



Main Social Welfare Changes and New Rates of Payments

**Mary Hanafin T.D.,
Minister for Social and Family Affairs**

***Over €21.1 billion being spent in 2010 to support 2.1 million people
Expenditure will increase by €660 million in 2010***

Older people are protected from cuts

- ◆ Older people will continue to get their State Pension at current rates as well as the Free Travel, Free TV Licence, Electricity or Gas Allowance.
- ◆ Allowances such as the Living Alone Allowance, Over 80 Age Allowance and Fuel Allowances will not change.

Vulnerable children and low income families will be protected from reductions in Child Benefit

- ◆ Social welfare recipients will be protected from the reduction in monthly Child Benefit rates to €150 per child for the 1st and 2nd child and €187 per child for the 3rd and subsequent children.
- ◆ The Qualified Child Increase paid to those getting social welfare payments will increase by €3.80 to €29.80 per child per week.
- ◆ All Family Income Supplement weekly earnings thresholds to increase by €6 per week per child to support working families on low incomes.

New lower rates of payment for people under 66 years of age

- ◆ Weekly rates of payment for people **under age 66** will reduce by between 3.5% - 4.2%. Qualified Allowance for spouse or partner will reduce by 4.1%.

Carers

- ◆ The half rate Carer's Allowance will continue to be paid to people who are full-time carers and who are getting another welfare payment. Carers will continue to get the annual Respite Care Grant of €1,700 for each care recipient.
- ◆ Carer's Allowance rates for carers over 66 years of age will not change. Rates for carers **under age 66** years will reduce by between 3.7%-3.9%.

For more information telephone **Department of Social and Family Affairs** on

1890 66 22 44 (LoCall) 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday

9am – 9pm Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December 2009 and

Citizens Information Phone Service on 1890 777 121 (LoCall) 9am - 9pm Monday to Friday

Contact your nearest Social Welfare Local Office or Citizens Information Centre

Information is also available on www.welfare.ie and www.citizensinformation.ie

Note: The rates charged for the use of 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.

SOCIAL WELFARE RATES 2010

PAYMENT RATES FOR OLDER PEOPLE - UNCHANGED				
	Personal Rates		Qualified Adult Allowance	
	Current Rates	2010 Rates	Current Rates	2010 Rates
Social Insurance Payments				
State Pension (Contributory)/(Transition)				
Under age 80	€230.30	€230.30	€153.50 (under 66)	€153.50 (under 66)
Aged 80 and over	€240.30	€240.30	€206.30 (over 66)	€206.30 (over 66)
Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension/Deserted Wife's Benefit				
Age 66 and under 80	€230.30	€230.30		
Aged 80 and over	€240.30	€240.30		
Invalidity Pension				
Aged 65 and under 80	€230.30	€230.30	€149.70 (under 66)	€143.80 (under 66)
Aged 80 and over	€240.30	€240.30	€206.30 (over 66)	€206.30 (over 66)
Death Benefit Pension				
Aged 66 and under 80	€234.70	€234.70		
Aged 80 and over	€244.70	€244.70		
Social Assistance Payments				
State Pension (Non-Contributory)				
Aged 66 and under 80	€219.00	€219.00	€144.70	€144.70
Aged 80 and over	€229.00	€229.00		
Carer's Allowance				
Aged 66 and over	€239.00	€239.00		

New Child Benefit Rates				Family Income Supplement (FIS) for families in employment		
Number of children	Monthly Rate	Monthly Rate	Annual Value	Family Size	New income limits	
	2009	2010	2010		Present Income Limit	New Income Limit
	€	€	€			
1 child	166	150	1,800	1 child	500	506
2 children	332	300	3,600	2 children	590	602
3 children	535	487	5,844	3 children	685	703
4 children	738	674	8,088	4 children	800	824
5 children	941	861	10,332	5 children	920	950
6 children	1,144	1,048	12,576	6 children	1,030	1,066
7 children	1,347	1,235	14,820	7 children	1,160	1,202
8 children	1,550	1,422	17,064	8 children	1,250	1,298

Additional Child Support Measures

- ◆ Increase of €3.80 per week in Qualified Child Increase for people who are dependent on a weekly social welfare payment. New weekly rate will be €29.80.
- ◆ Family Income Supplement weekly income thresholds will increase by €6 per child per week.

REVISED PAYMENT RATES FOR PEOPLE UNDER AGE 66

	Personal Rates		Qualified Adult Allowance (under 66 years)	
	Current Rates €	2010 Rates €	Current Rates €	2010 Rates €
<i>Social Insurance Payments</i>				
Jobseeker's Benefit/Illness/Health & Safety/Injury Benefit	204.30	196.00	135.60	130.10
Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension/Deserted Wife's Benefit	209.80	201.50		
Carer's Benefit/Constant Attendance Allowance	221.20	213.00		
Invalidity Pension	209.80	201.50	149.70	143.80
Disablement Pension	235.40	227.00		
Death Benefit Pension	234.70	226.50		
<i>Social Assistance Payments</i>				
Jobseeker's Allowance/ Farm Assist/Pre-Retirement/ Supplementary Welfare Allowance	204.30	196.00	135.60	130.10
One Parent Family Payment	204.30	196.00		
Widow's/Widower's (Non-Contributory) Pension/ Deserted Wife's Allowance/Prisoner's Wife's Allowance	204.30	196.00		
Carer's Allowance	220.50	212.00		
Disability Allowance/Blind Pension	204.30	196.00	135.60	130.10
<i>Other Social Welfare Payments</i>				
Maternity/Adoptive Benefit (minimum rate)	230.30	225.80		
(maximum rate)	280.00	270.00		
Guardian's Payment (Contributory)/(Non-Contributory)	176.50	169.00		

People of Working Age

Jobseeker's Allowance and Supplementary Welfare Allowance

- ◆ The rate of Jobseeker's Allowance or Supplementary Welfare Allowance paid to new claimants aged 20 and 21 is being reduced to €100 per week, with effect from January 2010, as has been applied from April 2009 to new claimants aged 18 or 19.
- ◆ The rate of Jobseeker's Allowance or Supplementary Welfare Allowance paid to new claimants aged 22, 23 and 24 years is being reduced to €150 per week, with effect from January 2010.
- ◆ **The full rate will be paid to those under 25 years of age if they participate in an approved training or education course.**
- ◆ 20-24 year olds with dependent children will not be affected.
- ◆ The personal rate of Jobseeker's Allowance and basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance will be reduced to €150 per week where job offers or activation measures have been refused. Further details of this measure will be published in the Social Welfare Bill 2010.

Treatment Benefits

- ◆ The Treatment Benefit scheme will be limited in 2010 to the Medical and Surgical Appliances scheme and the free examinations provided for under Dental and Optical Benefits (during 2010).

Rent Supplement

- ◆ The minimum contribution remains unchanged. Rent limits will be reviewed to reflect reductions in private rent levels (during 2010).