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Contact Us

If you or any of your staff or clients have queries with regard to:

- **Emigration from Ireland**
- **Returning to Ireland**
- **Immigration**

and for full details of the services available including opening hours, outreach locations and publications please feel free to contact us:

Drop-in: 1 Cathedral Street, Dublin 1

Telephone: + 353 (0)1 873 2844

Fax: + 353 (0)1 872 7003

Email: migrantproject@crosscare.ie

Website: www.migrantproject.ie

Follow us on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/LivinginIreland>

And see also our new multi-language website:

www.livinginireland.ie

1. Access to Rent Supplement for returning emigrants

Rent Supplement is a payment that can be made to people living in private rented accommodation who cannot provide for the cost of their accommodation from their own resources. In order to qualify for Rent Supplement, you must pass a **Means Test** and also satisfy the **Habitual Residence Condition**.

In addition to this, changes were introduced to the scheme in July 2009 which affect anyone coming back to live in Ireland who may need assistance with rental payments.

Since July 2009, you may only get Rent Supplement if you have been living for **6 months (183 days) out of the last 12 months** in one, or a combination, of the following:

- Accommodation for **homeless** people in Ireland
- **Private rented** accommodation in Ireland
- An **institution**, for example, a hospital, care home or place of detention

Or

- **Be assessed in the last 12 months by a local authority** (city or county council in Ireland) as being eligible for and in need of social housing.

For the majority of people who have recently returned to Ireland, they will not fall into any of the above categories.

If this is the case, you must **go to the local authority to have your housing need assessed**. The local authority must be in the same area that you intend to live and claim Rent Supplement. It is only after you have been assessed and deemed eligible for and in need of housing that you can then make an application for Rent Supplement.

Rent Supplement is not payable while you are waiting for the local authority to carry out the housing needs assessment.

This is extremely important for returning Irish citizens to be aware of, as it means you either need to be able to stay with friends or family, or be able to provide for private rented accommodation from your own resources while you are waiting for a housing needs assessment to take place. You could potentially be waiting for a housing assessment for anything from **a week or two in more rural areas up to 4-6 months in the Dublin City Council area**.

If the criteria and restrictions as described above pose problems for any returned Irish citizen you can contact us in Crosscare Migrant Project for assistance.

Click here or see the following link for more information on Rent Supplement:
<http://www.tinyurl.ie/1fc>

****NOTE****

Crosscare Migrant Project accepts queries from any person who may be considering returning to Ireland, and from anyone who has already returned to Ireland.

If you do not wish to receive this e-bulletin, please contact amytyndall@crosscare.ie

2. Central Statistics Office report shows Irish citizens continue to return to live in Ireland

On 21st September the Central Statistics Office Ireland (CSO) released its annual Population and Migration Estimates covering the 12 month period until April 2010.

The figures estimate that **13,300 Irish nationals returned to live in Ireland in the 12 months prior to April 2010.**

[Click here](#) or see the CSO website www.cso.ie to view the full version of the report.

3. The Habitual Residence Condition & returned Irish emigrants

Crosscare Migrant Project has had a number of returning Irish clients who at initial presentation to their local social welfare office or community welfare officer were verbally told that there was no point in applying as they would not satisfy the Habitual Residence Condition (HRC).

In a number of cases this has resulted in the person not making an application based on the misinformation that they would not be entitled to a payment. Such instances have involved only cursory enquiries into the person's circumstances by the officer.

A person has a **right to make a written application** and should insist on making one if they feel they are entitled to a payment so that the full circumstances of their case can be properly examined. Applicants also have the **right to written reasons for refusals.**

Verbal interactions that do not involve written applications or explanations are generally not recorded and do not show up on the already considerable statistics of Irish people who are refused a payment based on the HRC.

People should also be informed of their **right to apply for a Supplementary Welfare Allowance payment while awaiting the outcome** of their social welfare claim.

If you would like more information on the Habitual Residence Condition and how it may affect a returning Irish citizen, or if you are aware of any cases of Irish people refused a payment based on failure to satisfy the HRC, please get in touch with us.

Take part in our survey on Returning to Ireland:
www.migrantproject.ie