanna imeachta priacail agus rialúcháin.

## **Basis of Audit Opinion**

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General, I conducted my audit of the Financial Statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board and by reference to the special considerations that attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures and regularity of the financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Agency's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations that I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

## **Audit Opinion**

As explained in the Statement of Accounting Policies, the financial statements do not make any provision for superannuation liability. This policy does not comply with Financial Reporting Standard 17 which requires such costs to be recognised in the year the entitlements are earned.

Except for the non-recognition of the Agency's superannuation costs and liabilities in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 17, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the Agency's affairs at 31 December 2007 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Agency. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.



**John Buckley**  
**Comptroller and Auditor General**

4 November 2008

## **Bunús na Tuairime Iniúchta**

Agus mé i mbun m'fheidhme mar Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste, rinne mé na ráitis airgeadais a iniúchadh faoi réir ag na Caighdeáin Idirnáisiúnta um Chuntasaíocht (an Ríocht Aontaithe agus Éire) a d'eisigh Bord na gChleachtas Cuntasaíochta agus trí thagairt do na cúinsí ar leith a bhaineann le comhlachtaí Stáit maidir lena mbainisítú agus a n-oibriú. Cuimsíonn iniúchadh scrúdú, ar bhonn tástála, d'fhianaise a bhaineann le hábhar maidir le suimeanna, le nochtadh faisnéise agus le rialtacht na mbeart airgeadais a luaitear sna ráitis airgeadais. Chomh maith leis sin, cuimsíonn sé measúnú ar na príomh-mheastacháin agus ar na breithiúnais a rinneadh le linn na ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú, agus tuairim faoi an bhfeileann na polasaithe cuntasaíochta do chúinsí na Gníomhaireachta, arna gur i bhfeidhm go seasta agus arna nochtadh go leordhóthaineach.

Rinne mé an t-iniúchadh seo agamsa a phleanáil agus a chur i gcrích i slí is go bhfaighinn an fhaisnéis ar fad agus na míniúcháin a mheasas a bhí riachtanach chun mo dhóthain fianaise a sholáthar dom chun ráthaíocht réasúnta a thabhairt go bhfuil na ráitis aireadais slán ó aon ráiteas ábharach míchruinn, pé acu calaois nó aon mhírialtacht eile ba chion tsiocair leis. Agus mo thuairim á foirmlíú agam, rinne mé measúnú, chomh maith, ar an leordhóthaineacht fhoriomlán maidir le faisnéis a chur i láthair san ráitis airgeadais.

## **Tuairim Iniúcháireachta**

Mar a míníodh sa Ráiteas ar Pholasaithe Iniúcháireachta, níl aon fhoráil déanta sna ráitis airgeadais le haghaidh fiachas aoisliúntais. Ní chloíonn an polasaí seo le Caighdeán Tuairisceoireachta Airgeadais 17 a éilíonn go n-aithneofar costais den chineál seo sa bhliain chéanna ina dtuilltear na teidlíochtaí.

Cé nach n-aithnítear costais aoisliúntais agus fiachais na hÁisíneachta de réir Chaighdeán Tuairisceoireachta Airgeadais 17, tugann na ráitis airgeadais pictiúr fíor agus cóir de réir an Chleachtas Iniúcháireachta a nglactar leis go coitianta in Éirinn de staid chúrsaí na hÁisíneachta ar an 31 Nollaig 2007 agus dá ioncam agus caiteachas don bhliain a chríochnaigh ar an dáta sin.

Is e mo thuairim gur choinnigh an Ghníomhaireacht leabhair chearta cuntais. Tá na ráitis airgeadais ag teacht le leabhair na gcuntas.



**John Buckley**

**Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste**

Samhain 04 2008

### 3. Statement of Responsibilities

Section 25, Family Support Agency Act 2001, requires the Chief Executive and the Members of the Board, on behalf of the Agency, to prepare Financial Statements in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Social and Family Affairs. In preparing those financial statements, the Chief Executive and the Board, on behalf of the Agency is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Board will continue in operation.

The Chief Executive under the direction of the Board of the Agency is responsible for keeping proper books of account, which disclose in a true and fair manner at any time the financial position of the Agency and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 25 of the Act. The Board is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Agency and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



*Chairperson; on behalf of the Board*

*21 May 2008*



*Chief Executive*

*21 May 2008*

### 3. Ráiteas faoi Fhreagrachtaí

Éilíonn Mír 25 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh 2001 ar an bPríomhFheidhmeannach agus ar Bhaill an Bhoird, thar ceann na Gníomhaireachta, ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú i bhfoirm de chineál a dtarlódh go gceadóidh Aire na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh iad. Agus na ráitis airgeadais sin á n-ullmhú éilítear ar an bPríomhFheidhmeannach agus ar an mBord, thar ceann na Gníomhaireachta:

- Polasaithe oiriúnacha cuntasóireachta a roghnú agus iad a chur i bhfeidhm go comhsheasmhach
- Breithiúnais agus meastacháin a dhéanamh atá réasúnta agus críonna
- A chur in iúl ar leanadh caighdeáin chuntasóireachta oiriúnacha, faoi réir aon imeachtaí ábhartha a nochtadh nó a míníodh sna ráitis airgeadais
- Na ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú ar fhoras gnó atá ar siúl mura bhfuil sé míchuí a cheapadh go leanfaidh an Bord air ag feidhmiú

Tá an PríomhFheidhmeannach faoi stiúirú Bhord na Gníomhaireachta freagrach as leabhair chuí chuntais a choinneáil, a nochtann ar bhealach fíor agus cóir ag am ar bith, riocht airgeadais na Gníomhaireachta agus a chuireann ar a cumas a chinntiú go réitíonn na ráitis airgeadais le Mír 25 den Acht. Tá an Bord freagrach freisin as sócmhainní na Gníomhaireachta a chur ar láimh shábhála agus faoi chur go réasúnta chun coisc agus braith na calaoise agus mírialtachtaí eile.

*Cathaoirleach; thar ceann an Bhoird*

*21 Bealtaine 2008*

*PríomhFheidhmeannach*

*21 Bealtaine 2008*

## 4. Statement on System of Internal Financial Control

### Responsibility for the System of Internal Financial Control

On behalf of the members of the Family Support Agency (FSA) we acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated.

The system can only provide reasonable, and not absolute, assurance that the assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or other irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

### Key control procedures

The FSA was established under the Family Support Agency Act 2001 and commenced on May 6, 2003. Since then the FSA has taken initial steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by:

- ensuring the FSA complies with its Financial obligations under the Act
- ensuring that the assets of the Board are properly safeguarded
- clearly defining management responsibilities in a defined organisational structure with clear segregation of duties and
- the establishment of appropriate sub-committees of the Board to give greater focus on specific areas.

In 2007 the Board appointed an independent Internal Auditor. The first task for the Internal Auditor in establishing the FSA's Internal Audit Function is to:

- identify any significant strategic, operational, and financial risks of the organisation
- assess the appropriateness and strength of management controls surrounding risk areas
- highlight key risk areas for specific management attention and Internal Audit focus.

The findings and recommendations of this risk review will serve to form the basis of a cyclical internal audit plan to review in detail the key risks of the organisation.

The FSA has been operating its own accounts and payroll systems since 1 January 2007 and is continuing to follow standard control procedures operating within the Department, as detailed in the Agency's Financial Policies and Procedures Manual.

## 4. Ráiteas ar Chóras Rialaithe Airgeadais Inmheánaigh

### Freagracht as an gCóras Rialaithe Airgeadais Inmheánaigh

Thar ceann bhaill na Gníomhaireachta um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh (GTT) admhaímid ár bhfreagracht as a chinntiú go gcothaítear agus go bhfeidhmítear córas éifeachtach rialaithe airgeadais inmheánaigh.

Ní féidir leis an gcóras ach a chinntiú go réasúnta agus ní go hiomlán go gcuirtear na sócmhainní ar láimh shábhála, go n-údaráítear na hidirbhearta agus go dtaifeadtar iad go cuí, agus go gcoisctear earráidí ábhartha nó mírialtachtaí eile nó neachtar go ndéanfaí iad a bhrath go tráthúil.

### Príomhmhodhanna Rialaithe

Bunaíodh an GTT faoin Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh 2001 agus thosaigh sí ag feidhmiú ar 6 Bealtaine 2003. Bheartaigh an GTT i dtosach ó shin chun timpeallacht rialaithe chuí a chinntiú trí:

- A chinntiú go ndéanann an GTT de réir a dualgais airgeadais faoin Acht
- A chinntiú go ndéantar sócmhainní an Bhoird a chosaint go cuí.
- Freagrachtaí bainistíochta a shainmhíniú go soiléir i struchtúr eagraíochtúil sainmhínithe le dealú soiléir dualgas agus
- Bunú fochoistí cuí den Bhord chun go ndíreofar níos mó ar limistéir shainiúla.

Sa bhliain 2007 cheap an Bord Reachtaire Inmheánach neamhspleách. Is é an chéad tasc don Reachtaire Inmheánach maidir le bunú Feidhm Iniúchta Inmheánach an GTT ná:

- Aon bhaoil suntasacha idir straitéiseach, oibríoch agus airgeadais don eagraíocht a aithint
- Oiriúnacht agus neart na rialuithe bainistíochta atá thart timpeall ar na limistéir bhaoil a mheasúnú
- Béim a leagan ar limistéir bhaoil a dtabharfaidh an bhainistíocht aird ar leith orthu agus a ndíreoidh an tIniúchadh Inmheánach orthu.

Fónfaidh breithiúnas agus moltaí an athbhreithnithe bhaoil seo mar fhoras do phlean iniúchta inmheánach timthriallach chun mionathbhreithniú a bheartú ar na príomhbhaoil atá ann don eagraíocht.

The system of internal financial control within the FSA is based on a framework of monthly management information, administrative procedures (including segregation of duties and authorisation limits), and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes

- a budgeting system with an annual budget, which is profiled for the year and reviewed and agreed with the Executive and the Board prior to presentation to the Department of Social and Family Affairs
- regular review by the Executive and the Board of expenditure reports which indicate financial performance against budget
- regular review by the Executive and the Board of financial reports and key operational indicators and
- clearly defined procurement, tendering and capital investment guidelines.

The Board's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the Executive management team who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the financial control framework. The Internal Audit function will also have a role to play in the monitoring and review of internal financial control effectiveness.

### **Annual Review of Controls**

In 2007 the Board conducted a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control. The objectives of this review were to:

- review the overall system of Internal Financial Control (IFC) in the FSA, to comment on its effectiveness and to make recommendations on aspects which should be improved;
- enable the FSA to provide evidence that an independent review has been carried out in accordance with the requirements in the 'Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies'; and
- suggest a framework through which the IFC can be periodically reviewed by Management and the Audit Committee.

Tá a córas cuntas agus párolla féin á bhfeidhmiú ag an GTT ó 1 Eanáir 2007 agus tá sí ag leanúint i gcónaí na modhanna rialaithe caighdeánacha atá ag feidhmiú taobh istigh den Roinn, mar a shonraítear i Lámhleabhar Polasaithe Airgeadais agus Modhanna na Gníomhaireachta.

Tá an córas rialaithe airgeadais inmheánaigh taobh istigh den GTT bunaithe ar chreatlach faisnéis bhainistíochta mhíosúil, modhanna riaracháin (lena n-áirítear dealú na ndualgas agus teorainneacha údaraithe), agus córas tairmligin agus freagrachta. Áiríonn sé go sonrach

- Córas buiséadachta le buiséad bliantúil, a ndéantar próifíliú air don bhliain agus a athbhreithníonn agus a cheadaíonn an Feidhmeannas agus an Bord sula gcuirtear é faoi bhráid Roinn na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh
- Athbhreithniú rialta don Fheidhmeannas agus don Bhord ar thuarascálacha caiteachais a thaispeánann an comhall airgeadais in éadan an bhuiséid
- Athbhreithniú rialta don Fheidhmeannas agus don Bhord ar thuarascálacha airgeadais agus príomhtháscairí oibríochas agus
- Treoirínte soláthair, tairisceana agus infheistíochta caipitil atá sainmhínithe go soiléir.

Tugann foireann bhainistíochta an Fheidhmeannais, a bhfuil freagracht acu as forbairt agus cothú an chreatlaigh rialaithe airgeadais, faisnéis don Bhord a dhéanann faireachán agus athbhreithniú ar éifeachtacht an chóras rialaithe airgeadais inmheánaigh. Beidh ról le himirt freisin ag an bhfeidhm Iniúchta Inmheánaigh i bhfaireachán agus in athbhreithniú éifeachtacht an rialaithe airgeadais inmheánaigh.

### **Athbhreithniú Bliantúil ar na Rialúcháin**

Sa bhliain 2007 sheol an Bord athbhreithniú ar éifeachtacht an chóras rialaithe airgeadais inmheánaigh. Ba iad aidhmeanna an athbhreithnithe seo ná:

- Athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar chóras iomlán an Rialaithe Airgeadais Inmheánaigh (RAI) sa GTT, trácht a dhéanamh ar a éifeachtacht agus moltaí a dhéanamh ar ghnéithe ba chóir a fheabhsú;
- A chur ar chumas an GTT fianaise a chur ar fáil gur cuireadh athbhreithniú neamhspleách i gcrích de réir na riachtanas in 'Cód Cleachta do Rialú na gComhlachtaí Stáit'; agus
- Creatlach a mholadh ar féidir leis an mBainistíocht agus Coiste Iniúchta an RAI é a athbhreithniú go tréimhsiúil.

### **Information about weaknesses in controls**

The Family Support Agency did not suffer any material loss in the year ended 31 December 2007, arising out of weaknesses in the system of internal financial control, which would result in the inclusion of any provision, contingency or uncertainty in the financial statements for the year.



*Chairperson*

*21 May 2008*



*Chief Executive*

*21 May 2008*

## Faisnéis faoi laigí sna rialúcháin

Níor fhulaing An Ghníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh aon chailhneas ábhartha sa bhliain dár críoch 31 Nollaig 2007, ag eascairt as laigí sa chóras rialaithe airgeadais inmheánaigh a dtiocfadh cuimsiú aon fhorála, teagmhasachta nó neamhchinnteachta sna ráitis airgeadais don bhliain dá bharr.



*Cathaoirleach*

*21 Bealtaine 2008*



*PríomhFheidhmeannach*

*21 Bealtaine 2008*

## 5. Statement of Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies adopted in these financial statements are as follows:

### Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared on the accruals basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and under the historical cost convention and comply with the financial reporting standards of the Accounting Standards Board and are in the form approved by the Minister of Social and Family Affairs. The accounts are stated in euro.

### State Funding

State Funding represents the amount paid directly to the FSA by the Department of Social and Family Affairs for the year and amounts paid by the Department of Social and Family Affairs on behalf of the FSA for the year.

### Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at rates which are estimated to reduce the assets to realisable values by the end of their expected useful lives as follows:

Furniture & fittings	10%	Straight Line
Office equipment	10%	Straight Line
Computer equipment	20%	Straight Line

### Capital Account

The capital account represents the unamortised amount of income used to finance fixed assets.

### Staff Pensions

In accordance with Section 17 of the Family Support Agency Act 2001 a draft pension scheme, in respect of employees of the FSA, has been submitted to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs and the Minister for Finance but not yet approved. The remaining staff are Civil Servants on secondment from the Department and are covered by Civil Service pension arrangements. No provision has been made in these accounts for any superannuation that has arisen since the inception of the Agency in 2003.

## 5. Ráiteas faoi Pholasaithe Cuntasóireachta

Is mar a leanas atá na polasaithe cuntasóireachta tábhachtacha ar glacadh leo sna ráitis airgeadais seo:

### Foras na Cuntasóireachta

Ullmhaítear na ráitis airgeadais ar fhoras fabhraithe na cuntasóireachta de réir prionsabal cuntasóireachta a nglactar leo go hiondúil agus faoi choinbhinsiún stairiúil an chostais agus déanann siad de réir chaighdeán tuariscithe airgeadais Bhord na gCaighdeán Cuntasóireachta agus tá siad sa chruth a cheadaigh Aire na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh. Luaitear na cuntais in Euro.

### Cistiú Stáit

Is éard atá sa Chistiú Stáit an méid a íocann Roinn na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh leis an GTT go díreach agus an méid a íocann Roinn na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh thar ceann an GTT don bhliain.

### Sócmhainní Seasta Inláimhsithe

Luaitear sócmhainní seasta inláimhsithe mar chostas lúide an dímheas carntha.

Cuirtear dímheas ar fáil ar fhoras na líne díri ar rataí a mheasúnaítear chun na sócmhainní a laghdú go luachanna inréadaithe roimh dheireadh a mbeathaí fóna riachtanacha mar a leanas:

Troscán agus feistithe	10%	Líne Dhíreach
Fearas Oifige	10%	Líne Dhíreach
Fearas Ríomhaire	20%	Líne Dhíreach

### Cuntas Caipitil

Is éard atá sa chuntas caipitil an méid ioncaim gan amúchadh a fheidhmítear chun sócmhainní seasta a mhaoiniú.

### Pinsin Foirne

De réir Míre 17 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh 2001, cuireadh faoi bhráid Aire na nGnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh agus an Aire Airgeadais, dréachtscéim phinsin i ndáil le fostaithe an GTT ach níor ceadaíodh í fós. Státseirbhísigh iad an chuid eile den fhoireann ar iasacht ón Roinn agus tá siad cuimsithe ag socruithe pinsin na Státseirbhíse. Níl aon soláthar déanta sna cuntais seo le haghaidh aon aoisliúntais atá tagtha chun cinn ó bunaíodh an Ghníomhaireacht in 2003.

## 6. Income and Expenditure account

for the year ended 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
<b>Income</b>			
State Funding	1	<b>35,363,183</b>	26,211,079
Transfer from Capital Account	10	<b>16,078</b>	(201,823)
		<b>35,379,261</b>	26,009,256
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Financial Support Grants	2	<b>28,103,000</b>	20,768,124
Payroll Costs	3	<b>2,516,930</b>	2,207,979
Board Members' Expenses	4	<b>106,863</b>	102,647
Provision for DSFA repayment	7	<b>1,900,000</b>	-
Administration Expenses	5	<b>2,324,887</b>	2,032,855
		<b>34,951,680</b>	25,111,605
Excess of Income over Expenditure		<b>427,581</b>	897,651

The Family Support Agency had no gains or losses in the financial year, other than those dealt with in the Income and Expenditure Account.

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.



Chairperson

21 May 2008



Chief Executive

21 May 2008

## 6. Cuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais

don bhliain dár críoch 31 Nollaig 2007

	Nótaí	2007 €	2006 €
<b>Ioncam</b>			
Cistiú Stáit	1	<b>35,363,183</b>	26,211,079
Aistriú ón gcuntas caipitil	10	<b>16,078</b>	(201,823)
		<b>35,379,261</b>	26,009,256
<b>Caiteachas</b>			
Deontais Tacaíochta Airgeadais	2	<b>28,103,000</b>	20,768,124
Costais Párolla	3	<b>2,516,930</b>	2,207,979
Caiteachais Bhaill an Bhoird	4	<b>106,863</b>	102,647
Soláthar d'íocaíocht RGST	7	<b>1,900,000</b>	-
Caiteachais Riaracháin	5	<b>2,324,887</b>	2,032,855
		<b>34,951,680</b>	25,111,605
Farasbarr Ioncaim thar Chaiteachas		<b>427,581</b>	897,651

Ní raibh aon ghnóchan nó cailteanas sa bhliain airgeadais ag an Ghníomhaireacht um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh, seachas iad sin a bhfuil pléite leo sa Chuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais.

Tá an ráiteas faoi pholasaithe cuntasóireachta agus Nótaí 1-13 ina gcuid dhílis de na ráitis airgeadais seo.



Cathaoirleach

21 Bealtaine 2008



PríomhFheidhmeannach

21 Bealtaine 2008

## 7. Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	6	1,108,686	1,124,765
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash on hand	7	2,114,249	-
Debtors & Prepayments	8	3,003,333	2,365,948
		<u>5,117,582</u>	<u>2,365,948</u>
<b>CREDITORS (amounts falling due within one year)</b>	9	<u>(3,484,436)</u>	<u>(1,160,383)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>1,633,146</u>	<u>1,205,565</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>2,741,832</u>	<u>2,330,330</u>
<b>Financed By</b>			
Income and Expenditure Account		1,633,146	1,205,565
Capital Account	10	1,108,686	1,124,765
		<u>2,741,832</u>	<u>2,330,330</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.



Chairperson

21 May 2008



Chief Executive

21 May 2008

## 7. Clár Comhardaithe

ar 31 Nollaig 2007

	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
<b>Sócmhainní Seasta</b>			
Sócmhainní Inláimhsithe	6	<b>1,108,686</b>	1,124,765
<b>Sócmhainní Reatha</b>			
Airgead ar láimh	7	<b>2,114,249</b>	–
Féichiúnaithe agus Réamhíocaíochtaí	8	<b>3,003,333</b>	2,365,948
		<b>5,117,582</b>	2,365,948
<b>CREIDIÚNAITHE (suimeanna atá iníoctha taobh istigh de bhliain amháin)</b>			
	9	<b>3,484,436</b>	1,160,383
<b>Glansócmhainní Reatha</b>			
		<b>1,633,146</b>	1,205,565
<b>Sócmhainní iomlána</b>			
		<b>2,741,832</b>	2,330,330
<b>Maoinithe Ag</b>			
Cuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais		<b>1,633,146</b>	1,205,565
Cuntas Caipitil	10	<b>1,108,686</b>	1,124,765
		<b>2,741,832</b>	2,330,330

Tá an Ráiteas faoi Pholasaithe Cuntasóireachta agus na Nótaí 1-13 ina gcuid dhílis de na ráitis airgeadais seo.



Cathaoirleach

21 Bealtaine 2008



PríomhFheidhmeannach

21 Bealtaine 2008

## 8. Cashflow Statement

for the year ended 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
<b>Reconciliation of operating surplus to net cash inflow from operating activities</b>			
Operating surplus for year		427,581	897,651
Depreciation	6	203,251	179,151
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	10	(16,079)	201,823
Increase in debtors		(637,385)	(1,203,571)
Increase in creditors		2,324,053	305,920
Net cash inflow from operating activities		<u>2,301,421</u>	<u>380,974</u>

### Cashflow Statement

Net cash inflow from operating activities 2,301,421 380,974

### Net Capital Expenditure

Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets 6 (187,172) (380,974)

**Increase in cash** 2,114,249 0

### Reconciliation of Net Cashflow to Movement in Net Funds

Net funds at 31 December 2006 0 0

Net funds at 31 December 2007 7 2,114,249 0

**Increase in cash** 2,114,249 0

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.



Chairperson

21 May 2008



Chief Executive

21 May 2008

## 8. Ráiteas Sreabhtha Airgid

don bhliain dár críoch 31 Nollaig 2007

	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
<b>Réiteach an fharasbairr oibríoch don ghlansreabhadh airgid ó imeachtaí oibríocha</b>			
Farasbarr oibríoch don bhliain		427,581	897,651
Dímheas	6	203,251	179,151
Aistriú ó/go Cuntas Caipitil	10	(16,079)	201,823
Méadú Féichiúnaithe		(637,385)	(1,203,571)
Méadú Creidiúnaithe		2,324,053	305,920
Glansreabhadh airgid ó imeachtaí oibríocha		<b>2,301,421</b>	380,974

### Ráiteas Sreabhtha Airgid

Glansreabhadh airgid ó imeachtaí oibríocha		2,301,421	380,974
--------------------------------------------	--	-----------	---------

### Glanchaiteachas Caipitil

Íocaíochtaí chun sócmhainní seasta inláimhsithe a fháil	6	(187,172)	(380,974)
<b>Méadú airgid</b>		<b>2,114,249</b>	0

### Réiteach an Ghlansreabhtha Airgid Leis an nGluaiseacht I nGlanchistí

Glanchistí ar 31 Nollaig 2006		0	0
Glanchistí ar 31 Nollaig 2007	7	2,114,249	0
<b>Méadú airgid</b>		<b>2,114,249</b>	0

Tá an Ráiteas faoi Pholasaithe Cuntasóireachta agus na Nótaí 1-13 ina gcuid dhílis de na ráitis airgeadais seo.



Cathaoirleach

21 Bealtaine 2008



PríomhFheidhmeannach

21 Bealtaine 2008

## 9. Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. State Funding

	2007 €	2006 €
Oireachtas Grant	35,339,000	26,211,079
Payments by DSFA on behalf of FSA	24,183	-
	<b>35,363,183</b>	<b>26,211,079</b>

### 2. Financial Support Grants

	2007 €	2006 €
Counselling Grants	9,954,000	9,008,768
Grants to Family Resource Centres	18,149,000	11,759,356
	<b>28,103,000</b>	<b>20,768,124</b>

### 3. Payroll Expenditure

	2007 €	2006 €
Wages & Salaries	2,394,468	2,075,204
Travel & Subsistence	122,462	132,775
	<b>2,516,930</b>	<b>2,207,979</b>

Staff employed	70	63
Equivalent number of whole time positions	41.7	38.7

### 4. Board Members' Expenses

	2007 €	2006 €
Board Members' Fees	78,663	67,351
Travel & Subsistence	28,200	35,296
	<b>106,863</b>	<b>102,647</b>

## 9. Nótaí ar Ráitis Airgeadais

### 1. Cistiú Stáit

	2007 €	2006 €
Deontais Oireachtais	35,339,000	26,211,079
Íocaíochtaí den RGST thar ceann an GTT	24,183	-
	<b>35,363,183</b>	<b>26,211,079</b>

### 2. Deontais Tacaíochta Airgeadais

	2007 €	2006 €
Deontais Chomhairlithe	9,954,000	9,008,768
Deontais do Lárionaid Acmhainne Teaghlaigh	18,149,000	11,759,356
	<b>28,103,000</b>	<b>20,768,124</b>

### 3. Caiteachas Párolla

	2007 €	2006 €
Pá agus Tuarastal	2,394,468	2,075,204
Taisteal agus Cothú	122,462	132,775
	<b>2,516,930</b>	<b>2,207,979</b>
Foireann fostaithe	70	63
Líon cothrom na bpost lánaimseartha	41.7	38.7

### 4. Costais Bhaill an Bhoird

	2007 €	2006 €
Táillí Bhaill an Bhoird	78,663	67,351
Taisteal agus cothú	28,200	35,296
	<b>106,863</b>	<b>102,647</b>

## 9. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

### 5. Administration Expenses

	2007 €	2006 €
Rent	879,414	730,039
Service Charges	122,469	115,629
Electricity	45,541	25,063
Insurance	48,038	44,695
Maintenance	17,992	28,821
Security	3,196	4,673
Cleaning	56,746	46,971
Consultancy	164,318	305,293
Accounting	67,686	45,725
Audit	12,000	20,000
Training	45,300	36,944
Advertising	45,243	245,910
Conferences	35,201	28,575
Depreciation	203,251	179,151
Research	163,863	-
Information	183,040	-
Special Projects	70,000	-
Stationery	28,851	74,984
Telephone	57,856	65,306
Postage	37,211	9,782
Food and Beverages	13,812	10,182
Subscriptions	11,544	6,581
Miscellaneous	12,315	8,531
	<b>2,324,887</b>	<b>2,032,855</b>

## Nótaí ar Ráitis Airgeadais (ar lean)

### 5. Costais Riaracháin

	2007 €	2006 €
Cíos	879,414	730,039
Muirir Sheirbhíse	122,469	115,629
Leictreachas	45,541	25,063
Árachas	48,038	44,695
Cothabháil	17,992	28,821
Slándáil	3,196	4,673
Glantachán	56,746	46,971
Comhairliú	164,318	305,293
Cuntasóireacht	67,686	45,725
Iníúchadh	12,000	20,000
Oiliúint	45,300	36,944
Fógraíocht	45,243	245,910
Comhdhálacha	35,201	28,575
Dímheas	203,251	179,151
Taighde	163,863	-
Faisnéis	183,040	-
Tionscadail Speisialta	70,000	-
Stáiseanóireacht	28,851	74,984
Guthán	57,856	65,306
Postas	37,211	9,782
Bia agus Deoch	13,812	10,182
Síntiúis	11,544	6,581
Ilghnéitheach	12,315	8,531
	<b>2,324,887</b>	<b>2,032,855</b>

## 9. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

### 6. Fixed Assets

Cost	Computer Equipment €	Fixtures & Fittings €	Office Equipment €	Work In Progress €	Total €
At 1 January 2007	318,695	1,012,981	141,137	53,828	1,526,641
Transferred from Work In Progress	-	53,828*	-	(53,828)	-
Additions	-	179,505	7,677	-	187,172
At 31 December 2007	318,695	1,246,314	148,804	-	1,713,813
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2007	163,970	197,527	40,379	-	401,876
Charge for the year	63,739	124,631	14,881	-	203,251
At 31 December 2007	227,709	322,158	55,260	-	605,127
<b>Net Book Value</b>					
At 31 December 2006	154,725	815,454	100,758	53,828	1,124,765
At 31 December 2007	90,986	924,156	93,544	-	1,108,686

\*This amount was included in income used to acquire fixed assets in 2006.

### 7. Cash on Hand

	2007 €	2006 €
Current Account	2,114,249	-

The FSA repaid, in April 2008, an amount of €1,900,000 relating to funds drawn down by the Agency in 2007 and not expended (see Note 11 below). A provision is included in these accounts to reflect this repayment (see note 9).

## Nótaí ar Ráitis Airgeadais (ar lean)

### 6. Sócmhainní Seasta

Costas	Fearas Ríomhaire €	Fearais agus Feistithe €	Fearas Oifige €	Obair Reatha €	Iomlán €
Ar 1 Eanáir 2007	318,695	1,012,981	141,137	53,828	1,526,641
Aistrithe ó Obair Reatha	-	53,828*	-	(53,828)	-
Breiseanna	-	179,505	7,667	-	187,172
Ar 31 Nollaig 2007	318,695	1,246,314	148,804	-	1,713,813
<b>Dímheas carntha</b>					
Ar 1 Eanáir 2007	163,970	197,527	40,379	-	401,876
Muirear don bhliain	63,739	124,631	14,881	-	203,251
Ar 31 Nollaig 2007	227,709	322,158	55,260	-	605,127
<b>Glanluach Cuntais</b>					
Ar 31 Nollaig 2006	154,725	815,454	100,758	53,828	1,124,765
Ar 31 Nollaig 2007	90,986	924,156	93,544	-	1,108,686

\*Cuireadh an tsuim seo san áireamh in ioncam a feidhmíodh chun sócmhainní seasta a fháil sa bhliain 2006.

### 7. Airgead Ar Láimh

	2007 €	2006 €
Cuntas Reatha	2,114,249	-

D'aisíoc an FSA, suim €1,900,000 i mí Aibreáin, a bhain le cistí a tharraing an Ghníomhaireacht anuas in 2007 agus nár caitheadh iad (féach Nóta 11 thíos). Cuireadh soláthar san áireamh sna cuntais chun an aisíocaíocht sin a léiriú (féach nóta 9).

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

### 8. Debtors

#### Amounts falling due within one year

	2007 €	2006 €
FRC Grant Prepayments	2,924,153	2,299,501
Other Prepayments	79,180	66,447
	<b>3,003,333</b>	<b>2,365,948</b>

### 9. Creditors

#### Amounts falling due within one year

	2007 €	2006 €
Provision for DSFA repayment	1,900,000	-
Rental Accruals	1,021,505	731,225
Service Charge Accruals	299,425	201,527
Other Accruals	174,036	227,631
Creditors	89,470	-
	<b>3,484,436</b>	<b>1,160,383</b>

### 10. Capital Account

	2007 €	2006 €
Opening Balance	1,124,765	922,942
Income used to acquire Fixed Assets	187,172	380,974
Amortisation in line with asset depreciation	(203,251)	(179,151)
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	(16,079)	201,823
Closing Balance at 31 December	<b>1,108,686</b>	<b>1,124,765</b>

## Nótaí ar Ráitis Airgeadais (ar lean)

### 8. Féichiúnaithe

#### Suimeanna atá iníoctha taobh istigh de bhliain amháin

	2007 €	2006 €
Réamhíocaíochtaí Deontais LAT	2,924,153	2,299,501
Réamhíocaíochtaí eile	79,180	66,447
	<b>3,003,333</b>	<b>2,365,948</b>

### 9. Creidiúnaithe

#### Suimeanna atá iníoctha taobh istigh de bhliain amháin

	2007 €	2006 €
Soláthar d'aisíocaíocht an RGST	1,900,000	-
Fabhruithe cíosa	1,021,505	731,225
Fabhruithe Muirir Sheirbhíse	299,425	201,527
Fabhruithe eile	174,036	227,631
Creidiúnaithe	89,470	-
	<b>3,484,436</b>	<b>1,160,383</b>

### 10. Cuntas Caipítíl

	2007 €	2006 €
Fuílleach Tosaigh	1,124,765	922,942
Ioncam chun sócmhainní seasta a fháil	187,172	380,974
Amúchadh ag teacht le dímheas sócmhainní	(203,251)	(179,151)
Aistriú ón gcuntas ioncaim agus caiteachais	(16,079)	201,823
Fuílleach deiridh ar 31 Nollaig	<b>1,108,686</b>	<b>1,124,765</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

### 11. Contingent Liabilities

The FSA drew down its full budget of €35.339m in 2007. However, the FSA had a surplus at bank at year end of €2,114,249. Of that surplus some €1.2m relates to Rents and Service Charges due to the OPW. This matter has been raised with the OPW.

There is one legal action pending not covered by the Agency's insurance policy. With the agreement of the Department of Finance, this claim is being managed by the State Claims Agency on behalf of the Agency.

### 12. Accommodation

The Headquarters occupied by the Agency at Floor 4, St Stephens Green House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2 was leased from the Office of Public Works in 2003 for a period of eleven and a half years. In 2007, the total rental charge for the year was €215,350. The Family Mediation Service, which is under the aegis of the Agency, operated from 16 rented premises throughout the country in 2007 at a total charge for the year of €664,064.

### 13. Approval of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 21 May 2008.

## Nótaí ar Ráitis Airgeadais (ar lean)

### 11. Dliteanais Teagmhasacha

Tharraing an FSA an buiséad iomlán a bhí ar fáil dó anuas, arbh ionann é agus €35.339m in 2007. Bhí barrachas €2,114,249 ag an mbanc don FSA ag deireadh na bliana. Bhaineann €1.2m den bharrachas sin le Cíos agus Muirir Seirbhíse a bhí dlite d'Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí. Pléadh an t-ábhar seo le hOifig na nOibreacha Poiblí.

Tá caingean dlí amháin fós ar feitheamh nach bhfuil clúdaithe ag polasaí árachais na Gníomhaireachta. Tá an Gníomhaireacht um Éilimh ar an Stát ag déanamh bainistíochta ar an éileamh seo, le comhaontú na Roinne Airgeadais agus thar ceann na Gníomhaireachta.

### 12. Cóiríocht

Léasaíodh an Cheanncheathrú a shealbhaíonn an Gníomhaireacht ar Urlar 4, Teach Fhaiche Stiabhna, Ardán Phort an Iarla, Baile Átha Cliath 2, ó Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí sa bhliain 2003 do thréimhse aon bhliain déag go leith. Sa bhliain 2007, ba é an muirear iomlán don bhliain €215,350. D'oibrigh an tSeirbhís Eadrána Teaghlaigh, atá faoi choimirce na Gníomhaireachta, o 16 áitreabh ar cíos ar fud na tíre sa bhliain 2007 ar mhuirear iomlán €664,064 don bhliain.

### 13. Ceadú na Ráiteas Airgeadais

Cheadaigh an Bord na Ráitis Airgeadais ar 21 Bealtaine 2008.





**Family Support Agency,  
Floor 4, St. Stephen's Green House,  
Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2.  
Phone: 01 611 4100  
Fax: 01 676 0824**

**An Gníomhaireacht Um Thacaíocht Teaghlaigh,  
Urlár 4, Teach Fhaiche Stiabhna,  
Ardán an Iarla, Baile Átha Cliath 2.  
Fón: 01 611 4100  
Facs: 01 676 0824**