



IRISH SENIOR CITIZENS

PARLIAMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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■ Photographs



Presentation to retiring Vice-President Paddy Donegan by President Sylvia Meehan



Lily and Eddie Fitzgerald at the presentation to mark his retirement from Executive by Sylvia Meehan President ISCP



Fergus Finlay Chief Executive, Barnardos delivering Key-note Address at APM 2009



Getting Ready APM 2009



Listening Intently APM 2009



Máiréad Hayes CEO, Sylvia Meehan President, Paddy Donegan Vice-President, APM 2009.

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Acknowledgements

We wish to express our appreciation for the assistance of The Dept. of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Annual Report 2009

■ ANNUAL PARLIAMENT MEETING 2009

The 13th Annual Parliament Meeting took place on 17th and 18th April 2009 in the Dublin Institute of Technology, Kevin Street. The Conference was attended by over 240 delegates and observers from all parts of the country. On Friday night delegates attended a Dinner and social event.

Fergus Finlay, Chief Executive of Barnardos, and Fr. Seán Healy, Director of CORI Justice delivered the Keynote Addresses.

Presentations were made to long-serving members of the Parliament, Paddy Donegan and Eddie Fitzgerald who received a standing ovation for their dedication and service to the ISCP. A slide show featuring some of the highlights of their work in the Parliament was shown.

In her Presidential Address, Sylvia Meehan thanked the 15,000 people who protested the withdrawal of universal entitlement to the Medical Card for the over 70s in October 2008. She noted the support and passion that filled the streets of Dublin, as well as on the airwaves and in the media on that historic day. She also noted the fallout from the economic downturn – a downturn not caused by Older People – and urged everyone to remain watchful and demand good government.

She thanked the Health and Pensions sub-

committees for their diligent work and noted the enthusiasm and concern of the members of these sub-committees.

Turning to her role on the Department of Health and Children Oversight Committee for the Health Repayment Scheme, she said that their monthly meetings had to overcome many issues such as gaps in records and verifying claims. Payments totalling over €353 million had been made to over 160,000 claimants.

Concluding, she said that the Parliament has played a vital part in ensuring that over 55s in Ireland are active and use their demographic power to combat ageism.

Returning Officer

The Parliament acknowledges with thanks the work of Jane Boushell as the Returning Officer for the election of the Executive Committee 2009-2010 who ensured a speedy and efficiently conducted ballot.

■ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009-2010

The following were elected as Officers, Trustees and Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee for the coming year:

President: *Sylvia Meehan*
Vice-President: *Peter Campbell*
Hon. Secretary: *Evelyn Moran*
Treasurer: *Nell Foley*

Trustee: *Charlie Hammond*
Trustee: *John James McLoughlin*

Executive Committee Ordinary Members

Jim Cousins, Derry Desmond, Anthony Gilligan, Barney Hartnett, Joe Jennings, Ignatius Martin, Patrick Morgan, Anna O'Farrell, Ena O'Mahoney, Breda O'Malley, Patrick Philpott, Patrick A. Stanley, Séamus Rodgers, Gerry Whyte, Jerry Withers.

Eleven meetings of the Executive Committee were held during the year together with five Officers' meetings.

Remembering...

Kathleen (Kay) Monahan, RIP **SIPTU Retired Members' Section** **ISCP Executive Committee**

Kathleen was a member of the First Executive Committee in 1997-1998 and served on the 1998-1999 Committee. She was a former President of the Women Workers' Union and a member of the FWUI Executive Committee. May she rest in Peace.

We also remember at this time the members of the Parliament and the affiliated organisations who passed away in the last year, those who lost partners, family and friends and we extend our sincere sympathy to them all.

Parliament Staff

Máiréad Hayes Chief Executive Officer
Lauren Quinn Taylor Policy Officer
Paudge Connolly Membership / Development Officer (Jan-May 2009)
Marie Mulholland Divisions Officer (from Sept. 2009)
Teresa Somers Administrative Officer
Dolores Meehan Clerical Officer
Pádraig de Burca Communications Officer (temporary, part-time)

■ MOTIONS TO ANNUAL PARLIAMENT MEETING 2009

Two emergency motions were passed, one demanding the reversal of the withdrawal of the **Additional Payment at Christmas** (Christmas Bonus), while the second called for the reinstatement of the **Community Support Scheme for Older People**.

Many motions dealt with the removal of the

universal entitlement to Medical Cards for the Over 70s. In particular, the delegates praised the organisation and the success of the campaign led by the ISCP which forced the Government to change their minds on the matter.

Also debated were the Nursing Home Support Scheme Bill / **Fair Deal**, a demand for a Universal Health System and the need for an All-Ireland Air Ambulance. Motions on the Dietary Allowance, Chiropody, Elder Abuse, free Fitness to Drive Medical Examinations for people aged Over 70 years, the need for a National Stroke Strategy as well as motions dealing with Pensions Income were passed. Motions called for the removal of the means test for the Fuel Allowance; that it be increased to €30.00 per week and be paid for the full year (52 weeks) and that VAT on Home Heating Fuel and on Utility Bills be zero rated for pensioners and other vulnerable people.

Calls were made for an increase in the Living Alone Allowance and the extension of the Travel Pass to Irish Senior Citizens who live abroad, while the reduction in Bus Routes was condemned. A motion was passed demanding that Ireland's Natural Resources must be brought into common ownership for the benefit and well-being of the population.

Other motions called for

- the cessation of the Closing of Rural Post Offices;
- the extension of the Bank Savings Guarantee Scheme;
- the removal of VAT from Personal Alarms;
- greater public participation in Planning and Local Area / Action Plans;
- the empowerment of the Labour Court to adjudicate on disputes between Occupational Pensioners and their former Employers;
- a reduction in Public Representatives' Holidays.

A motion re-iterating the right to the recognition of Free Speech was passed together with a motion calling for the creation of an Ageing Policy with particular emphasis on Pensions, Accessible Services, Healthcare, Housing and Tax.

■ ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DURING 2009

- State Pension Contributory / Non-Contributory / Survivors / Invalidity / Transition
- Women and Pensions
- Pension arrangements for those who wish to work past Age 66
- UK Pension Entitlement
- Foreign Currency Retirement Pension Income – Exchange Rate fluctuation
- Class D Stamps
- Qualified Adult Allowance
- Living Alone Allowance
- Age Allowance Over 80
- Abolition of Means Test for family carers or Increase in amount of disregard for Personal Savings
- Increase in level of Respite Care Grant and in Respite facilities/Care facilities
- Fuel Poverty
- Home Insulation
- Poverty Proofing
- Travel Pass – Rural Areas
- All-Ireland Travel Pass for people Aged 60-64 similar to the Northern Ireland Free Travel Scheme which came into effect October-08
- European Union Travel Pass
- Tax Exemption Limits
- Age Tax Credit
- Refundable Tax Credits
- Health Levy
- Tax Relief on Health Expenses – Information Update
- Household Insurance and Car Insurance Levy
- VAT on Home Heating Fuel, Utility Bills under the Free Schemes and Energy Conservation Systems
- Stamp Duty on Trading Down
- Inheritance Tax
- Rising Prices and Older People
- Issuance of Receipts
- Closure of Post Offices
- Health Service Delivery
- Withdrawal of the Medical Card for Over 70s
- Fair Deal / Nursing Home Support Proposal by the Minister for Health and Children
- Information on Health Service

- Entitlements
- Risk Equalisation
- Health Service Planning and Data Collection
- Delivery of Primary Care Teams (**Towards 2016**)
- Chiropody Services
- Dental Services
- Health Screening
- Health Promotion
- Home Care Packages
- Integrated Community Care Services (countrywide)
- Home Support Services
- Home Help
- Meals-on-Wheels
- Day Care Centres
- Elder Abuse
- Dementia
- Palliative Care
- Non-Acute Hospital Provision
- Health and Transport Services
- Road Markings and Signs
- Ageism and the Health Service
- Housing and Older People
- Local Authority Rents
- Waste Charges
- Work and Older People
- Age Discrimination and Older People
- Development of a National Positive Ageing Strategy for Older People
- Security and Older People
- Education and Older People
- The Arts and Older People

■ PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2009

The Irish Senior Citizens Parliament was delighted that its President, Sylvia Meehan, was presented with a prestigious "Rehab People of the Year" award. The award which was presented by Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and a member of the Elders, was for giving a voice to those who might otherwise be forgotten and for her skill and tenacity in asserting the rights of Older People.

A vociferous campaigner for Equal Rights and Older People, in 2008 she led a determined campaign against the abolition of the Universal Entitlement to the Medical Card for the Over 70s. Sylvia mobilised huge numbers of Older People in a show of strength that



was unprecedented in the history of the State and which became known as the “grey revolution”.

■ ISCP SUB-COMMITTEES

Health Sub-Committee

Sub-Committee Members: Anthony Gilligan (Chair), Evelyn Moran, John James McLoughlin, Charlie Hammond, Jim Cousins, Pat Morgan, Ena O’Mahoney and Jerry Withers.

The committee focused the majority of their work on the health related motions passed at APM 2009. The main topics covered during the year were the **Fair Deal** and the HIQA National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People, universal healthcare, home care packages, preventative health care, stroke care, health related recommendations arising from the McCarthy Report (An Bord Snip Nua) and the diet allowance.

The Nursing Home Support Scheme/ **Fair Deal** remained firmly placed on the sub-committee’s agenda throughout the year. In May 2009 the group met with officials from the Department of Health and Children to highlight their concerns surrounding the scheme and to query a number of changes sought to the then Bill.

The committee facilitated Martha Doyle, a Research Fellow and PhD student in SPARC of Trinity College in holding a focus group for a research project on Older People’s interest groups in Ireland.

The committee met nine times in 2009.

Pensions Sub-Committee

Sub-Committee members: Anna O’Farrell (Chair), Jim Quinn, Patrick Philpott, Peter Campbell, Ena O’Mahoney, Charlie Hammond, Austin Ryan, Jim Keegan, Eddie Bolger, Patrick Stanley, John James Mc Loughlin.

The committee were disappointed that there was no action on the White Paper on Pensions in 2009. They noted the promise in the Budget 2010 by Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan, T.D. that the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin, T.D. would shortly publish a National Pensions Framework.

The following issues were considered by the committee throughout the year:

- pension protection;
- occupational pensions fund;

- pension reserve fund;
- the pensions insolvency payment scheme (PIPS)

together with the motions passed at last year’s APM.

The committee met three times in 2009.

Finance/Funding Sub-Committee

Sub-Committee Members: Gerry Whyte (Chair), Nell Foley, Jim Cousins, Patrick Philpott, Breda O’Malley, Patrick A. Stanley, Evelyn Moran, Frank Farrelly, Paul Walsh and Oliver Creighton (substitute for Paul Walsh).

The Executive Committee set up the Finance/ Funding Sub-Committee to bring forward proposals to ensure the future sustainability of the Parliament. The issues which made this an urgent necessity were the fact that funding from Government had decreased dramatically, as well as a requirement from a major funder that we secure additional funding during the life of their grant and that we put in place a sustainability plan for the future.

Following a number of meetings, it was decided to ask affiliated organisations for a **Voluntary Contribution** and also to introduce a membership fee. We received a good response to the request for contributions and we thank all of you who answered the call.

In November 2009 the Executive meeting adopted a proposal from the Finance/ Funding Committee that a **membership subscription fee** of €5.00 per member be introduced from a date to be agreed and that the necessary administrative changes to allow this to take effect be enacted. An Extraordinary Parliament Meeting will be held to agree the changes.

They met six times in 2009.

■ THE ATLANTIC PHILANTHROPIES

The Parliament acknowledges with gratitude the support of Atlantic Philanthropies during 2009 and in particular the support of Mary Sutton, Atlantic’s Programme Executive, Ageing and her colleague Orla O’Hanlon. Atlantic’s funding enables the work of the Parliament to continue in strengthening the Divisions and to better develop policy and inform Older People.

As part of an initiative by Atlantic the Chairs/



Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of five of Ireland's age sector NGOs came together on 2 October 2009 at the offices of The Atlantic Philanthropies in Dublin to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. The five organisations are Active Retirement Ireland, Age & Opportunity, the Carers Association, Senior Helpline and ISCP.

This Collaboration Initiative process began in May 2009. The anticipated outcomes by 2012 are:

- greater cohesion among the five participating organisations, with regular communication and co-operation with other NGOs becoming a core part of each organisation's "way of working";
- shared premises in a number of towns around Ireland with increased visibility of the NGO ageing sector across the country;
- more professional and formalised organisational supports across all the participating NGOs; and
- demonstrated cost savings across a range of goods and services.

A formal review of implementation will be carried out and the scope for broadening and deepening the Collaboration Initiative will be explored.

Following the signing, work began on an Implementation Plan including the setting up of a steering committee, a chairs forum and agreement on anticipated outcomes.

■ AGE – THE EUROPEAN OLDER PEOPLE'S PLATFORM

The Parliament continued its relationship with AGE Platform and the CEO attended their AGM in May 2009 in Brussels. 2009 was a busy year for AGE Platform with both European elections and the Lisbon Treaty Referendum.

The Parliament was involved for part of the year in the INCLUSage Project but, due to time constraints and finances we were unable to continue with the project

■ OLDER & BOLDER

The Parliament continued its involvement with Older & Bolder and, in particular, continued the work in relation to the National Positive Ageing Strategy.

■ FINANCIAL CRISIS AND RECESSION

The financial crisis and recession, both worldwide and here in Ireland, intensified in 2009. This crisis was largely brought about by a collapse in property values worldwide, combined with Ireland's reliance on income from taxes from transactions such as property sales.

Budget 2009 was brought forward from December 2008 to October 2008. This followed a serious Irish banking crisis which only emerged in September 2008 and resulted in the need for Government to give a banking guarantee to the depositors and bondholders of the main banks.

In April 2009 a further supplementary Budget was introduced for 2009. It had been preceded in February 2009 by a public sector pension levy following the breakdown of negotiations between the Social Partners. The April Budget, among other measures, included the withdrawal of the **Additional Payment at Christmas** (Christmas Bonus) for pensioners and all Social Welfare recipients as well as a further increase in levies.

In July 2009 the **"Bord Snip Nua"/ McCarthy Report** was published. It proposed a vast range of cutbacks in public expenditure including a 5% cut in all Social Welfare payments and an increase in prescription charges and nursing home care costs.

September 2009 saw the publication of the **Report of the Commission on Taxation** which recommended a range of measures to improve the State's income, including the introduction of a Carbon Tax, a Property Tax and Water Charges.

In December 2009 while Budget 2010 did not increase the State Pension payment, for those aged Over 65 there was no decrease.

There has been a large increase in unemployment and emigration.

The Parliament lent its support to the National Day of Protest on 6 November and to the **"Get Up, Stand Up"** campaign, to bring about change in the Government's response to the crisis.

In summary, 2009 brought us the continuing banking and credit crisis, the introduction of the National Asset Management Agency

(NAMA), the continuation of the Over 70s Medical Card crisis, the withdrawal of the Additional Christmas Payment. There were further threats to cut existing and future pensions and other entitlements as well as a promise of further levies.

We face in 2010 the prospect of a carbon tax, metered water charges, the introduction of prescription charges and a decrease or abolition in waivers for waste charges, as well as VAT on local authority charges. We also perceive an effort to abolish all Universal Payments and in particular to change some of the entitlements for Older People.

■ SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET - APRIL 2009

The decision to withhold the Additional Payment at Christmas to Social Welfare recipients, including pensioners, was in effect a cut of 2% in the payments to all Social Welfare recipients for 2009. While this payment is termed a 'bonus' the fact is that Older People are reliant on this payment to help with additional winter costs and in particular fuel costs. The Parliament has lobbied and campaigned for its re-introduction throughout the year.

Both the income and the health levies were increased. While Older People whose sole income was from a social welfare payment or who had a medical card were exempt from the increases, those Older People who were aged Under 65 and those with a second pension who are subject to income tax are eligible to pay the increased levies.

■ AN BORD SNIP NUA / MCCARTHY REPORT

The **"Report of the Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure Programmes"** was published on 16 July 2009. The Group's mandate was to examine all current Exchequer spending across all Departments and agencies as necessitated by the current financial crisis. The Report made a number of recommendations across Departments including the following:

- Cut all social welfare payments by 5%;
- No re-introduction of the additional week's payment in December (Christmas

Bonus);

- The closure of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs;
- In the event that the Department remains intact, cut-backs were recommended, including a reduction in allocation for the Community Services Programme and a reduction in the allocation for community and voluntary sector supports up to the value of €10million;
- Increasing the monthly threshold on the drugs repayment scheme to €125;
- The introduction of a co-payment of €5 for each prescription item in the medical card and the long term illness scheme;
- Means testing of Home Care Packages;
- Increase the co-payment of care costs under the "Fair Deal" by an individual from their residence from 15% to 22.5% - a 50% increase;
- Taxing the household benefits package;
- Cease the funding for the rural transport initiative.

■ COMMISSION ON TAXATION REPORT

The Report of the Commission on Taxation was published in September 2009. The indications are that this document will play a key role in guiding Government policy over the coming years. The Commission's main recommendations are listed below:

- Income tax, PRSI, the health levy and the income levy should be integrated into a single tax on income;
- The minimum wage should remain exempt from income tax;
- The tax and the welfare system should be integrated;
- An annual Property Tax on all residential housing, based on the market value of property with an exemption for social and local authority housing and for those on the live register;
- The introduction of a Carbon Tax;
- The phased introduction of water charges over a 5 year period initially based on a flat rate charge but moving to a usage charge as meters are put in place;
- Many of the 245 tax reliefs available to be abolished or modified;

- Child benefit should be taxed;
- The tax treatment of medical insurance and health expenses should be tightened.

■ ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS PAYMENT - CAMPAIGN

The April Supplementary Budget abolished the Additional Payment at Christmas, following which a campaign was launched by the ISCP and its members to have it restored. Since April, we have continually raised this issue on television, on radio and in the newspapers as well as at a meeting with Minister for Older People and Health Promotion, Áine Brady T.D. The matter was also raised at Social Partnership and at meetings with the Taoiseach, Minister for Finance and also with the Minister for Social and Family Affairs.

As part of the ongoing campaign to reverse this savage cutback, the ISCP organised a small Silent Protest outside Dáil Éireann on Thursday 21 May 2009. Every Oireachtas member had been invited and we were pleased to be joined by a number of them, as well as a number of candidates for the European and Local Elections.

■ PARLIAMENT SUBMISSIONS 2009

The Irish Senior Citizens Parliament made nine submissions to government departments and other bodies in 2009. A brief outline of each is provided below.

Submission to the National Positive Ageing Strategy

In September 2009, the Parliament made a submission on the National Positive Ageing Strategy to the Office of the Minister for Older People and Health Promotion, Áine Brady TD. The ISCP highlighted a number of key services and supports that are essential to enable positive ageing, these included; an adequate income, access to services and social interaction, access to good quality and affordable health services, supports that will enable them to live independently, access to transport and clarification on rights and entitlements.

Implementation of the Home Care Package Scheme: Report by the NESF

A submission was made to the National Economic and Social Forum on the Home Care Package Scheme. Workshops were facilitated with various groups around the country to underpin our submission.

Review of the Scheme of Community Support for Older People

Following the suspension of the Community Support Scheme for Older People in April 2009, a review of the scheme was launched in June 2009. The Parliament made a submission to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs as part of the review process. Aside from highlighting the many associated benefits of this scheme, our submission made recommendations for the improvement and extension of this scheme.

Submission on the Garda Síochána Strategy for the Older Person

An Garda Síochána, as part of its work on the formulation of a new Garda Síochána Strategy for the Older Person, invited the Parliament to make a written submission to the working group in November 2009. We consulted with the members of our Divisions. The submission brought to light the lack of visible Garda presence on the streets, a reduction in the number of community Garda and increasing concerns over the closure of rural Garda stations.

Dublin City Council Lord Mayor's Commission on Employment

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr. Emer Costello, established a Commission on Employment to examine how Dublin City Council, and other private and NGO agencies, can help promote economic growth in the City.

In our submission we highlighted the prominent role many Older People play as volunteers and carers and stressed the importance of engaging Older People in education and training opportunities.

Consultation process on European Commission Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health

On 10 December 2008, the European Commission launched its Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health. The public consultation process set out to obtain stakeholders views on a wide range of issues connected with the healthcare workforce and preparing for the care of an ageing population.



Consultation on Fees Payable to Health Care Professionals

The Minister for Health and Children made regulations in early 2009 to reduce the rate of fees and associated payments payable to health care professionals. Prior to making regulations, the Minister was required to engage in such consultations as she considered appropriate, included in this was a call for submissions.

Our submission stressed the Parliament's stance on a Universal Health System available to all, based on medical need.

Consultation on the Review of the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Disability Services in Ireland

The Office of Disability and Mental Health conducted a Review of the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Disability Services in Ireland in the context of the Government's Value for Money and Policy Review Initiative 2009-2011. As one third of all Older People have some form of disability this review is important to Older People.

■ SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

In the year under review the Social Partnership process has been affected by the deteriorating crisis in the fiscal situation and the ongoing worldwide recession.

The Framework for a Pact for Stabilisation, Social Solidarity and Economic Renewal was published on 28th January 2009. This resulted from intensive engagement between the Social Partners with a view to curbing the worst affects of the crisis and seeing how the public finances could be stabilised in the period. This process of public sector reform was to yield €2 billion through public spending cuts and new and innovative measures.

However, following the breakdown of talks in early February 2009, the Taoiseach addressed the Dáil, thanked those who had been involved in Social Partnership and said that while a number of things had been agreed Government would have to govern.

The Dáil then passed the legislation introducing the levies on public servants.

The Community & Voluntary Pillar (C&V Pillar) had been in discussion with Government in late January 2009. Following the events in February, a submission was made to

Government outlining a framework that would seek to protect the vulnerable, guard the community and recognise that economic development and social development are complementary and also that it was important to focus on doing what is sustainable in the long run. In particular, Government were urged not to dismantle the social infrastructure which had been built up over a number of years.

The C&V Pillar of Social Partnership were very concerned that there was little or no interaction with the Social Partnership process. It was decided that all the groups within the C&V Pillar would produce a paper to Government with regard to protecting the most vulnerable. Also, a press release was issued outlining the concerns the Pillar had that the most vulnerable should not be targeted in any further measures the Government were planning to introduce.

A press conference was held on 14th September 2009 with all 17 of the C&V Pillar members present with a view to influencing the Budget.

Following on from the press briefing and the publicity surrounding the agreed position of all seventeen members of the C&V Pillar, meetings were held with Taoiseach Brian Cowen T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs Mary Hanafin T.D. and with representatives of the Department of Finance.

While the engagement was robust it would appear that the Government were not for turning on many of the issues.

■ NATIONAL ECONOMIC & SOCIAL FORUM

The NESF Project Team on Implementation of the Home Care Support Scheme invited Submissions from interested parties. The NESF focus was on the **implementation** of policy to promote better outcomes from Irish policies using the HCP scheme as a case study of Irish Policy Implementation. Máiréad Hayes, CEO, represented the Elder Strand of the Community and Voluntary Pillar on this Project Team, which was chaired by Professor Tony Fahey of UCD.

"Implementation of the Home Care Package Scheme", NESF report no. 38 was published in October. The report found that HCP



policy was, like many public service policies in Ireland, well designed but showed weakness in its implementation. Overall, the connection between the national policy, decision-making around it and working practices at local level was poor.

This is the last report affecting Older People from the NESF, as it too has fallen victim to the McCarthy Report.

The Government has decided to absorb the NESF into the NESC. The NESF included not just the Social Partners but also members of the Oireachtas which made it a truly inclusive representative body. The ISCP regret its passing and thank the staff of the NESF and all of our members who contributed to its work over the years.

■ HOME CARE PACKAGES

The Home Care Package Scheme was introduced in 2006 and targeted mainly at those requiring medium to high levels of care to continue to live at home independently. Each Home Care Package (HCP) is tailored to the needs of the individual. Packages include the services of nurses, home care attendants, home helps and various therapies. The HCP Scheme is not yet a national scheme and is not established in law. As the Scheme is still largely in its infancy, there are no national guidelines regarding how admission to the Scheme is decided or how income or means are assessed.

Two reviews were carried out in 2009 on Home Care Packages.

The first was the **NESF** Report "Implementation of the Home Care Package Scheme" published in October 2009. The ISCP facilitated Dr Anne-Marie McGauran of the NESF in holding four focus groups across the country. The Parliament also made a submission based on consultation with members throughout the country.

The findings of the report highlighted a number of key issues. It made recommendations for the future implementation of the scheme, including the need for monitoring and the need to agree outcomes, standards and accountability.

The second report was commissioned by the **Department of Health and Children** who engaged PA Consultancy. This report

evaluated the **delivery** of Home Care Packages between 2006 and 2008. The evaluation involved a review of nationally available data and also an in-depth analysis of the cases of 999 Home Care Package recipients including their needs, the type and cost of support they received and the outcomes identified. Among its recommendations were to implement a standardised approach to HCP delivery through the immediate roll-out of national guidelines (e.g. a standardised approach to means assessment).

■ NURSING HOME SUPPORT SCHEME

The Nursing Home Support Scheme (Fair Deal) came into existence on the 27 October 2009, replacing the Nursing Home Subvention Scheme. This scheme is operated by the HSE. Under the scheme the resident of a nursing home or a public long stay facility pays a contribution towards the cost of their care and the State pays the balance. The scheme only applies to the cost of long term care and does not cover a short term stay in a nursing home.

The new scheme involves a care needs assessment and a means assessment. **Only those deemed in need of care and who satisfy the means assessment can avail of the scheme.**

Under the scheme individuals will pay 80% of their disposable income towards the cost of their care as well as 5% per annum of the value of their assets (savings, land, property). However, the first €36,000 of assets, or €72,000 for a couple, will not be counted at all in the Financial Assessment. Where the assets include land and property, the 5% contribution based on such assets may be deferred and paid to Revenue after death. This is known as the Nursing Home Loan.

The principal residence will only be included in the financial assessment for the first 3 years of time in care. This is known as the 15% or 'three-year cap'. In the case of a couple, any contribution based on the principal residence will be capped at 7.5% where one partner remains in the home while the other enters long-term public or nursing home care. If the person opts to avail of the Nursing Home Loan in respect of a principal residence, the

spouse or partner can also apply to have the repayment of the Loan deferred for their lifetime.

If someone has already been in care for 3 years, they do not pay the 5% on their principal residence.

It is important to note that under the scheme only care in the nursing home is covered. Those without a medical card will pay additional costs for therapies, chiropody etc.

■ ELDER ABUSE

Elder Abuse is defined as a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which can cause harm or distress to an Older Person, or violates their human and civil rights. There are several forms of abuse that can occur, these can include; Physical Abuse, Financial or Material Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Neglect and Acts of Omission and Discriminatory Abuse.

There were 1,481 cases of Elder Abuse reported to the HSE in 2008.

The Irish Senior Citizens Parliament has engaged in a campaign to raise awareness among our members about Elder Abuse. We held a number of meetings and workshops in conjunction with the **HSE** on this subject in May 2009 in Cork, Galway, Louth, Finglas, Dun Laoghaire, Wexford and Limerick.

We thank **COSC**, the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, for their assistance in conducting these workshops. COSC are charged with the responsibility to ensure the delivery of a well co-ordinated response to these forms of violence.

■ COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME FOR OLDER PEOPLE - CAMPAIGN

Despite the suspension of this scheme a number of groups, who had applied for funding before 7 April 2009, received grants throughout the year. In December 2009, Minister of State, John Curran T.D announced that a total of €1.8m had been approved in the year to date under the Scheme with 361 groups receiving funds.

The ISCP organised a significant campaign to highlight the suspension of the scheme including an appearance on RTÉ's 9 o'clock News and a radio column by Fergus Finlay.

We hope to see the scheme fully re-introduced in 2010. It is a vital service for all Older People and in particular those living in remote areas.

■ RURAL TRANSPORT

The important topic of rural transport remained firmly on our agenda this year following the withdrawal of the funding for the night time service in June. The McCarthy Report also recommended the total withdrawal of all funding for the Rural Transport Initiative. The Parliament was relieved that this recommendation was not implemented as rural transport continues to provide many rural Older People with a vital service, without which many could not buy their groceries, attend doctor / hospital appointments or collect their pensions or prescriptions. The matter was raised on several occasions with Government and at Social Partnership.

■ PUBLIC TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The Public Transport Partnership Forum (PTPF) which was established under the Social Partnership Framework **Towards 2016** met three times in 2009, March, June and November. The forum was re-constituted with representation from the Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership.

The Community & Voluntary (C&V) Pillar raised the issue of Rural Transport at two of the three meetings, in March and again in June. In particular, the issue was raised following the cuts in the night service in parts of the country in June. The role of the Local Authorities in relation to smarter travel and in particular with regard to planning and better use of resources was also raised.

The establishment of the Dublin Transport Authority (DTA) which will be responsible for preparing a Strategic Transport Plan for the integrated development of transport infrastructure and services in the Greater Dublin Area, consistent with the relevant regional planning guidelines for the area was discussed. The DTA will also have responsibility for the capital funding of all major transport



infrastructure planned for the Greater Dublin Area.

In September 2009, the Minister for Transport announced the appointments of the Chairperson, Mr. John Fitzgerald and the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gerry Murphy, arising from a competition held by the Public Appointments Service.

The Dublin Transportation Office will be subsumed into the DTA and when the Public Transport Regulation Bill is passed, the Commission for Taxi Regulation and also the Bus licensing function of the Department of Transport will also be transferred to the Authority. We wish the Authority well in its future deliberations.

A presentation on the "Sectoral Plan for Accessible Transport" was made to the group. There are experiments underway in counties Louth by the County Council and in Monaghan and Meath by Bus Éireann. The intention is that all bus stops should be accessible and that it should be possible to achieve a door-to-door service that is accessible for all.

The question of a national cycling policy was also considered and updates were given on the **Transport 21** capital programme as well as the need for the night-time Rural Transport Service.

■ DUBLIN TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

The Dublin Transportation Office has continued to progress their major project "**Vision 2030**", which is intended to re-organise transport in the Greater Dublin Area in the years ahead. The major undertaking at the earlier part of the year was to launch, and subsequently analyse a Public Consultation Process. This consultation was held from 6 February 2009 to 22 March 2009.

A large number of submissions were received. The dominant indicators emerging from submissions were segregated and taken into consideration in the next step of the project.

The outcome will lead the DTO to consider the future of Dublin's transport under the following headings:

- Economic
- Environment
- Social And Community

There is, obviously, interaction between these areas of consideration and that is the current stage of work on the project. The recent downturn in the economy must re-order priorities to take account of changes in demand and even consideration of the extent to which this factor will impact on the appropriate forecasts on which to progress the model.

The current aim is to have a final strategy ready for consideration before summer 2010, giving a clearer picture of what is being planned. It will also give us scope for ensuring that aspects of the matter which affect Older People will be taken into consideration and provision is made for their needs.

Much thought and study has been given to the structure of the Authority to oversee traffic and transport into the future, and as a result of this the DTO has been subsumed into the new **National Transport Authority** which will be the Agency managing future developments.

The ISCP is represented by Matt Coleman.

■ THE EQUALITY AUTHORITY

Budget 2009 brought about a funding cut of 43% for the Equality Authority and confirmation that the decentralisation of Authority staff to Roscrea would continue. Richard Fallon was the acting CEO for most of 2009. Renee Dempsey was appointed as CEO at the end of 2009 and we wish her well.

Lauren Quinn Taylor, Policy Officer represented the Parliament on the Equality Authority Stereotyping Working Group and the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (EYEO) Legacy Group.

The Stereotyping Working Group supports the implementation of the Stereotyping Action Strategy and aims to share information on work to challenge stereotyping and its impact across multiple environments. They developed a module on stereotyping with Waterford Institute of Technology. This is a pilot project.

The EYEO Legacy Group is charged with building a legacy from the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (EYEO) 2007. The main focus of the group in 2009 was the development and implementation of an NGO learning event which took place in October 2009 over two days in both Limerick and Tullamore.

■ NATIONAL POSITIVE AGEING STRATEGY

An NGO Liaison Group was set up by the Minister for State with Responsibility for Older People, Áine Brady T.D. The group is chaired by John Hynes (Age & Opportunity) and Máiréad Hayes, CEO represents the ISCP on the group.

The Minister attended the first meeting of the group and indicated that there would be a consultation process throughout the country with Older People.

■ CARERS

In March the Government announced that the publication of the National Carers' Strategy would not proceed. This was a body blow to all of Ireland's 161,000 family carers and the groups supporting them.

The Parliament had been represented on "The Carers Strategy Consultation Group" and had worked on the development of this strategy which arose from a commitment in the "National Partnership Agreement – **Towards 2016**" to develop and publish a national carer's strategy.

Budget 2010 saw a cut of 3.9% to the social welfare payments of all carers under the age of 66 - from €220.50 to €212 per week. This is to a reduction of €8.50 per week or €442 per annum. Rates for carers Over 66 years of age remained unchanged.

Lauren Quinn Taylor, Policy Officer attended on behalf of the Parliament at the fourth consultation meeting of carer representative groups in the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

■ DEPT. OF HEALTH AND CHILDREN - HEALTH REPAYMENT SCHEME 2009 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

President Sylvia Meehan is the ISCP representative on this Committee of service users, appointed by the Minister for Health and Children in August 2005, to provide an independent input into the design of the scheme and monitor the operation of the scheme to ensure that it is being implemented quickly, and in the most equitable and effective

way possible.

The committee is fully briefed on all aspects of the scheme and has provided valuable input into the legislative process. The committee has met on 42 occasions since the scheme commenced.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has responsibility for administering the Health Repayment Scheme in conjunction with the appointed Scheme Administrator, KPMG / McCann Fitzgerald. Over 35,300 applications have been received by the Scheme Administrator since the commencement of the scheme.

Over 35,000 or 99.3% of these applications have been concluded which has resulted in excess of 21,100 offers being made to-date. Payments have issued to over 18,700 claimants with a value totalling in excess of €420,000,000. In the region of 200 applications remain to be determined.

It is estimated that the total cost of the scheme will be in the region of €465,000,000.

■ COMMUNICATING EUROPE

Following preliminary preparation meetings in 2008 (held in Westport and Cork), a series of meetings on Communicating Europe and the European Elections was held in May 2009 around the country in Galway, Mayo, Limerick and Louth finishing with two in Dublin. We met with European Parliament candidates to engage with them on issues that affect the elderly.

These "town hall" style meetings addressed an unmet need for Older People who have felt left out of European proceedings in the past.

All Euro candidates were invited and the following came to our meetings:

- **Galway:** Marian Harkin MEP (Independent) (elected) and Fiachra Ó Luain (Independent). Mary Thornton represented Declan Ganley (Libertas).
- **Westport:** Michael McNamara (Independent).
- **Limerick:** Kathy Sinnott MEP (Independent), Senator Dan Boyle (Green Party), and Dr. Alexander Stafford (Independent).
- **Dundalk:** Nessa Childers (Labour Party) (elected), Raymond O'Malley (Libertas) and Máiréad McGuinness MEP (Fine

Gael) (elected).

- **Dublin:** Joe Higgins (Socialist Party) (elected), Gay Mitchell (Fine Gael) (elected), Mary Lou McDonald (Sinn Féin), Patricia McKenna (Independent), Deirdre de Búrca (Green Party), Proinsias de Rossa (Labour) (elected), Caroline Simons (Libertas) and Eibhlín Byrne, Lord Mayor of Dublin (Fianna Fáil).

Among the issues discussed were:

- The State pension in Ireland is 32.5% of the average working wages as opposed to the EU average of 60%;
- Discrimination and Ageism;
- Social exclusion and Social housing;
- The Lisbon Treaty;
- Protection of Occupational Pensions and workers rights;
- Cutbacks in services to Older People;
- The utilisation of Ireland's natural resources;
- Problems with A&E services, people being left on trolleys and Universal Health Care;
- The social, economic and environmental crises all coming together;
- The importance of communication: what goes on in the European Parliament etc. is not well known;
- The increasing number of older people in Europe with Ireland as the exception;
- The issue of the banks: how to get them lending again?
- The role of community centres and groups.

A further series of meetings on **Communicating Europe and the Lisbon Treaty** was held in September in Galway and in three locations in Dublin. These meetings aimed to inform Older People about the European Union and the Lisbon Treaty and how they affect senior citizens.

Four meetings were held with a variety of speakers. All meetings began with a "Just the Facts" style presentation about Europe and the Treaty. This was facilitated by Andrea Pappin of the European Movement Ireland or Peadar O'Broin of the Institute of International and European Affairs. We sought a representative from the European Commission however, they were unable to facilitate our request. Our difficulty in obtaining undeniably neutral speakers is worth noting.

This was followed by (an equal number of) speakers in favour (Y) of the Treaty and against (N) the Treaty. Of course, we also had lively contributions from the floor as quite a number of older people came along to listen and to be heard.

The main speakers were:

- Dún Laoghaire / Rathdown: Mary Hanafin TD (Y), Proinsias de Rossa MEP (Y), Eoin O'Broin (N) (in place of Mary Lou McDonald) and Tony Allwright, journalist (N). Seán Barrett TD also made a contribution. Frank Farrelly, ISCP Chair Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown chaired the meeting.
- EPIC, Dublin: Gay Mitchell MEP (Y) and Patricia McKenna (N). Sylvia Meehan, President ISCP, chaired the meeting.
- Finglas: Proinsias de Rossa MEP (Y) and Joe Higgins MEP (N). Hugh Smullen, Chair of Finglas Division ISCP, welcomed the attendees and speakers.
- Galway: Cllr. Catherine Connolly (N) and Dr. Brendan Flynn, NUIG (Y). Evelyn Moran, ISCP Chair of Galway Division chaired the meeting.

These meetings were organised in close cooperation with the local Divisions of the Parliament. Máiréad Hayes and other staff attended all meetings.

Among the issues raised during the meetings were: healthcare, pensions, new taxes, why a second referendum, security and defence, the Citizens' Initiative, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Irish guarantees, Ireland's Commissioner, wage rates, climate change and voting rights.

All meetings were promoted in local media (newspapers and radio) beforehand and gathered significant coverage afterwards including television coverage on RTÉ and TG4.

Of the 12 MEPs elected in the Republic of Ireland in 2009, 6 personally attended at least one of our meetings.

■ LOCAL ELECTIONS 2009

In May 2009 a series of meetings on the local elections were held in Galway, Mayo, Limerick and Louth. These consultations provided an opportunity for Older People to engage with local government candidates from around the country on issues that affect the elderly.



Local election candidates were invited and the following attended:

Fianna Fáil: Sheila Mangan

Green Party: Cllr. Niall Ó Brolcháin, James Nix, George Enyoazu

Fine Gael: Myles Staunton, Christy Hyland, Peter Flynn, Ollie Gannon, Paddy Malone

Labour: Derek Mulcahy, Tom Shortt, Elena Secas, Keith Martin, Joe Woodcock, Frank O'Brien

Sinn Féin: Tom Hanly

People before Profit: Syd Smith

Independents: Cathal McCarthy, AJ Cahill, Cllr. Catherine Connolly

■ DIVISIONS OF THE ISCP

CORK DIVISION

Division Meetings

The Division's first meeting of the year took place in February with a workshop conducted by Anne-Marie McGauran of the NESF on the NESF review of the Home Care Package Scheme. Questionnaires prepared by Ms McGauran were distributed and collected from members providing her with feedback on the issues. Ms McGauran remarked that she had been very impressed with the quality of feedback and understanding of the issues displayed by the Cork Division.

The CEO of the ISCP and Paudge Connolly, then Development Officer also attended.

The AGM of the Division took place in May. The new Officers and Committee were elected. Tributes were paid to Tadhg Philpott a founder member of the Division who was stepping down from the position of Chair.

Pauline Glavin, HSE Senior Social Worker, gave a very informative and thought provoking presentation on Elder Abuse. This was followed by a Question and Answer session and information was circulated on protection services for older people available in the Cork Area.

In June, a Divisional Committee meeting was held. A discussion took place on the proposed Fair Deal and it was decided that it was anything but a Fair Deal. It was agreed that all groups would lobby all of the local representatives to raise concerns about the matter. The Hon Secretary undertook to

notify and urge the men of the Division to get involved in a men's health campaign being run on benign prostatic hyperplasia (cancer of the prostate) in Cork.

In October, the Division meeting was attended by Máiréad Hayes, CEO and Marie Mulholland, the new Divisions Officer. Máiréad gave a report on the financial situation of the Parliament and stated that a Funding Sub-Committee had been established at national level. She stated that if we were to continue operating into 2010 funds would have to be raised from our membership. (At a subsequent committee meeting it was agreed to contact the Division's 33 affiliated groups to seek a voluntary donation to headquarters.)

Ongoing concerns about the Fair Deal Nursing Home Scheme and Social Partnership were raised and points identified for inclusion in the Parliament's pre-Budget submission. In addition it was agreed to conduct a workshop with Marie Mulholland to begin the process of producing a development plan for the Division.

Cork Division Workshop

Almost two dozen people took part in the Cork workshop representing a range of affiliate groups. The participants worked with Marie Mulholland to map the division, its members, influence and activities. Arising from the discussions and group work a number of actions were identified by participants that would help to increase involvement in the Division. This included an agreed schedule of meetings in advance for 2010, the formation of a small working group who would examine how best to improve communication between affiliates on division activities with a view to producing a Cork newsletter. Feedback from the workshop has been extremely positive and all participants felt that it had been of immense benefit to the ongoing development of the division.

DUN LAOGHAIRE / RATHDOWN DIVISION

The Division continued to keep in touch with the five local TDs during the year on various issues, both national and local, and especially in relation to the ISCP Budget submission. This year they met on two occasions with the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin, who is also T.D for Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown.

At the first meeting there were a number of items on the Agenda:

- the ISCP Budget Submission;
- people losing out on the Qualified Adult Allowance because of jointly held bank accounts;
- chiropody top-up charges;
- the need for a bus service from Dun Laoghaire to Loughlinstown Hospital.

The second meeting with the Minister was at her request in the period just before the presentation of the Budget in the Dáil, on 9 December 2009. She wanted to hear views on the items the Division would least want to see cut in the Budget and their priorities in this regard. Their key priority was the **State Pension** followed by the **Medical Card** and the **Free Travel Pass**. They were happy to see that these items were left untouched in the Budget and perhaps their representations had an effect on that outcome.

On 9 September 2009 in the lead up to the second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, the Division hosted a meeting entitled, "Communicating Europe" an opportunity to hear the pros and cons of the Treaty. Almost 100 people attended and the subsequent plenary with the audience afterwards was a lively and well-informed session.

The Division has been working closely with Marie Mulholland, ISCP Divisions Officer, on the expansion and development of the Division. A plan of action has identified contacts and actions to support the work of the division among older people's groups in the area and with statutory agencies in regard to resources.

A number of Committee members are actively involved in Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown County Council. **Matt Coleman** is a member of the Cultural, Community Development and Amenities Strategic Policy Committee and the Strategic Policy Committee on Transport. Matt is also a member of the Dublin Transport Office Development Plan known as "Transport Vision 2030". He is also Chairman of the ISCP Internal Audit Committee.

Joe Martin is a member of the Network for Older People, who are in the process of updating the very valuable Directory of Older Peoples' Organisations in the Division's area.

Frank Farrelly, Chairperson of the Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Division, is also a member

of the ISCP Finance/Funding Committee and the Standing Orders Committee.

FINGLAS DIVISION

Reporting Structure in North West Area

At the outset of 2009, in an effort to develop a more inclusive input by the organisations represented on the Executive Committee, the Division requested all affiliated organisations to make regular reports about their local activities to the Executive Committee. This would allow the Divisional committee to be more effectively informed and in a better position to fully represent older peoples' interests in the North West Area of Dublin.

Centre of Excellence for Older People

The suspension by Government of the development and building of the long awaited Centre of Excellence on the site on Kildonan Road was a major disappointment to the Finglas Division. The Division has been engaged for over 10 years in a campaign to establish this much needed facility for older people.

The Finglas Division has had a mutually supportive and beneficial relationship with Odin's Wood Day Care Centre where a number of our members are involved in a voluntary capacity. The Centre provides the Division with a venue for its meetings. However, as the Division grows in membership, we have been exploring alternative venues for division meetings and activities. Hugh Smullen, Chairman of Finglas Division, through his involvement with the Tolka Partnership, has been pursuing a number of options on behalf of the Division. These include the recently extensively renovated Scout Den in Cardiffs bridge Road and the new community facilities development on the St Kevin's Boys School Campus.

Security & Safety

Following many years of lobbying by the Division and other groups, a fully operational CCTV closed circuit security system is now fully operational in the Finglas Village area.

The Division are delighted to welcome the new Garda station on Mellows Road which opened in 2009. Local Garda management and personnel have over the years given tremendous support to Senior Citizens in the Finglas area and continue to provide protection in these difficult times.



Lisbon Treaty Debate Public Meeting

The highlight of 2009 was the Lisbon debate held in the local community hall between MEPs Joe Higgins and Proinsias de Rossa. Finglas Division Chairman, Hugh Smullen welcomed the politicians, ISCP staff, Senior Citizens and members of the local community to the event. The debate was lively and afforded local people in Finglas their only opportunity to directly question proponents and opponents of the Treaty and to make known their own views.

From the autumn of 2009, the Division has been working closely with the Divisions Officer to develop our membership and profile in North West Dublin and a plan of activities for 2010 has been agreed to which we are committed.

LOUTH AREA DIVISION

The Louth Division met a number of times during 2009 and wishes to thank Moore Hall Nursing Home for the use of facilities for their meetings. The main focus in 2009 was the involvement of the Division in the Louth Age Friendly Alliance. The Division Chairman, **Jim Cousins**, was elected as Chair of the Louth Older People's Forum. Both Jim and **Shane Kelly**, PRO for the Division, were selected as Older People's Forum representatives to the Louth Age Friendly Alliance. This Alliance is part of a national pilot, the Louth Age Friendly County Initiative. It is a collaboration between older people's organisations, statutory services, academic institutes and regional authorities to implement fully integrated and co-ordinated services and planning using a pro-active age friendly approach. This pilot will soon be extended across a number of other counties in Ireland.

As part of the Alliance, the Older People's Forum came together on several occasions throughout the year - always drawing over 100 people to its meetings. A programme has been drawn up with actions to take place on six specific themes: Safety and Security, Housing Aids, Home Care Packages, Transport, Volunteering and Sports.

As part of the process of developing the Louth Division and arising from the workshop with Marie Mulholland, ISCP Divisions Officer, it was agreed that the Division should host a public meeting on health services in Louth at

the earliest opportunity.

WESTERN DIVISION

At its first meeting in 2009, the Western Division held a meeting on health issues at which **Anthony Gilligan**, chairperson of the ISCP health sub-committee was available to answer the many questions from division members on a range of health related issues ranging from medical cards, homecare packages and the fair deal in relation to nursing homes. Other discussion points raised included community transport, housing and community services.

In May, the Division held a town hall-style meeting on the local elections, which provided older people with an opportunity to question a number of local government candidates. This event received good press coverage on local radio and was broadcast by TG4 as a news item.

The Western Division also played host to one of the series of "Communicating Europe" meetings in the run up to the Lisbon Treaty referendum. This took place at the Salthill Hotel on 24 September with a speaker in support, academic Brendan Flynn from NUI Galway and in opposition to the Treaty, Councillor Catherine Connolly.

A lively discussion ensued with audience contributors airing their views on neutrality, the minimum wage, privatisation and Ireland's commissioner in the EU. This event was one of very few opportunities provided where voters could raise their concerns and question the two sides of the debate before deciding on how to vote. Consequently, it was very well received within Galway.

In October, Marie Mulholland facilitated a workshop for almost two dozen of the Division's members examining the strengths and weaknesses of the Division and helping them agree a number of actions to strengthen their presence and membership. It was decided to build the media profile of the Division and to appoint a PRO to develop contacts with local media. As a result of an action identified in the workshop, the CEO of the ISCP works was invited to give an information talk on the work and role of the ISCP to members of Galway's active retirement groups. The meeting was very successful and extremely constructive.



As part of the development actions identified with the Divisions Officer, we also held a meeting on the 3 November to specifically focus on the forthcoming Budget and to raise awareness of the key points in the ISCP Budget submission. During November and in the lead up to the Budget, ISCP members in Galway lobbied their local TDs at their clinics to raise the key points of the ISCP Budget submission.

WEXFORD DIVISION

A well attended Wexford Division AGM was held on 24 February 2009 with an invited guest speaker, Mr. Carsten Kohl, Senior Case Worker / Social Worker for Elder Abuse with the H.S.E. He stated that 3-5% of the population over 65 are subject to abuse at any given time while those most at risk were isolated individuals and people with dementia. Of the reported abuse cases, 65% related to women and 85% of abuse took place at home.

Also present at the AGM was Paudge Connolly, then ISCP Development Officer, who addressed a number of issues arising on the day.

During the year, **Sean Kinsella**, Chairperson of the Wexford Division, visited Kilmuckridge Active Retirement to provide information on and speak about the work of the Parliament.

Strengthening the Wexford Division

In October 2009 a workshop was held in Enniscorthy for all members of the Division facilitated by Marie Mulholland. The purpose was to discuss and identify the future work of the Division and provide members with an opportunity to give their views and ideas, assessing where the Division is now and suggesting priorities for the future.

There was a very good attendance at the workshop and a great sense of purpose which resulted in a number of new members agreeing to join the Committee - effectively doubling its size. A plan of action was identified on the day.

Plan of Action:

- Appoint a P.R.O.
- Start a letter writing campaign to keep Wexford General Hospital open.
- Issue a newsletter briefing on the work of the Division.
- Appeal for funds for the I.S.C.P.
- Assist the **Older and Bolder** Postcard

Campaign.

Consequently, the division sent letters to all T.D.s and Senators demanding that they work to keep Wexford General Hospital open for the benefit of all in the county. They also requested that no cuts be made in the pensions to older people in the December Budget. The Division also wrote to the HSE to protest the withdrawal of living aids from older people, explaining how these aids helped older people to be independent and not a burden on others. A number of people from the Division took an active role in collecting signatures for the **Older and Bolder** postcard campaign to protect the Older Person's State pension. The Wexford Division collected 5000 signatures for the campaign.

The Division was very pleased to have produced its first newsletter in time for Christmas and it is hoped that this and the development actions identified with the support of the Divisions officer augurs well for a re-energised division.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

The ISCP received the following media coverage in 2009:

Limerick Radio: Interview on Medical Cards - Sylvia Meehan

Near FM Radio: Interview re: ISCP - Sylvia Meehan

C103 Radio Cork: Interview re: Over 70s refusing to hand back medical cards - Máiréad Hayes

Sun Newspaper: re: Mini Budget - Charlie Hammond, Peter Campbell

RTE Radio 1's Live Line - Sylvia Meehan

Radio Na Gaeltachta: Community Support for Older People - Seamus Rodgers

Examiner: Annual Parliament Meeting - Máiréad Hayes

Irish Times: Annual Parliament Meeting - Máiréad Hayes

98FM: Annual Parliament Meeting - Máiréad Hayes

Fergus Finlay (RTE Radio 1's Drivetime): Annual Parliament Meeting - Máiréad Hayes

RTE 9 o'clock News: Withdrawal of Community Support Grant Scheme -

Nuala Early

TG4 Nuacht: Galway Communicating Europe Meeting - Andy Feeney and Various

The Argus: Elderly citizens have their say to candidates - Máiréad Hayes

RTE 1 o'clock news: Pharmacy Dispute - Máiréad Hayes

98 FM: Pharmacy Dispute - Máiréad Hayes

East Coast Radio: Pharmacy Dispute - Betty Breen Wexford Division

Clare FM: Communicating Europe - Máiréad Hayes

Galway Bay FM: Communicating Europe - Evelyn Moran

Farmer's Journal: Interview re: Older People - Sylvia Meehan

TV3: Prescription Charges - Máiréad Hayes

Sunday Times: RTE hit with €60m bill for pensioners - Máiréad Hayes

Irish Examiner: HSE denies claims over hike in public nursing home fees - Máiréad Hayes

Irish Times: Maximum 80% of income due on 'Fair Deal' - Máiréad Hayes

Irish Times: How fair is the "Fair Deal"?

Letter mentioning ISCP

Drogheda Independent: Battling to retain Christmas bonus - Letter mentioning ISCP

Irish Times: Day of Protest

Sunday Independent: Day of Protest (photo – background)

Raidió na Gaeltachta: 50c Prescription charges - Seamus Rogers

Irish Times: Cowen backs plan to charge medical card holders for prescriptions - Máiréad Hayes

Irish Independent: Patients will pay more for branded medicine - Máiréad Hayes

Woman's Way: Picture of People of the Year Awards - Sylvia Meehan

MidWest Radio: Castlebar Library Talk - Sylvia Meehan

98 fm Dublin – radio interview - Budget 2010 - Sylvia Meehan

NewsTalk 104: radio interview - Budget 2010 - Sylvia Meehan

FM104 – radio interview - Budget 2010 - Sylvia Meehan

RTÉ Nuacht: - Budget 2010 and Older People - Seamus Rodgers

TG4 - Budget special - Budget 2010 and Older People - Seamus Rodgers

Irish Examiner and BreakingNews.ie: Pensioners 'will lose €600 a year' thanks to Budget - Máiréad Hayes

Irish Times Budget Supplement

Profile of Breda O'Malley including photograph - Breda O'Malley

The Parliament's **"News in Brief"** was published three times in 2009 – in June and October as well as a Budget Special in December.

Our website, www.seniors.ie was regularly updated during the year and attracted a number of comments from a variety of sources. The website recorded 9,800 visits during the year.

■ REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Parliament is represented on the following Outside Bodies:

- Social Partnership - Community and Voluntary Pillar
- Community & Voluntary Pillar - Structured Health Consultation
- National Economic and Social Forum
- Dept of Health and Children - Oversight Committee on National Repayment Scheme for Long-Stay Charges
- HSE - National Health Consultative Forum
- HSE - National Forum on Services for Older People
- Dept of Transport - Public Transport Partnership Forum
- Dublin Transportation Office
- Dublin City Council - Housing, Social and Community Strategic Policy Committee
- Equality Authority working groups
- National Positive Ageing Strategy - NGO Liaison Group
- AGE - The European Older People's Platform - Social Protection Committee
- Dublin City Centre Citizens' Information Board

■ MEETINGS & CONFERENCES AT WHICH THE PARLIAMENT WAS REPRESENTED

STATE RELATED

Minister Áine Brady: Máiréad Hayes, Sylvia Meehan, Peter Campbell, Nell Foley, Evelyn Moran

Minister O'Cuív: Withdrawal of Community Support for Older People: Máiréad Hayes

Dept. Social and Family Affairs Discussion Forum Update: Lauren Quinn Taylor

Dept. of Health and Children: Oversight Committee: Sylvia Meehan

Dept. of Health and Children: Nursing Home Bill: Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor, Anthony Gilligan, Ena O'Mahoney, Charlie Hammond

Dept. Social and Family Affairs: Post Budget Forum: Lauren Quinn Taylor

Dept of Health and Children: NGO Liaison Group on NPAS: Máiréad Hayes

Dept Social and Family Affairs: 4th Consultation Meeting of Carers Representative Groups: Lauren Quinn Taylor, Anna O'Farrell

Equality Authority (incl. C&V Pillar, Summer School Initiative, Stereotyping Working Group and EYEO Legacy Advisory Group): Lauren Quinn Taylor

Equality Authority: Launch of 'Say No to Ageism Week': Sylvia Meehan

Equality Authority and Dept. of Justice, Equality and Law Reform Ten Years of Equality Legislation': Sylvia Meehan

C&V Pillar: Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor, Paudge Connolly

C&V Pillar: Bilateral Meetings with various Government Depts. including Taoiseach, Finance, Education & Science and Health & Children.: Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor

C&V Pillar: Education Linkage Group and Communications Sub-Group: Lauren Quinn Taylor

C&V Pillar: Health Linkage Group: Máiréad Hayes and Lauren Quinn Taylor

C&V Pillar: Structured Health Consultation: Máiréad Hayes

C&V Pillar: T16 Performance Indicators: Lauren Quinn Taylor

C&V Pillar: Update on position re: 'A Strategy for addressing the current crisis': Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor

C&V Pillar: Government Position Paper on Discussions with the Social Partners on a National Recovery Programme: Máiréad Hayes

C&V Pillar: Media Launch: Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor

C&V Pillar Meeting with Dept Social and Family Affairs: Lauren Quinn Taylor

NESF: Plenary Session: Máiréad Hayes

NESF: Implementation of Home Care Packages: Máiréad Hayes

NESF: Plenary Session and Launch of Report on Implementation of Home Care Support Services for the Elderly: Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor

Public Transport Partnership Forum: Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor

National Council of Ageing and Older People: Survey on Elder Abuse: Máiréad Hayes

Dáil Éireann: Pre-Supplemental Budget meeting with Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin TD: Máiréad Hayes, Sylvia Meehan, Paddy Donegan, Charlie Hammond

Easter Rising Ceremony: Máiréad Hayes, Sylvia Meehan

ISCP Budget Day Gathering in Buswell's Hotel: Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor, Sylvia Meehan, Paddy Philpott, Nell Foley, Joe Jennings, Ignatius Martin

Office of Social Inclusion: Workshops on Older People and Carers: Máiréad Hayes

COSC: Launch of report 'Attitudes to Domestic Abuse in Ireland': Máiréad Hayes, Paudge Connolly

COSC: Elder Abuse: Máiréad Hayes

COSC: Consultative meeting: Máiréad Hayes

AONTAS: Senior Learner Network: Paudge Connolly

National Disability Authority: Conference, Government's Proposals to Reform the Law on Mental Capacity: Lauren Quinn Taylor

National Council on Ageing and Older People: Sylvia Meehan

Information Commissioner - Launch of Annual Report 2008: Lauren Quinn Taylor

An Bord Altranais: Conference; 'Caring for and about the Older Person': Máiréad Hayes

HIQA Meeting on the National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland: Lauren Quinn Taylor

HSE: NAPA: Máiréad Hayes

Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD: Withdrawal of Christmas Bonus: Máiréad Hayes, Sylvia Meehan, Peter Campbell

LOCAL / REGIONAL

Eastern Regional Network: Meeting of City Development Boards: Paudge Connolly

Dublin City Council: Strategic Policy Committee on Housing, Social and Community: Máiréad Hayes

Dublin City Council: Launch of International Women's Day 2009 Event: Sylvia Meehan

Dublin Lord Mayor: Reception to Honour Mary Robinson: Máiréad Hayes, Sylvia Meehan

Seminar: Age Friendly County Initiative: Paudge Connolly, Jim Cousins

Mayo Public Library: Sylvia Meehan (speaker)

INTERNATIONAL

AGE Brussels: General Assembly: Máiréad Hayes

AGE Brussels: INCLUSage Steering Group: Máiréad Hayes

AGE: Bagso Conference; INCLUSage Group, Social Inclusion Expert Group, Structured Health Consultation (Leipzig): Máiréad Hayes

Seminar (Brussels): Volunteering of Older Persons and the Role of Public Policies: Paudge Connolly, Evelyn Moran

NON-GOVERNMENTAL

Atlantic Philanthropies (incl. Collaborative Process) - Máiréad Hayes, Sylvia Meehan

Older & Bolder: Launch of campaign 'Older & Bolder on the Doorstep' - Máiréad Hayes, Paudge Connolly, Lauren

Quinn Taylor

Older & Bolder: Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor, Paudge Connolly

Ageing Well Network: Máiréad Hayes

Children's Rights Alliance: Launch of Report Card 2009: Máiréad Hayes

Irish Commission for Social Affairs: Publication 'In the Wake of the Celtic Tiger': Lauren Quinn Taylor

TASC: Launch 'Public Good or Private Profit': Máiréad Hayes

NUI Galway: Irish Centre for Social Gerontology Quality Review: Máiréad Hayes

Áine Ní Léime, Irish Centre for Social Gerontology: Máiréad Hayes

Irish Centre for Social Gerontology: Life Cycle Research Project: Máiréad Hayes

Irish Gerontology Society: "Income and Income Security for the Older Person": Lauren Quinn Taylor

Older Women's Network: Launch 'The Way We Are - Facts About Older Women in Ireland 2008': Máiréad Hayes

Policy meeting with representatives from Age & Opportunity and Age Action: Lauren Quinn Taylor

Drogheda Senior Citizens: Paudge Connolly

G.A.A.: Launch of Social Initiative aimed specifically at Older People: Máiréad Hayes, Charlie Hammond

Irish Hospice Foundation: Inaugural Session on End of Life Care: Máiréad Hayes, Ena O'Mahoney, Sylvia Meehan

Irish Hospice Foundation: End of Life Workshops: Ena O'Mahoney (Speaker), Evelyn Moran

Amnesty International: HRBA Toolkit Launch: Lauren Quinn Taylor

Carers: Strategy Meeting: Lauren Quinn Taylor

Drogheda Ladies Senior Citizens Older Network: Paudge Connolly

Retired Secondary Teachers AGM: Sylvia Meehan

Vanda Clayton from Centre for Housing Research: Interview on Evaluation of Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for

Older People and People with a Disability:
Lauren Quinn Taylor

Canadian Embassy: Award reception to coincide with the '2009 World Summit and Symposium on Elder Mediation':
Peter Campbell

MACRA: Launch of 'Know Your Neighbour Weekend': Sylvia Meehan

NDA: Universal Design Seminar; focusing on lifetime home: Lauren Quinn Taylor

UNITE: Growing the Economy: Sylvia Meehan

Children and Family Research Centre: Conference, 'Reflecting on Contemporary Challenges' NUIG: Evelyn Moran

Alan Egan researcher: Máiréad Hayes

Irish Apartheid: Launch of Publication 'Healthcare Inequality in Ireland': Sylvia Meehan

Age Action: Conference; 'Protecting Older Adults': Lauren Quinn Taylor

Stoneybatter Older Person's launch of Directory: Máiréad Hayes

NDA: Lifetime Homes in Policy and Practice, Universal Design Seminar: Lauren Quinn Taylor

SPARC: Interview with Martha Doyle: Lauren Quinn Taylor, Anthony Gilligan, Ena O'Mahoney, Charlie Hammond, Nell Foley, Evelyn Moran, John J McLoughlin, Jerry Withers, Pat Morgan

Women Lawyers: Speech on Pensions: Sylvia Meehan

SICCCA: Annual Dinner: Máiréad Hayes, Sylvia Meehan

Irish Rural Link Rural Transport Meeting Moate: Anthony Gilligan

Rehab: People of the Year Award: Sylvia Meehan, Máiréad Hayes

HSE National Advocacy Programme Alliance, AGM: Lauren Quinn Taylor

CAP/SPARC: Conference 'Planning Together': Máiréad Hayes, Sylvia Meehan

National Federation of Pensioners: Máiréad Hayes

EMI: European Citizens' Consultation Regional Conference: Máiréad Hayes

Go For Life: Announcement of Allocation of Grants for Sports: Gerry Whyte

Launch: All Ireland Inspirational Life Award: Máiréad Hayes

SPARC: Seminar 'Elder Self Neglect': Lauren Quinn Taylor

Google: Sylvia Meehan

ISCP DIVISIONS

Dublin Meeting of ISCP Divisions
Máiréad Hayes, Paudge Connolly, Lauren Quinn Taylor, Reps. of Divisions

ISCP Louth Division Meetings
Paudge Connolly, Marie Mulholland

ISCP Finglas Division Meetings
Paudge Connolly, Marie Mulholland

ISCP Finglas Division AGM
Lauren Quinn Taylor

ISCP Cork Division Meetings
Máiréad Hayes, Paudge Connolly, Marie Mulholland

ISCP Wexford Division Meetings
Paudge Connolly, Marie Mulholland

ISCP Western Division (Galway) Meetings
Máiréad Hayes, Paudge Connolly, Marie Mulholland

Limerick Meeting with ISCP members
Paudge Connolly, Affiliated Members

ISCP Cork: Elder Abuse and Older & Bolder
Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor, Paudge Connolly

ISCP Galway: Communicating Europe, European and Local Elections
Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor

ISCP Mayo: Communicating Europe, European and Local Elections
Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor

ISCP Limerick: Elder Abuse, Communicating Europe, European and Local Elections
Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor

ISCP Louth: Communicating Europe, European and Local Elections
Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor

ISCP Dublin: Communicating Europe, European Elections, Silent Protest
Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor, Pádraig de Burca, various TDs, Senators and Candidates

ISCP Louth Division: Workshop
Marie Mulholland

ISCP Western Division: Workshop
Marie Mulholland

ISCP Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown: Communicating Europe - Lisbon



*Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor,
Pádraig de Burca*

**ISCP Dublin: Communicating Europe –
Lisbon**

Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor

**ISCP Finglas: Communicating Europe –
Lisbon**

*Máiréad Hayes, Marie Mulholland, Teresa
Somers*

**ISCP Galway: Communicating Europe –
Lisbon**

*Máiréad Hayes, Lauren Quinn Taylor,
Marie Mulholland*

■ **MEMBERSHIP (AT 31/12/2009)**

1428 Active Retirement Club, Co. Westmeath
21 + VAT Group, Co. Wexford
50 + Group + Golden Oldies Group, Co. Donegal
50+ Active Age Group, Co. Laois

99 Club, Co. Leitrim

A Voice of/for Older People, Co. Donegal

A.B.C. Club Aghaboe Parish, Co. Laois

A.O.S.T.A. North Cork, Co. Cork

A.R.A. Na Feile (Abbeyfeale), Co. Limerick

Abbey Friendship Group, Galway

Active Retirement Ireland (Ballyshannon), Co. Donegal

Active Retirement Ireland, Dublin

An Siol CDP, Dublin

Adamstown Active Retirement Group, Co. Wexford

Adamstown Community Alert, Co. Wexford

Age & Opportunity, Dublin

Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Co. Dublin

Amicus GPMU Sector, Dublin

Amicus M.S.F. (Unite), Dublin

An Grianán Active Age Group, Co.

Westmeath

ARA Friends Active Retirement, Co. Limerick

Ardee Active Retirement Group, Co. Louth

Arklow Active Retirement Association, Co. Wicklow

Artane Active Retirement Group, Dublin

Ashbourne and District Senior Citizens Assoc., Co.

Meath

Assisi House Day Centre, Waterford

Association of Retired Commissioned Officers,
Dublin

Athenry and District Active Retirement Association, Co.
Galway

Aughrim Court Residents Association, Dublin

Aughrim / Kilmore Active Retirement, Co. Roscommon

B.C.D.L. Friendship Club, Co. Westmeath

Ballina Active Retirement Association, Co.

Mayo

Ballinasloe Active Retirement Association, Co. Galway

Ballindine / Irishtown Active Retirement Association,
Co. Mayo

Ballinrobe Active Retirement Group, Co. Mayo

Ballinteer Active Retirement Association,
Dublin

Ballybunion Active Retirement Association, Co. Kerry

Ballycallan-Kilmanagh-Killaloe ARA, Co. Kilkenny

Ballycommon ARA, Co. Offaly

Ballyfermot Senior Citizens Forum, Dublin

Ballygall Senior Citizens' Club, Dublin

Ballyhaunis Active Retirement Association, Co. Mayo

Ballymore-Mayglass Parish Council, Wexford

Ballymote Active Retirement Association, Co. Sligo

Ballymun Active Living, Dublin

Ballymun Estate Pensioners' Association,
Dublin

Baltinglass and District Active Retirement Assoc., Co.
Wicklow

Bantry Active Retirement Association, Co.
Cork

Barna Active Retirement Group, Co. Offaly

Barna Furbo Active Retirement Association, Co.
Galway

Beaumont Hospital Active Retirement Association,
Dublin

Blacklion, Doobally and Glangevlin Soc. Services
Council, Co. Cavan

Blackrock/Monkstown Active Retirement Assoc., Co.
Dublin

Bord na Mona Staff Pensioners' Assoc., Co.
Kildare

Boyle and Co. Roscommon Active Age Group, Co.
Roscommon

Boyle Active Age, Co. Roscommon

Bray Active Retirement Association, Co. Wicklow

Bray and District Council of Trade Unions, Co. Wicklow

Bray Old Folks Association, Co. Wicklow

Bree Active Retirement Group, Co. Wexford

British Transport Pensioners' Federation Irish Section,
Dublin

Brothers of Charity Services Roscommon, Co.
Roscommon

Bruree Active Retirement Association, Co. Limerick

Buncrana Active Retirement Group, Co. Donegal

Caherciveen Social Services, Co. Kerry

Callan Community Voluntary Housing, Co. Kilkenny

Cara House Active Age Group, Co. Donegal

Care of Elderly, Co. Wicklow

Caring For Carers Ireland, Co. Clare

Carndonagh Active Retirement Association, Co.
Donegal

Carnew Community Care, Co. Wicklow

Carrick Active Age Group, Co. Donegal

Carrick-on-Shannon Active Age Group, Co.

Leitrim

Carrigallen/Drumeela Active Age, Co. Leitrim

Cashel & District Active Retirement Group, Co.

Tipperary

Castlebar Active Retirement Association, Co. Mayo

Castlebridge Senior Citizens Club, Co.

Wexford

Castlecomer Social Services, Co. Kilkenny

Castleconnell Ahane & Montpelier Care of the Aged,
Co. Limerick

Castledermot Community Services, Co. Kildare

Castleisland Active Retirement Assoc. (C.A.R.A.), Co.

Kerry

Castlerea Active Retirement Association, Co.

Roscommon

Castletown/Ballyagran Active Retirement, Co. Limerick

Charlestown ARA, Co. Sligo

Chartered Physiotherapists in Retirement, Dublin

Cherrys Breweries Retired Personnel Assoc., Waterford

Choices Befriending the Elderly Service, Co. Dublin

CIE Salaried Pensioners' Assoc., Dublin

Civil & Public Service Union, Dublin

Clara Cairde / Canon Nolan Centre, Kilkenny

Clare Galway / Carnmore ARA, Co. Galway

Clareville Court Senior Citizens, Dublin

Clonakilty Friendship Club Active Retirement, Co. Cork

Cloughaneely Social Services (Care of Aged), Co.

Donegal

Club 55 – Screen, Co. Wexford

Club Cluainin Active Age Group - Manorhamilton, Co.

Leitrim
 Communications Wkrs.' Union R.M. Branch (An Post),
 Dublin
 Community Connections (CDP) Active Age Project, Co.
 Cavan
 Connought Rural Women's Group Ltd., Co.
 Roscommon
 Conoco Ireland Pensioners' Assoc., Dublin
 Corca Dhuibhne Ladies ARA, Co. Kerry
 Corduff / Raferagh Active Retirement Group, Co.
 Monaghan
 Cork Douglas Probus Club, Cork
 Cork Council of Trade Unions R.W.A., Cork
 Cork Fire Brigade Retired Members, Cork
 Cork City Centre & South County Citizens Info. Service,
 Cork
 County Carlow Older People's Network, Carlow
 County Limerick Civil Defence ARA, Co. Limerick
 Crossmolina Active Retirement Association, Mayo
 Crossroads Killygordon Enterprises Ltd., Co. Donegal
 Cumann Cairdeas Chlach Cheann Fhada, Donegal
 Cumann Iar Oibrithe Lufara An Spideal, Co. Galway
 D12 - Over Sixties Forum, Dublin
 Dalkey Island Probus Club, Co. Dublin
 Deise Active Retirement Association, Waterford
 DIT Active Retirement Association, Dublin
 Dominick Court, Pensioner's Association, Dublin
 Donabate Senior Citizens Sports/Social Club, Co. Dublin
 Donabate-Portrane Day Centre & Social Club, Co. Dublin
 Donaghmede Active Retirement Ireland, Dublin
 Donegal Active Retirement Association, Co. Donegal
 Donegal Family Resource Centre, Co. Donegal
 Doneraile Active Retirement Association, Co. Cork
 Donnycarney Active Retirement Assoc., Dublin
 Donoughmore Senior Citizens Club, Co. Limerick
 Downstrands Family Resource Centre, Co. Donegal
 Dowra Active Age, Co. Leitrim
 Drogheda Active Retirement, Co. Meath
 Drogheda Senior Citizen's Group, Co. Louth
 Dromin/Athlacca ARI, Co. Limerick
 Dublin City Council Retired Staff Assoc., Dublin
 Dublin Council of Trade Unions, Dublin
 Dublin North West Citizens' Information Service, Dublin
 Dublin Port Pensioners Assoc., Dublin
 Dun Laoghaire Active Retirement Association, Co. Dublin
 Dun Laoghaire Borough Old Folks Association, Co.
 Dublin
 Dun Laoghaire Marine Probus Club, Co. Dublin
 Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Network for Older People, Co.
 Dublin
 Dundalk Active Retirement Association, Co. Louth
 E.S.B. Head Office Retired Staff Assoc., Co. Wicklow
 E.S.B. Pensioners Galway Branch, Galway
 E.S.B. Retired Staff Assoc. Athlone Branch, Co.
 Westmeath
 E.S.B. Retired Staff Assoc. Cork, Cork
 E.S.B. Retired Staff Assoc. Dublin Region, Dublin
 E.S.B. Retired Staff Assoc. Limerick / Ardnacrusha,
 Limerick
 E.S.B. Retired Staff Assoc. Nat. Exec. Council, Dublin
 E.S.B. Retired Staff Assoc. Tralee Branch, Co. Kerry
 East Meath Active Retirement Association, Co. Meath
 Eastern Regional Council Active Retirement Irl., Dublin
 Ennis Active Retirement Association, Co. Clare
 Enniscorthy Active Retirement Association, Co. Wexford
 Enniscorthy Community Housing Ltd., Co. Wexford
 F.C.J.N. SUPPORT, Dublin
 Fairview Active Retirement Association, Dublin
 Family Enrichment Centre, Co. Donegal
 Faughart Social Group, Co. Louth
 Ferdia Community Social Group, Co. Louth
 Ferns Senior Citizens, Co. Wexford
 Ferrybank Ladies Social Club, Waterford
 Finglas Home Help/Care Organisation Ltd., Dublin
 Finglas Old Folk Group, Mellows Court, Dublin
 Finglas Senior Help Line Centre, Dublin
 Finglas/Cabra Council for Older People, Dublin
 FORUM, Co. Galway
 Fourmilehouse Active Age Association, Co. Roscommon
 Foxrock Active Retirement Assoc., Co. Dublin
 Friends of the Elderly, Limerick
 Galbally Active Retirement, Co. Limerick
 Galway City Centre Active Retirement Association,
 Galway
 Galway Salthill Probus, Galway
 Garda Retired Members' Assoc. Co. Wexford Branch,
 Wexford
 Garda Siochana Retired Members' Assoc. Dublin, Dublin
 Glasnevin North Active Retirement Association, Dublin
 Glasnevin Village Active Retirement, Dublin
 Glenfarne Active Age Group, Co. Leitrim
 Gorey Active Retirement Association, Co. Wexford
 Gort Active Retirement Association, Co. Galway
 Grange Woodbine Active Retirement Group, Dublin
 Grantstown Voluntary Housing, Co. Wexford
 Greenfield Park Residents' Assoc., Dublin
 Greystones & District Active Retirement Assoc., Co.
 Wicklow
 Guinness Active Retirement Association, Dublin
 Guinness Retired Personnel Association (Irl), Co. Dublin
 Guinness Retired Staff Association, Co. Dublin
 Health Service Executive R.P.G. North West Area, Co.
 Donegal
 Health Service Executive R.S.A. Dublin Area, Dublin
 Health Service Executive R.S.A. Southern Area, Cork
 Holy Cross Gardens Residents' Association, Co. Kerry
 Home Care - North East Bay Ltd., Dublin
 HSE West, Day Care, Co. Galway
 I.C.A. Wexford Federation, Co. Wexford
 IBOA Pensioners Assoc. Dublin South West Region,
 Dublin
 IBOA Pensioners Association County Dublin Region, Co.
 Dublin
 IBOA Pensioners Association Midlands Region, Co.
 Westmeath
 IBOA Pensioners Association North East Council, Co.
 Dublin
 IBOA Pensioners Association Western Region, Galway
 IBOA Pensioners Committee (Nationally), Waterford
 ICTU Retired Workers' Committee, Dublin
 IFA National Farm Family Committee, Dublin
 IMPACT Retired Mbrs. Group, Dublin
 Independent Workers Union, Cork
 Inniskeen Active Retirement Association, Co. Louth
 INPDTG/SIPTU, Dublin
 Irish Country Women's Assoc. Kilkenny Branch, Co.
 Kilkenny
 Irish Country Women's Association Clonroche Guild, Co.
 Wexford
 Irish Hard of Hearing Association, Dublin
 Irish Nurses Organisation, Dublin
 Irish Print Group Retired Members' Chapel (SIPTU),
 Dublin
 Irish Wheelchair Assoc. - Athy Branch, Co. Kildare
 Irish Wheelchair Association - Carlow, Carlow
 ISCP - CORK DIVISION, Cork
 ISCP - DUN LAOGHAIRE/RATHDOWN DIVISION, Co.
 Dublin
 ISCP - FINGLAS DIVISION, Dublin
 ISCP - LOUTH DIVISION, Co. Louth
 ISCP - WESTERN DIVISION, Co. Galway
 ISCP - WEXFORD DIVISION, Wexford

Johnstown/Killiney Active Retirement Association, Co. Dublin
 KARA Knocknacarra Active Retirement Association, Galway
 Kells Active Retirement Association, Co. Meath
 Kilfinane Active Retirement, Co. Limerick
 Kilkenny Active Retirement Association, Kilkenny
 Kilkenny Probus Club, Kilkenny
 Kilkenny Social Services, Kilkenny
 Kill O'The Grange Active Retirement Association, Co. Dublin
 Killala Senior Citizens Club/Social Services, Co. Mayo
 Killarney Active Retirement Assoc., Co. Kerry
 Killinarden Family Resource Centre Ltd., Dublin
 Kilmallock Active Retirement, Co. Limerick
 Kilmore SCOPE, Co. Wexford
 Kilrane/Rosslare Harbour Active Retirement Assoc., Co. Wexford
 Kinsale Active Retirement Association, Co. Cork
 Ladies Young At Heart Club, Co. Wicklow
 Lanesboro ESB Retired Staff & Pensioners Assoc., Co. Longford
 Lannleire & District Active Retirement Assoc., Co. Louth
 Larkin Unemployed Centre, Dublin
 Letterkenny C.D.P. Ltd., Co. Donegal
 Letterkenny Probus Club, Co. Donegal
 Lifford Golden Oldies Group, Co. Donegal
 Limerick Central Branch Active Retired Irl., Limerick
 Limerick City Active Retirement Association, Limerick
 Limerick Council of Trade Unions, Limerick
 Limerick Regional Probus Club, Limerick
 Limerick/Shannon Probus Club, Limerick
 Listowel & District Active Retirement Assoc., Co. Kerry
 Longford Active Retirement Association, Longford
 Loughrea Active Retirement Association, Co. Galway
 Lucan Active Retirement Association, Co. Dublin
 Macardle & Moore Retired Personnel Assoc., Co. Louth
 Macroom Senior Citizens, Co. Cork
 Malahide Active Retirement Association, Co. Dublin
 Mall Ladies Social Club, Co. Louth
 Mallow & District Council of Trade Unions, Co. Cork
 Mallow Probus Club, Co. Cork
 Marine Port & General Workers' Div. (SIPTU), Dublin
 Maryfield/Artane Residents' Association, Dublin
 Mattock Rangers A.R.I., Co. Louth
 Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee, Co. Kildare
 Mervue Active Retirement Association, Galway
 Mervue Senior Citizens Galway, Galway
 Mevagh Family Resource Centre, Co. Donegal
 Midland Health Board Active Retirement Assoc., Laois
 Mid-West Regional Council. A.R.Ire., Co. Limerick
 Mitchelstown Geriatric Association, Co. Cork
 Monaleen/Milford Active Retirement Association, Co. Limerick
 Monaseed ICA, Co. Wexford
 Moneenroe Care Project, Co. Kilkenny
 Mount Argus and District Active Retirement Assoc., Dublin
 Mountbellew ARA, Co. Galway
 Moy Valley Resources, Co. Mayo
 Murrinstown/Piercestown I.C.A., Co. Wexford
 National Association of Widows in Ireland, Dublin
 National Assoc. of Widows Ire. / Finglas West Branch, Dublin
 Nenagh A.R.A., Co. Tipperary
 New Ross Active Retirement Association, Co. Wexford
 Newbridge Active Retirement Association, Co. Kildare
 Newcastle Active Retirement Association, Galway
 Newtownforbes Senior Citizens Club, Co. Longford
 Northway Old Folks Group, Dublin
 Northwest Regional Council Active Retirement Ireland, Co. Donegal
 NUJ Retired Members Section, Dublin
 Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta, Dublin
 OPATSI, Retired Mbrs. Section, Dublin
 Oranmore Senior Citizens Community Group-Over 55, Co. Galway
 Org. of National Ex-Servicemen & Women (Kilkenny Branch), Kilkenny
 OWN (Ireland) - Older Women's Network, Dublin
 Owing Care for the Elderly, Co. Kilkenny
 P.J. Carroll Pensioners Assoc., Co. Louth
 PAL (Pro Active Life) Club, Co. Kilkenny
 Parteen Probus Club, Limerick
 Passage West Social Club Senior Citizens, Co. Cork
 Pettigo Community Care Group, Co. Donegal
 Pfizer Active Retirement Group, Co. Cork
 Phibsboro Active Retirement, Dublin
 Piercestown/Murrinstown ARA, Co. Wexford
 Portarlinton Active Retirement Association (Happy Hearts Club), Co. Laois
 Probus '97 Club, Co. Kerry
 Probus Club Limerick 922, Limerick
 Probus Club of Cork - Bishopstown, Co. Cork
 Probus Club of Navan, Co. Meath
 Probus Club of Tullamore, Co. Offaly
 Providence Active Retirement, Co. Mayo
 PSEU (Public Service Executive Union), Dublin
 Raheen Active Retirement Association, Co. Wexford
 Raheny Active Retirement Association, Dublin
 Ramsgrange Active Retirement Association, Co. Wexford
 READY, Co. Offaly
 Renmore ARA (ARRA), Galway
 Renmore Senior Citizens, Galway
 Retired Aviation Staff Association (RASA), Co. Dublin
 Retired Civil & Public Servants Association, Dublin
 Retired Nurses' Assoc. - Eastern Region, Co. Dublin
 Retired Nurses' Assoc. Longford Westmeath Branch, Co. Westmeath
 Retired Nurses' Assoc. of Ireland, Co. Galway
 Retired Nursing Staff St. Senan's Hospital, Co. Wexford
 Retired People's Network, Cork
 Retired Psychiatric Nurses Assoc. County Wexford, Co. Wexford
 Retired Secondary Teachers Assoc. Galway Branch, Co. Galway
 Retired Secondary Teachers Assoc., Dublin
 Retired Teachers' Association (INTO), Co. Dublin
 Retired Teachers Association (Co. Louth), Co. Louth
 Retired Teachers' Association (Co. Wexford), Co. Wexford
 Retired Civil & Public Servants' Assoc - Eircom Branch, Co. Louth
 Retired Civil & Public Servants' Assoc (Cork Branch), Cork
 Retired Nurses' Assoc. of Ireland (North Eastern Region), Monaghan
 Rooskey Active Retirement Association, Co. Roscommon
 Rosemount Resource Centre, Dublin
 Rossinver Active Age Group, Co. Leitrim
 Rosslare Strand Active Retirement Assoc., Co. Wexford
 Royal Liver Superannuitants' Assoc., Co. Dublin
 RTE Pensioners Association, Dublin
 Sacred Heart Parish Social Committee, Cork
 Sallynoggin Old Folk Association, Co. Dublin
 Salthill Active Retirement Association, Galway
 Sean Cháirde, Co. Kerry
 Senior Citizens Clubs Seatown & St. Bridget's, Co. Louth
 Senior Citizens Concern Ltd., Co. Wexford
 Senior Help Line (Third Age Foundation), Co. Meath
 SIPTU Cork City Branches Nos. 1 - 8 R.M.S., Cork

SIPTU National Retired Staff Committee, Dublin
 SIPTU Retired Mbrs'. Dublin Region Branch, Dublin
 SIPTU Retired Mbrs'. Region 2 Branch, Co. Carlow
 SIPTU Retired Mbrs'. Region 3 Branch, Galway
 SIPTU Retired Mbrs'. Region 4 South West, Cork
 SIPTU Retired Mbrs'. Region 5 Branch, Co. Donegal
 SIPTU Retired Members' National Committee, Dublin
 Sisters of Charity (Temple Street), Dublin
 Slane Active Retirement Association (S.A.R.A.), Co. Meath
 Slieverue & District ARA, Waterford
 Sligo & District Active Retirement Assoc., Sligo
 Sligo Council of Trade Unions, Sligo
 SMAUI (Sales, Marketing & Administrative Union), Dublin
 Smithwicks Brewery Pensioners Association, Kilkenny
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Oriel Region), Meath
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Drogheda, Co. Louth
 Sonas Senior Citizens, Co. Galway
 South Leitrim Active Age Forum, Co. Leitrim
 Southern Regional Council Active Retirement Ire, Kerry
 Sr. Elizabeth Active Age Social Ladies Club, Dublin
 St Agatha's Active Retirement Group, Dublin
 St. Aidan's Day Care Centre, Co. Wexford
 St. Bridget's Arts & Crafts, Dublin
 St. Bridget's Old Folks Club - Day Centre, Wexford
 St. Bridget's Senior Citizens, Galway
 St. Brigid's Conference - St. V. de P. Rosslare, Wexford
 St. Columba's Over 50s Club, Co. Wexford
 St. Conleth's Day Care Centre, Co. Kildare
 St. Fintan's Social Club & Day Care Centre, Wexford
 St. Gerard's Senior Citizens, Co. Louth
 St. Helena's Senior Citizens, Dublin
 St. John's Day Care Centre, Co. Wexford
 St. Joseph's Retired Persons Club, Cork
 St. Kevin's Golden Age Club, Dublin
 St. Mark's Senior Citizens Club, Dublin
 St. Mary's 79 Club, Co. Wexford
 St. Mary's Arts & Crafts, Dublin
 St. Mary's Day Care Centre Ltd., Co. Wexford
 St. Mary's Day Centre, Kilkenny
 St. Michael's Active Retirement Assoc., Dublin
 St. Michael's Older People's Group, Dublin
 St. Vincent de Paul (Kilmore & Drumsnatt), Co. Monaghan
 St. Vincent de Paul, Co. Wexford
 Stillorgan / Kilmacud Active Retirement Association, Co. Dublin
 Stoneybatter & Area Senior Citizens, Dublin
 Swords Senior Citizens Centre, Co. Dublin
 T.G. Section of Unite (Dublin No. 1 Branch), Dublin
 T.G. Section of Unite (Dublin No. 2 Branch), Dublin
 T.G. Section of Unite (Drogheda), Co. Louth
 T.G. Section of Unite (Dungarvan), Co. Waterford
 T.G. Section of Unite (Dundalk), Co. Louth
 Taghmon/Camross A.R.A., Co. Wexford
 Tang Golden Years Club, Co. Westmeath
 Teach Mhuire Day Care Centre, Cork
 The 55+ Group Crossabeg, Co. Wexford
 The Assoc. of Pensioners Greencore Group S.P.S., Carlow
 The Carers Association, Co. Offaly
 The Catalysts, Sligo
 The Friendship Club, Cork
 The Lough Gramophone Society, Cork
 The Orchard Active Retirement Group, Swinford, Co. Mayo
 The Pilgrims Way, Co. Mayo
 The Tuesday Club Active Retirement, Co. Mayo
 The Widows Group, Co. Donegal
 Tirellan Active Retirement Association, Galway
 Togher Retired Men's Club, Cork

Tramore & District Active Retirement Association, Co. Waterford
 Trim Active Retirement Club, Co. Meath
 Tuam Active Retirement Association, Co. Galway
 Tubbercurry Active Retirement Association, Co. Sligo
 Tullaghan, Kinlough Active Age Group, Co. Leitrim
 Tullamore Active Retirement Association, Co. Offaly
 Tulloo Active Retirement Association, Co. Carlow
 Twilight Zone Active Age Group, Co. Donegal
 Tymon Bawn Active Retirement Club, Dublin
 U3A (University of the Third Age), Co. Donegal
 UCATT Ireland, Dublin
 W.F.T.R.A., Dublin
 Waterford Active Retirement Association, Waterford
 Waterford Alzheimer's Project, Waterford
 Waterford Care of the Aged Society, Waterford City
 Waterford Council of Trade Unions, Waterford
 West Finglas Active Retirement Assoc., Dublin
 West Finglas Classic Swimmers, Dublin
 Western Regional Council Active Retirement Ire., Galway
 Westgate Foundation, Co. Cork
 Westport Active Retirement Association, Co. Mayo
 Westside Active Retired Association, Galway
 Wexford Active Retirement Association, Wexford
 Wexford Community Services Council, Wexford
 Wexford Council of Trade Unions, Wexford
 Whitegate Refinery Pensioners' Association, Co. Cork
 Wicklow Active Retirement Association, Co. Wicklow
 Widows' Association - Kilkenny Branch, Co. Kilkenny
 Williamstown Active Retired, Co. Galway
 Young at Heart A.A.G., Co. Sligo
 Young at Heart ARA, Co. Cork

■ Photographs



People of the Year Awards
Máiréad Hayes (ISCP), Mary Robinson, Sylvia Meehan and
Mary Sutton (Atlantic) at the Award Ceremony.



Democracy in Action APM 2009



ISCP Silent Protest against withdrawal of Christmas payment.



Intergenerational Solidarity at ICTU "Get Up, Stand Up"



Dun Laoghaire European Meeting Sept-09, Minister Mary Hanafin,
Proinsias de Rossa MEP, Speakers Eoin Ó Broin, Seán Barrett
and Tony Allwright, Máiréad Hayes CEO, Frank Farrelly and
Matt Coleman Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Division



Chairs/Presidents and CEOs participating organisations at the
signing of the collaborative Memorandum of Understanding in
The Atlantic Offices