

Don't Panic

Treoir urges parents who are receiving One Parent Family Payment not to panic following the publication of the Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2010 published yesterday.

The Bill will not affect lone parents whose youngest child is 13 until the year 2016. It will be phased in over the coming 6 years and will only affect those lone parents in 2011 who have children of 18.

Margot Doherty, Assistant Chief Executive of Treoir, said today

At the moment there are about 2,000 one parent families who get One-Parent Family Payment whose children are over 13. So in 2011 only those whose children reach 18 will be affected. So that is a very small number. In 2012 the age limit will also be 18. In 2013 the age limit is 17 and so on until 2016 when the age limit reaches 13. So to the vast majority of lone parents out there who are panicking we say – don't.

The Department of Social Protection plans to contact parents when their children reach the age of 10 to offer them training and prepare them for employment for when their children reach 13.

However, Treoir is concerned about the implications for teenage children of lone parents in the future and the lack of appropriate child care outside school hours and outside the school year and hope this issues will be addressed.

For further information please contact:

Margot Doherty

087 2263 164