



Don't Cut Their Lifeline:
poverty hurts us all
Pre-Budget Submission
Launch

Wednesday 2nd
November 2011



Addressing the Crisis the Fair Way

- Social Spending as a percentage of GDP closer to that of the poorer EU accession states
- Those who can afford to must contribute more toward our social and economic recovery
- Fairness in the Tax System
- Commission on Taxation: end tax loopholes and reliefs for higher income and application of PRSI and levies to all income
- Best value from public services

Welfare and Work

- Protect Adult social welfare payments, Qualified Child Increases, Family Income Supplement levels and eligibility
- Recognise importance of Child Benefit
- Avoid creating further employment traps
- Make the social welfare system more responsive to atypical work and self employment (PRSI entitlement to JB)

Trapped by the System

Married man on Jobseekers Allowance, four children; temporary work twice in the last year; Payment and Rent Supplement cut after work dried up; SVP provided food vouchers and other supports but still struggling with rent; afraid to apply for temporary work given that Social Welfare payments cut off in the recent past



UN Universal Periodic Review

Recommendation accepted by Ireland, Oct 2011:

Make available adequate budgetary allocations despite financial constraints for the continued provision and improvement of education and health services which are essential to protect the rights of the poorest and the most vulnerable members of society (105.56)





Education

- Establish a National Book rental Scheme in both Primary and Secondary levels
- Ensure that schools take a cost conscious approach (contributions, exam costs, uniforms / gym wear)
- Protect Early Years, implement After-School care
- Protect School Completion, Home School Liaison, Education Welfare Board
- Prioritise Literacy and Numeracy

Health



- Protect eligibility to and the services provided under the Medical Card
- No further increase to prescription costs
- Primary Care reform and roll-out
- Protect Home help, ‘Seniors Alert’, community care
- Resource National Positive Aging Strategy

Housing and Homelessness

- Rent Supplement:
 - No further increase of minimum contribution by tenants
 - Directly to registered, compliant landlords
- Ensure Homeless services are effective
- Address LA Social Housing waiting lists
- Housing quality standards: Inspections by LAs & National House Conditions Survey



Energy



- No disconnections in Winter: make binding
- Protect poorest from Carbon Tax Increase
- Maintain SEAI funds for low income homeowners and social housing tenants

- Energy Efficiency of Private Rented units
- Pay-As-You-Save: Think of Implications
- Oil Stamps Saving Scheme: consider
- IPH/DIT Study: 112 excess winter '06/'07 deaths
- Launch, Fund Affordable Energy Strategy!

Financial Inclusion and Debt

- One in Six Households 'Unbanked'.
Banks to provide and promote appropriate, accessible and free Basic Payment / Bank accounts, available via the Post Office Network
- Debt & mortgage NGO coalition:
 - Multiple debt response, not just mortgage
 - Vincentian Partnership: Minimum Essential Budgets
 - Responses according to mortgage viability
 - Independent debt resolution agency
 - Personal insolvency legislation
- Regulate for-profit debt advisory / management



Major Issues of Concern

Transport:

- Protect Rural services enhance those for medical appointments (Older Peoples Commission finding)

Migration:

- Review Habitual Residence Condition
- Increase Direct Provision: currently inhuman

International Development and SVP Twinning:

- Keep promise of 0.7% GNP to ODA by 2015

Charities Tax Reform:

- Lower threshold for charitable tax relief
- Introduce a VAT compensation scheme
- Facilitate public support



Public Support Continues..

- Over 60% of income from public, on average
- 10,000 signatures for “School Books” campaign
- New volunteers – 588 in Dublin region since Jan 1st 2011



Broad Range of SVP Services



- 1000+ visitation conferences with 10,300 members
- We also have:
 - 150 shops
 - 66 Housing schemes
 - 14 hostels, 15 day-care centres
- Breakfast & homework clubs, After-school activities and revision classes

SVP Christmas Appeal



21st November to 11th
December

www.svp.ie/appeal

Thank you