***Press Release***

***27th April 2012***

On 26th April the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, T.D., launched a report which was commissioned and published by her own Department and the ESRI entitled ***Understanding Childhood Deprivation in Ireland,***Social Inclusion report No. 2.

The Report states that the maximum One Parent Family Payment (OFP) has been reduced in real terms by seven per cent between 2009 and 2012, along with reductions in Child Benefit and “this has reduced the capacity of parents to protect their children from deprivation, particularly in a context of high unemployment where the capacity to make up the difference through earnings is very limited”*.*

The Report also states that work is undeniably important in enabling a household to escape from poverty: “The gradual withdrawal of OFP as the parent’s earnings rise is important in this respect. It enables lone parents to improve their economic resources through earned income without completely withdrawing the security of the One Parent Family Payment. The earnings disregard has already been reduced by 13 per cent in real terms between 2009 and 2012”*.* The Report warns against further reducing the earnings disregard as announced in Budget 2012.

We sincerely hope that Minister Burton will take serious note of the contents of this report when formulating Budget 2013 as Budget 2012 was such a disaster for lone parents.

For more information:

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