



Appointment of the Social Workers Registration Board

Significant step toward Statutory Registration of Social Workers

A significant step has been made towards the statutory registration of Social Workers with the appointment of the Social Workers Registration Board, by the Minister for Health & Children, Ms. Mary Harney T.D. on 5th August 2010. The Registration Board is being established under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 and is the first of 12 Registration Boards to be appointed for Coru.

The purpose of a Registration Board is “to protect the public by fostering high standards of professional conduct and professional education, training and competence among registered practitioners”.

“The Social Workers Registrations Board will initially be responsible for putting in place a register which will go live in 2011 and within 2 years of establishment, all eligible Social Workers will be required to Register” - Tom Jordan, Chairperson, Health and Social Care Professionals Council.

The Registration Board is also responsible for setting the standards and requirements for the registration of Social Workers to include Education and a Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics.

“Our target as the Regulator is to fully implement the 2005 Act at the earliest possible date for all the professions covered by the Act. With statutory registration, the Council will have the powers to deal with those practitioners who do not reach or maintain the standards expected of the profession. We are delighted the Minister has established the first of the Registration Boards.” – Ginny Hanrahan, CEO, Health and Social Care Professionals Council.

This board has 13 members with a majority of members being non Social Work professionals.

The members are:

- Ms Monica Egan
- Ms Ursula Fernée
- Ms Fiona Geraghty
- Ms Mary Hargaden
- Mr Cormac Quinlan
- Prof. Suzanne Quin



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- Mr Pat Dunne
- Fr. Val Collier
- Prof. Chris Curtin
- Mr Ned Kelly
- Mr Damien Courtney
- Mr Denis Gallagher
- Ms Valentine O'Kelly

While the Social Workers Registration Board is working to establish a Register for Social Workers, the National Social Work Qualifications Board (NSWQB) will continue to deliver its statutory functions. Coru and NSWQB will work together, with the Department of Health and Children to ensure there is a smooth transition period, leading to the establishment of the register and the dissolution of the NSWQB, on a date to be decided by the Minister for Health and Children.

Updates on developments will be outlined on the Council's website www.coru.ie