

Press Release

Pensions for women get a head start

Champion athlete Catherina McKiernan launches '*Women & Pensions*', a guide on pension provision for women

Dublin, 3 March 2004: The Pensions Board, supported by Catherina McKiernan, today launched the second edition of their very comprehensive information booklet entitled "Women and Pensions" as part of their ongoing National Pensions Awareness Campaign.

According to a CSO 2002 survey of pension coverage, a majority of women in the workforce (55.8%) don't have a pension and it is for this reason they are one of the groups that the National Pensions Awareness Campaign will target in 2004. The booklet is a step-by-step guide specific to women on pensions matters.

Mary Coughlan TD, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, described this Pensions booklet as an essential information tool for all women when it comes to organising their personal finances. "Pensions awareness and uptake is extremely important for women in today's society whether they're working outside or in the home. I would urge all women to read this straightforward guide to pensions".

Speaking at the launch, Anne Maher, CEO, The Pensions Board, addressed the need for gender specific pension information, "there are many pension issues specific to women, whether they are married, separated or divorced, including working in the home, working as a carer, part-time work, maternity, parental leave and re-entering the workforce. This booklet outlines the way in which women can provide financial security for themselves and their dependents in retirement."

Represented at the launch were many of the key national organisations and associations that will assist in distributing this booklet through their respective membership networks including:- National Women's Council of Ireland, Irish Farmers Association – Women's Groups, Irish Country Women's Association, Network Ireland – Women in Business, Hotels, Restaurants and Licensed Premises Associations and Federations, Failte Ireland (CERT), Chambers of Commerce, Small Firms Association, ISME, IBEC, Trade Unions, Political Parties – Women's Groups and Area Partnership and LEADER Organisations.

The booklet will be available through Department of Social and Family Affairs public offices, Citizen Information Centres and Public Libraries throughout the country.

All information booklets produced by the Board are available free of charge by contacting the Information Unit at The Pensions Board on **Lo-Call 1890 65 65 65** or on (01) 6131900.

This booklet and all other pension information booklets are available on the Pension Board's website at www.pensionsboard.ie.

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