

## In This Issue

1. Services offered by Crosscare Migrant Project
2. The Habitual Residence Condition & returned Irish emigrants
3. Take part in our survey on Returning to Ireland

## 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>

## 1. Services offered by Crosscare Migrant Project

Crosscare Migrant Project (formerly Emigrant Advice) is an Irish organisation part-funded by the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

We offer a free, comprehensive **information, advocacy & referral service** to individuals considering returning to Ireland and to those who have already returned. The service we provide includes offering information on:

- Benefits & Entitlements
- Accommodation
- Healthcare
- Education
- Finding a job
- Pensions
- Banking etc.

We also work with people who have already returned to Ireland and assist them where necessary with applications for housing, social welfare, healthcare etc.

Crosscare Migrant Project works to ensure people are fully informed of their rights and entitlements and that they are provided with accurate information specific to their situation. We are also more than happy to provide information and support on these issues to **organisations both in Ireland and abroad**.

Additionally, Crosscare Migrant Project has produced a **guide to support returning Irish emigrants**. The 'Returning to Ireland' resource contains comprehensive information on the above topics, and is available to download in fact sheet format from our website or by clicking [here](#).

We have a drop-in centre in Cathedral St., Dublin 1, and we can also be contacted by phone or email.

## 2. The Habitual Residence Condition & returned Irish emigrants

The Habitual Residence Condition (HRC) was introduced in 2004 as a condition that must be satisfied by everyone, regardless of nationality, when applying for **certain social welfare payments** including Jobseeker's Allowance, Disability Allowance, State Pension (Non-Contributory), One-Parent Family payment and Child Benefit.

The HRC means that you **must have an adequate connection with Ireland** before you will be entitled to any of the above payments. Click [here](#) or see our website for more information on how habitual residence is decided, and on the five factors that should be taken into consideration.

If you do not wish to receive this e-bulletin, please contact [amytyndall@crosscare.ie](mailto:amytyndall@crosscare.ie)

Since its introduction in 2004, various Ministers for Social and Family Affairs have stated that the condition will not **adversely affect returned Irish emigrants** should they need some state support via a social welfare payment.

However it is our direct experience that **some permanently returned Irish emigrants** (including those returning from the UK) are being **incorrectly refused social welfare and supplementary welfare payments** on the grounds that they are not habitually resident in Ireland. Based on figures released by the Department, it appears that the number of Irish citizens refused a social welfare payment on HRC grounds has increased more than twofold since 2008.

Crosscare Migrant Project **recently met with Minister Éamon Ó Cuív** on the issue of returned Irish emigrants and the Habitual Residence Condition, and we continue to lobby government with a view to improving the guidelines for deciding officers in relation to application of the HRC to returned Irish citizens, and improving the implementation of this policy.

**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 returned Irish people refused a payment based on failure to satisfy the HRC, please get in touch with us.**

---

### 3. Take part in our survey on Returning to Ireland

We are currently conducting a survey **to assess the information and support needs of returning Irish citizens**, and also of the organisations that provide services to Irish people abroad.

The survey also addresses whether and how Crosscare Migrant Project currently meets these needs, and will help us to ensure that we provide the best service possible to Irish emigrants/returnees in the future.

Feedback from individuals and from organisations that provide information and services to Irish people abroad is very important to us, and it would be much appreciated if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey. It should only take about **5-10 minutes** of your time, and your answers will be completely anonymous and confidential unless you choose to provide your contact information.

Please **click here**, or **visit our website [www.migrantproject.ie](http://www.migrantproject.ie) to take part** in the survey. Many thanks!

---

See also our new multi-language website

[www.livinginireland.ie](http://www.livinginireland.ie)