

### **Services to or in support of Carers (Agenda Item 3)**

The State provides a range of services and supports for carers covering health services, income supports, taxation, employment, training and education, transport and housing. Generally each service provider makes information available about its own services and supports through a combination of leaflets, media campaigns, websites and public offices. Information is also filtered through representative organisations through articles in their newsletters or grants for booklets etc. The Citizens Information Board provides information about the range of Government supports available. In addition, Voluntary and Community groups provide a wide range of services and supports for carers and their families. Many of these services are financed by private donations and fundraising but the State also contributes a significant amount to these groups.

#### **Community Services**

<b>Service/Benefit</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Home Care Packages</i>	HSE	To support older people to continue to live in their own communities & to facilitate timely discharge of older people from acute hospitals
<i>Home Help Service</i>	HSE	To enable people, who may otherwise be in residential care to remain at home where appropriate.
<i>Day and Respite Care Services</i>	HSE	To provide a break for the care recipient, carer or both.
<i>Meals on Wheels Service</i>	HSE	A service for people in the community who are unable to cook for themselves due to illness, disability or age.
<i>Residential Services and Supports for Older People</i>	HSE	Long stay residential places to provide for those for whom home care is not appropriate.
<i>Carer Manager/Co-ordinators</i>	HSE	Have an advocacy role and can represent carers in accessing HSE and other services

#### **Income Support**

<b>Service/Benefit</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Carer's allowance</i>	D/SFA	A means tested income support payment for people providing full time care and attention to a person in need of such care.
<i>Carer's benefit</i>	D/SFA	A social insurance based payment for people providing full time care and attention to a person in need of such care.
<i>Respite care grant</i>	D/SFA	A universal payment of €1,700 a year for people providing full time care and attention to a person in need of such care.
<i>Domiciliary care allowance</i>	D/SFA	A monthly payment in respect of a child with a disability who requires continuous care substantially in excess of that normally required by a child of the same age.

<i>Homemaker's scheme and credited social insurance contributions</i>	D/SFA	Provisions to assist carers in preserving pension entitlements when they take a break from employment.
<i>Household benefits package</i>	D/SFA	A package of support which comprises the electricity/gas allowance, the telephone allowance & the free television licence.

### **Employment Supports**

<b>Service/Benefit</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Carer's leave scheme</i>	D/ETE	Statutory, temporary unpaid leave from employment in order to provide someone with full time care and attention.
<i>Work Life Balance Policy</i>	D/ETE	The National Framework Committee for Work/Life Balance Policies was established to support and facilitate the development of family friendly policies at the level of the enterprise.
<i>Back to Work Enterprise Allowance</i>	D/SFA	Schemes which enable social welfare recipients to take up self-employment & retain a proportion of their payment over a no. of years.

### **Education and Training**

<b>Service/Benefit</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Back to education allowance</i>	D/SFA	Educational opportunities scheme for persons in receipt of certain social welfare payments who wish to pursue an approved 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> level course of education
<i>Training Courses</i>	FÁS	People who had been in receipt of carer's allowance can avail of all FÁS training and employment programmes.
<i>Back to Education Initiative</i>	D/E&S	The BTEI provides flexible part-time options across further education for adults with less than upper second level education. It aims to give adults who wish to return to education an opportunity to combine their learning with family, work and other responsibilities.
<i>Dormant Accounts Funding for Training for Carers</i>	D/SFA & managed by POBAL	The key objective of this once-off funding measure is to provide training and support services for home carers, which will reduce the risk of injury to the carer and help them cope with the emotional and psychological aspects of their role. Twelve Groups have been approved for funding under this measure which will conclude in mid 2011.

## Taxation

<b>Service/Benefit</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Employment of a carer allowance</i>	Revenue	Can be claimed where a person, or a spouse or relative, is permanently incapacitated by reason of physical or mental infirmity and a person is employed to care for the incapacitated person
<i>Home carer tax credit</i>	Revenue	A tax credit in respect of those spouses of married one income families, jointly assessed, who work in the home caring for certain dependent persons.
<i>Incapacitated child tax credit</i>	Revenue	May be claimed by a parent/guardian of a child who is permanently incapacitated, either physically or mentally and prevented from maintaining himself or herself.
<i>Dependent relative tax credit</i>	Revenue	May be claimed by a person who is maintaining one of certain people at his/her own expense

## Transport

<b>Service/Benefit</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Rural Transport Programme</i>	Pobal on behalf of D/Transport	Programme which aims to provide a quality nationwide community based public transport system in rural Ireland which responds to local needs.
<i>Free travel scheme</i>	D/SFA	Provides free public transport for pass holders.
<i>Disabled driver's scheme</i>	Revenue	VRT & VAT exemption on the purchase of an adapted vehicle. Exemption from road tax.
<i>Disabled Person's Parking Card</i>	Local authorities	This card permits the holder to park his/her vehicle at parking meters, in disk parking areas and designated areas.
<i>VAT return on fuel (up to a limit)</i>	Revenue	

## Housing and Assisted Living

<b>Service/Benefit</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Housing adaptation grant for people with a disability</i>	D/EHLG via local authorities	Assists with the provision/adaptation of accommodation to meet the needs of people with a disability
<i>Mobility aids housing grant scheme</i>	D/EHLG via local authorities	Fast tracks grant aid to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing.
<i>Scheme of housing aid for older people</i>	D/EHLG via local authorities	Provides targeted support to improve conditions in the existing housing of older people including structural repairs or improvements, re-wiring, repairs to/replacement of windows and doors, the provision of water, sanitary services, heating, cleaning, painting etc.
<i>VAT Relief for the Purchase of Medical Equipment, Aids and Appliances</i>	Revenue	Zero rate of VAT on a limited range of medical equipment and appliances.  VAT refunds on certain aids and appliances for use by people with a disability.