

Crisis pregnancy is a term that only inadequately conveys the stories of women, who are involved in an unexpected or an unwanted pregnancy. Each story is unique and colours the lifetime of those who are most intimately involved. Isolation, lack of information and support too often characterise one of the defining events of any lifetime.

ANNUAL REPORT 2002

crisispregnancyagency
Formulating & Implementing a National Strategy



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A

...a reduction in the number of crisis pregnancies by the provision of education, advice and contraceptive services.

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



The establishment of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency was a response by the State, with all party support, to decades of debate about crisis pregnancies and a firm belief that practical assistance by Government must underpin public policy in the future. Crisis pregnancy is a term that only inadequately conveys the stories of women, and sometimes their partners, who are involved in an unexpected or an unwanted pregnancy. Each of these stories is unique and colours the lifetime of those who are most intimately involved. Too often, however, women face this time alone and in crisis. Fear, loneliness, isolation, and a lack of support too often characterise one of the defining events of any lifetime. Women may feel forced to deal with what should be a time of joy, shared with family and with community, but isolated from both.

The Crisis Pregnancy Agency was established to assist and improve the reality for women in Ireland. The Agency does not and will not make judgments on the decisions women make. To the contrary, the Agency respects the decisions made by women. For the future, the Agency seeks to ensure that the context in which women make their decisions about unexpected or an unwanted pregnancies is a supportive and an open one.

The Agency acknowledges that Ireland is changing and that progress is being made. Our task now is to lead the research and policy development that will identify the needs of women and the existing gaps in support. We aim, in partnership with the many voluntary and statutory agencies, to bring systematic focus to the examination of an issue that is as complex and as rapidly changing as our modern Irish society. We aim to go beyond examination and research and to assist in the formulation of practical solutions that will make a real difference to those involved. We aim to be a resource, a persuader and an educator for all who are already involved and for those who need to become involved.

We acknowledge the pioneering work of the voluntary agencies (Cherish, Cunamh, Cura, Dublin Well Woman, Irish Family Planning Association, LIFE, PACT and Treóir) who work for and with women who have crisis pregnancies. We rely on them to share their experience and knowledge with us as we, in turn, seek to give the statutory support that they have so long deserved but thus far lacked. We especially acknowledge the varied sources that contribute to the individual ethos of agencies, including the churches, the women's movement, as well as a laudable and deeply rooted sense of civic responsibility. The Agency aims to work with these agencies and to fully respect their ethos. We also recognise the work done by statutory service providers in this area.

We have taken up the challenge given us by the Oireachtas. In our first year we have traced the parameters of the issues and, through research and knowledge gained, we have begun to respond to their complexity. We take courage from the courage of women who are faced, not with the policy issue, but with the reality of a crisis pregnancy. They have little opportunity at this time for reflection on societal trends or best practice in public bodies. They need support now. Equally urgent is the need for more and better education. Education and research based information will be a key focus for the Agency. It will be the cornerstone of future prevention of unplanned and unwanted pregnancy.

I wish to acknowledge and to thank the Board and the Consultative Committee for their advice and commitment to setting sound, solid and ethical core values for the Agency. As a voluntary board, the members give of their time and experience out of a commitment to the issues involved. Their hard work on sub committees and the time they give to meeting with groups and committees has been inspiring and a source of great strength for the Agency. The Director and staff deserve deep appreciation for their hard work and sincere interest in the valuable work of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency. The Agency is fortunate in having a staff who have the necessary vision and experience to ensure that, with the guidance of the Board, its Strategy will be developed, implemented and monitored.

Olive Braiden

Ms Olive Braiden
CHAIRPERSON

B

...a reduction in the number of women with crisis pregnancies who opt for abortion by offering services and supports which make other options more attractive.

INTRODUCTION BY OUR DIRECTOR



The Crisis Pregnancy Agency was established in October 2001 and entered 2002 with a challenge to secure and fit out premises, recruit staff, establish sound accounting and administrative practices, and begin the core work of the Agency. Much was achieved in 2002, beginning with the recruitment of a vibrant and dedicated team.

The issues relating to crisis pregnancy are complex and cannot be traced to single factors. It will take the Agency some time to be able to address all contributory factors and, as a starting point, much research is needed to understand all the issues. In May 2002, members of the public were invited to make submissions related to our core mission, namely to address the issues of crisis pregnancies in Ireland. Over 260 submissions were received and analysed. Alongside this, a review of research, both Irish and international, commenced. Both these pieces of work have given the Agency sound direction for areas of action. It is apparent that the Agency will need to concentrate on certain core areas in the initial years.

Building on existing good work is a priority for the Agency, and an audit of services commenced in 2002 with the assistance of a health board liaison group. Service providers were asked to submit proposals for funding in the areas of prevention and support services for persons experiencing crisis pregnancies. The Agency received 144 project proposals, and funding of €2.77m was approved for 15 months. The area of crisis pregnancy counselling was of great concern to many, so the Agency commissioned research into crisis pregnancy counselling in Ireland. Counselling projects will be funded on consideration of the findings of this research.

Information, particularly for women experiencing a crisis pregnancy, was an immediate priority and the Positive Options campaign was planned and developed in 2002. The campaign provides women with a list of all crisis pregnancy service providers available who provide counselling free of charge.

I am happy to report that all necessary administrative and financial procedures to ensure the delivery of high quality administrative supports were put in place in 2002.

Finally, the Agency was officially opened in October of 2002. The annual report documents the progress which was achieved in a large number of areas in 2002. We look forward to similar achievements in 2003.

The Board of the Agency was very supportive of the Executive and, therefore, was central to ensuring we deliver our objectives.

I would like to thank all the staff members of the Executive for their hard work to get the Agency established. A great volume of work was completed in the first year, and is being carried through into 2003. I would also like to thank the main service providers who worked in partnership with the Crisis Pregnancy Agency. Together we strive to reduce the number of crisis pregnancies and to ensure that women at the centre of a crisis pregnancy know what services are available to enable them to discuss their options and feel supported.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Foley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms Sharon Foley
DIRECTOR

C

...counselling and medical services after
crisis pregnancy.

BOARD

The Minister for Health & Children appointed Ms Olive Braiden as Chairperson of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency on 3 October, 2001. Eight Board members were subsequently appointed. The membership of the Board is drawn from Government departments and key relevant health disciplines. It is an independent body with funding provided by Government as recommended by the Oireachtas all party Committee on Health & Children.

CHAIRPERSON Ms Olive Braiden

MEMBERS Ms Rosemary Grant, Principal Medical Social Worker, Coombe Women's Hospital
Dr Linda Hogan, Theologian, Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College
Mr Martin Larkin, Businessman
Ms Geraldine Luddy, Director, The Women's Health Council
Ms Pauline Moreau, Principal Officer, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
Mr Brian Mullen, Principal Officer, Department of Health & Children
Mr Anthony O'Gorman, School Inspector, Department of Education & Science
Ms Margaret Ryan, Private Counsellor

AUDITORS COMPTROLLER & AUDITOR GENERAL
Treasury Building
Dublin Castle, Dublin 2

ACCOUNTANTS COLLIGAN O'CEARBHAILL & CO
Chartered Accountants
Bri Chualann Court
Adelaide Road,
Bray, Co Wicklow

Ms Rosemary Grant	Mr Brian Mullen	Ms Linda Hogan	Mr Martin Larkin
Ms Pauline Moreau	Ms Geraldine Luddy	Mr Anthony O'Gorman	Ms Margaret Ryan



BOARD

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Statutory Instrument (No. 446 of 2001), Crisis Pregnancy Agency, Establishment Order, 2001 provides for the establishment of a 20 person committee drawing on the expertise of various statutory and non statutory organisations.

The function of the Consultative Committee is... "to advise the Agency in relation to (a) any matters pertaining to crisis pregnancy as are referred to it by the Agency and (b) any other matters coming within the remit of the Agency."

The Consultative Committee will provide expert advice to the Board of the Agency and will provide a forum for organisations with an interest in the work of the Agency with an opportunity to present their views.

Members of the Consultative Committee to the Crisis Pregnancy Agency were appointed by Mr Micheál Martin, T.D., Minister for Health & Children, in November 2002.

CHAIRPERSON Ms Linda Hogan, Theologian, Irish School of Ecumenics and Board Member, Crisis Pregnancy Agency

MEMBERS

- Ms Mairéad Curran, National Co-ordinator and Representative of Cura
- Ms Dolores Daly, Representative, National Parents Council
- Dr Séan Daly, Master, Coombe Women's Hospital, Representative of The Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
- Dr Michael Darling, Consultant Obstetrician and Representative of The Church of Ireland Bishops.
- Ms Margaret Dromey, Director and Representative of Treóir.
- Ms Catherine Duffy, A/Development Officer, Primary Care, Western Health Board, Representative of The Health Board Executive.
- Ms Fiona Dunne, Chairperson, Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) Women's Committee and Representative of ICTU.
- Ms Catherine Heaney, Chief Executive and Representative of the Irish Family Planning Association.
- Mr David Hughes, Deputy General Secretary and Representative of the Irish Nurses Organisation.
- Ms Julie Kerins, Cunamh, Representative of Council of Irish Adoption Agencies.
- Ms Karen Kiernan, Director and Representative of Cherish.
- Ms Margaret McCarthy, Education Officer and Representative of An Bord Altranais.
- Ms Marian Moylan, Board Member and Representative of Dublin Well Woman.
- Dr Ailís Ní Ríain, Director, Women's Health Programme, Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) and Representative of ICGP
- Ms Noelle Ryan, Taoiseach's Nominee
- Ms Ann Power, Representative, Irish Bishops Conference.

Further nominees will be appointed to represent the Travelling community, non-nationals, persons with disabilities and teachers' unions.

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB GROUPS

RECRUITMENT SUB GROUP

Ms Olive Braiden (Chairperson)
Ms Rosemary Grant (Board Member)
Ms Geraldine Luddy (Board Member)
Mr Brian Mullen (Board Member)

Administrative Support: Ms Louise Donnelly

FUNDING SUB GROUP

Mr Brian Mullen (Chairperson of Sub Group,
Board Member)

Ms Patsy Carr (Administration Manager)
Ms Sharon Foley (Director)
Ms Rosemary Grant (Board Member)
Ms Linda Hogan (Board Member)
Mr Martin Larkin (Board Member)

Administrative Support: Ms Sheena McAfee

RESEARCH SUB GROUP

Ms Linda Hogan (Chairperson of Sub Group and
Board Member)
Ms Margaret Fine-Davis (External)
Ms Sharon Foley (Director)
Mr Anthony O’Gorman (Board Member)
Ms Stephanie O’Keeffe (Research Officer)
Ms Caroline Spillane (Programmes and
Communications Manager)

Administrative Support: Ms Tracy Richardson

STRATEGIC SUB GROUP

Mr Anthony O’Gorman (Chairperson of Sub
Group and Board Member)
Ms Olive Braiden (Chairperson of Board)
Ms Patsy Carr (Administration Manager)
Ms Sharon Foley (Director)
Ms Rosemary Grant (Board Member)
Ms Geraldine Luddy (Board Member)
Ms Pauline Moreau (Board Member)
Mr Brian Mullen (Board Member)

Administrative Support: Ms Sheena McAfee

INFORMATION SUB GROUP

Ms Caroline Spillane (Chairperson and Programmes
and Communications Manager)
Ms Alison Begas, Dublin Well Woman
Ms Mairéad Curran, Cura
Ms Sherie De Burgh, Irish Family Planning Association
Ms Margot Doherty, Tréoir
Ms Julia Heffernan, LIFE Pregnancy Care
Ms Karen Kiernan, Cherish
Ms Teresa McElhinney, Southern Health Board
Ms Heather Tennant, PACT

Ms Mary Troy, Northern Area Health Board

Administrative Support: Ms Lynn Dowling

HEALTH BOARD LIAISON GROUP

Ms Patsy Carr (Chairperson and Administration Manager)
Mr John Cullinane – Mid Western Health Board
Ms Rachel Devlin – South Western Area Health Board
Ms Breege Doherty – Midland Health Board
Ms Catherine Duffy – Western Health Board
Mr Peter Foran – Eastern Regional Health Authority
Mr Martin Kane – East Coast Area Health Board
Ms Mary Murphy – Southern Health Board
Ms Rosemary O’Callaghan – North Eastern Health Board
Ms Angela O’Shea – South Eastern Health Board
Ms Caroline Spillane (Programmes and
Communication Manager)
Ms Carmel Taheny – North Western Health Board
Ms Mary Troy – Northern Area Health Board

Administrative Support: Ms Lynn Dowling/Ms Brenda Gargan



From top left to right: Mr Brian Mullen, Ms Margaret Ryan, Mr Anthony O’Gorman, Ms Pauline Moreau, Ms Linda Hogan, Ms Rosemary Grant, Mr Micheál Martin, TD, Minister for Health & Children, Ms Olive Braiden, and Ms Geraldine Luddy, pictured at the inaugural meeting of the Board of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency.

Establishment of the Agency

The Crisis Pregnancy Agency was established in October 2001, under the Health (Corporate Bodies) Act, 1961, and is governed by Statutory Instrument No.446 of 2001, Crisis Pregnancy Agency, Establishment Order, 2001.

The primary function of the Agency is to prepare **A Strategy to Address the Issue of Crisis Pregnancy**. The Statutory Instrument defines a crisis pregnancy as

“a pregnancy which is neither planned nor desired by the woman concerned, and which represents a personal crisis for her.”

This definition can, on occasion, include women for whom a planned or desired pregnancy develops into a crisis over time due to a change in circumstances.

The Strategy is to provide for:

- a) a reduction in the number of crisis pregnancies by the provision of education, advice and contraceptive services,
- b) a reduction in the number of women with crisis pregnancy who opt for abortion by offering services and supports which make other options more attractive,
- c) the provision of counselling and medical services after crisis pregnancy.

Capacity to deliver on these key functions will be developed over the years to include:

- drawing up a plan to reduce the number of crisis pregnancies,
- agreeing planned targets, and
- ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of planning and monitoring progress.

Vision and Principles

BACKGROUND

The number of women who give Irish addresses at UK abortion clinics is increasing every year. In 2001, 6673 abortions were performed in England or Wales on women who travelled from Ireland, compared with 6391 in 2000. The problem of crisis pregnancy in Ireland is multi-faceted, and no single measure will provide a solution to this issue. Consequently, several challenges face the Agency in its work.

The prevention of crisis pregnancy is a primary challenge and key objective of the Agency. Prevention issues include the education of young adults as well as the development of services appropriate to their needs and lifestyles. The Agency will develop strategies to enable women who have crisis pregnancies to be more aware of their options, and to improve the supports and assistance available to them in this situation. In this way, it is envisaged that women will have genuine alternatives to abortion. The Agency will also strive to ensure that the particular needs of women who have had an abortion, either recently or some time ago, are appropriately met. This will involve working towards the development of quality services that meet women's physical and emotional needs and treat women with compassion and understanding.

VISION

As the Agency develops a National Strategy, it holds a vision that places the woman with a crisis pregnancy at the centre of its work.

The vision is that the people requiring assistance in prevention or support during or after crisis pregnancies, should have access to quality services at individual and societal levels, which are appropriate to their needs, accessible and delivered in a sensitive and empathic manner.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The Agency strives to:

- be person-centred,
- work in partnership with statutory and voluntary organisations,
- nurture innovation and courage,
- continually improve quality and develop good practice(s), and
- add value and accountability to existing services.

Outline of Work of the Agency for 2002

In the first year of its establishment, the work of the Agency has centred on:

- putting in place its administrative structures,
- consultation with the public and key stakeholders,
- establishment of Research Programme,
- funding service providers,
- development of Communications and Information Programmes, and
- initiating the development of a National Strategy.

Putting in Place Administrative Structures

The Agency secured suitable premises late in 2001. It took up occupancy in January 2002 and the premises were fitted out in the first quarter of the year. The Agency received approval to appoint twelve staff in total and a sub group of the Board was established to oversee the recruitment of management personnel. A Director and two senior managers (Administration and Programmes and Communications) were appointed in May 2002. A Research Officer, Health Promotion and Education Officer and an Administration Officer, as well as administrative support staff, were recruited in 2002. To complete the staff complement, a second Research Officer will be hired in 2003. The Agency is pleased that experienced and dedicated staff have been employed at all levels to assist in the work.

STAFF

Director

Ms Sharon Foley

Administration Manager

Ms Patsy Carr

Programmes and Communications Manager

Ms Caroline Spillane

Research Officer

Ms Stephanie O'Keeffe

Research Officer

Vacant

Health Promotion and Education Officer

Ms Sioban O'Brien-Green

Administration Officer

Ms Sheena McAfee

Administration Assistant

Ms Lynn Dowling

Administration Assistant

Ms Brenda Gargan

Administration Assistant

Ms Tracy Richardson

Receptionist

Ms Louise Donnelly/Ms Natasha Reid

Typist/Office Clerk

Ms Therese Cusack

With staff recruited, the Agency became fully operational and policies were agreed. The following core principles underpin its work:

- development of sustainable partnerships with all service providers,
- use of research as a guide to the development of good practice, and
- development of team approach to work and its shared ownership.

Running an effective and efficient office is central to achieving Agency goals.

As an employer, the Agency values the input of all staff members and is committed to staff training and development to meet their full potential. Staff members are consulted and encouraged to become involved in all aspects of Agency work. Office meetings are held where all members of staff are encouraged to participate and share opinions on how projects might best be approached. This is a valuable mechanism that brings innovation to the teamwork of the Agency. It gives all a sense of ownership and ensures timely and efficient communication.

PARTNERSHIPS AND LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS

Much work has been done already in the area of crisis pregnancy, and the Agency endeavours to work with existing expertise as well as develop its own in-house expertise. The Agency is committed to utilising existing working structures where possible. It has established ways to work in partnership with health boards and voluntary organisations. Working groups with membership drawn from both the statutory and voluntary sectors ensure ongoing communication and oversee individual projects.

A health board liaison group was established to provide a link between each health board and the Crisis Pregnancy Agency. Each health board has a nominee on the group whose role is to represent the parent health board within the Agency and to link the Agency with all local service providers. An Information Sub Group of the Agency's Communication Project was established, comprising health board representatives and representatives from the six main service providers. The expertise in this group was particularly useful in drafting resource materials for the Agency's information campaign.

Consultation with the Public and Key Stakeholders

In 2002 the Agency commenced a wide-ranging consultation process that will inform the development of the **National Strategy to Address Crisis Pregnancy**. In the first instance, key service providers (Cherish, Cura, Dublin Well Woman, Irish Family Planning Association, LIFE and PACT) were met by the Board of the Agency and later by the Director, who also met with Tréoir. The Board and Executive also met with key professionals in the education sector. These were important and useful meetings, and the Board is committed to ongoing consultation with other interest groups and representative organisations. In May 2002 the Agency invited submissions from the public and 267 were received. An analysis of the main themes of these submissions has been drafted, and it provides a snapshot of diverse views on all aspects of crisis pregnancy.

In 2003 a more extensive and targeted consultation based around specific themes will be initiated within the context of formulating a National Strategy. This will allow the Agency to gather information from women at the centre of crisis pregnancies, as well as those providing front line services and policy makers.

Establishment of a Research Programme

A research sub group was established by the Board to provide clear direction to the research component of the Agency's work. The group is made up of Board members and Agency staff as well as outside expertise.

To inform the Agency's Strategy, it is important to have the most up to date relevant data. While there is some excellent research in the broad area of crisis pregnancy, most notably the 'Women and Crisis Pregnancy' study by Mahon, Conlon and Dillon (Dublin, 1998), comprehensive information and research dealing with all aspects of crisis pregnancy are limited as a whole. In 2002 the Agency initiated the process of appraising research related to crisis pregnancy and pregnancy decision-making, and of highlighting information gaps that remain in our collective knowledge about contributory factors and solutions.

The Agency's main priorities in this area include the development of an initial research framework, an audit of existing research and an analysis of research gaps. An audit of nationally available services commenced in 2002. The final report will form baseline data for service developments in the coming years. The completed audit is expected in 2003. Several other research projects also commenced in 2002. These included:

- An analysis of research gaps in the area of crisis pregnancy. This will be finalised early in 2003.

- Evidence of best international practice. The Agency is committed to developing services in line with best international practice, and this report will be finalised in 2003.
- Research into the current pregnancy counselling services available throughout Ireland. The National University of Ireland, Galway, has been commissioned to carry this out. The findings are expected in April 2003, and will inform the future direction of pregnancy counselling services.

It is proposed to commission a number of additional pieces of research in 2003 that will inform other elements of the Strategy.

Funding Service Providers

The Agency is committed to funding high quality innovative projects which build on existing partnerships and which reflect its core principles.

It was clear at the outset that many organisations were providing crucial services within very limited resources. Without impinging on the direction that the Agency's Strategy would take, two areas were identified for immediate action – education and information in the broadest sense, and capacity building. The Agency provided funding within these two areas as the starting point for delivery of long-term strategic priorities. Providing this funding was seen as an interim measure and proposals for 2002 and 2003 were requested through public advertisement in May 2002.

A total of 144 individual project proposals were received from fifty organisations. The Funding Sub Group of the Agency's Board met frequently throughout June, July, August and September to assess the merits of individual projects. Nineteen organisations and 47 project proposals were approved for funding. Over €0.900m was distributed in 2002 with additional funding consequences of €1.8 million in 2003.

In total, €2.77m was approved in funding for a 15 month period to improve supports for women experiencing crisis pregnancies. The funding of counselling projects was deferred until the findings of research commissioned with the National University of Ireland, Galway, become available in March 2003. Those projects will be considered for funding in light of the findings of the research project and the resources available to the Agency. In addition, new funding proposals will be invited in 2003 that will build on work commenced in 2002.

Communications and Information Programme

Previous research in the area and all of the organisations working in the area of crisis pregnancy noted that many women were unaware of services and supports available to them should they experience crisis pregnancies. In addition, a strong need to promote information around prevention of pregnancy as part of a long term prevention campaign has been widely recommended. The Communications Programme began to address these information deficits in 2002.

POSITIVE OPTIONS INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

A working group comprising representatives from the six main service providers, Treóir and two health boards actively participated in the research and development of a range of information resources. An information campaign on crisis pregnancy services was developed in 2002. The Positive Options campaign on crisis pregnancy services focuses on making women more aware of their options, should they experience crisis pregnancies. The rationale behind the message is to empower women to seek assistance without judging them or adding to their crises.

Phase one of the Positive Options campaign commenced in 2002. This included media placement, a pilot text messaging service (SMS) in Galway and Dublin 3rd level colleges, development and distribution of an information leaflet and posters, development of the web portal, www.positiveoptions.ie, and dedicated crisis pregnancy web pages on service provider sites. Phase two of the campaign will run in the 2003 and will involve intensive advertising of each campaign element, new resource development and targeted promotional campaigns in specific settings.

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

An advertising agency was retained in December 2002 to develop effective programmes for the promotion of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency and its activities.

A Health Promotion and Education Officer was recruited in November 2002. Work commenced in conjunction with the national co-coordinators of SPHE and RSE, the Health Board Liaison Group, Health Promotion Departments, representatives from the Union of Students in Ireland and other relevant agencies and organisations on the development of research, training, literature and multimedia resources. Developing these contacts into constructive, ongoing working relationships for all involved will be a key focus for work in 2003.

Strategy Development

A Strategy sub group was established by the Board to outline the parameters of formulating **A National Strategy to Address the Issue of Crisis Pregnancy**, and to oversee its development. The group met regularly and agreed that a comprehensive and targeted consultation process would enable the Agency to develop a strategy that is needs based, considered and responsive. A Strategy Consultation Day was held with the Board, and it was agreed that a framework for the Strategy be developed initially, followed by a final Strategy document that would reflect the planned, public and targeted consultation process. This document will outline the strategic direction for the Agency over the coming four years (2003-2006).



+OPTIONS
CRISIS PREGNANCY SERVICES

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

Section 17 of Statutory Instrument No. 446, 2001 (Crisis Pregnancy Agency Establishment Order), 2001 requires the Board to keep all proper and usual accounts of all monies received or expended by it, including an income and expenditure account and a balance sheet. In preparing those financial statements, the Board is required to:



Ms Olive Braiden, Chairperson, Mr Ivor Callely, Minister of State at the Department of Health & Children, and Ms Sharon Foley, Director, pictured at the official opening of the Agency, 28th November 2002.

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless a decision is taken for the Agency not to continue in operation, and
- follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Agency and which enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 17 of Statutory Instrument 446 of 2001. The books of account are held at the Agency's headquarters at **89-94 Capel Street, Dublin 1**. The Board is also responsible for safeguarding the Agency's assets and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Olive Braiden

CHAIRPERSON

Sharon Foley

DIRECTOR

STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

On behalf of the Board of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency, I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated.

The system can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment is in place by:

- clearly defining management responsibilities and powers,
- establishing formal procedures for monitoring the activities and safeguarding the assets of the organisation, and
- developing a culture of accountability across all levels of the organisation.

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, administration procedures including segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- a comprehensive budgeting system with an annual budget which is reviewed and agreed by the Board,
- regular reviews by the Board of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts,
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance, and
- formal project management disciplines.

As the Agency is only recently established, the internal audit function is not fully developed. However, when developed, it will be overseen by the Finance & Audit Committee in line with the Framework Codes of Best Practice set out in the Code of Practice on the Governance of State Bodies. The internal audit function will provide the Board with a report on the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.

The Board's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control will be informed by the work of the Finance & Audit Committee. It will oversee the work of internal audit, the executive managers with the Agency who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the financial control framework, and comments made by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his management letter.

I confirm that, in the year ended 31 December 2002, the Board of the Agency had conducted a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial controls.

Signed on behalf of the Board,



Ms Olive Braiden
CHAIRPERSON

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis except as disclosed below. They are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the Historical Cost Convention, and comply with the financial reporting standards of the Accounting Standards Board.

2 INCOME

The Oireachtas Grant income represents the receipts from the Department of Health & Children in respect of the year 2002.

3 FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets are shown at original cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on the straight line basis at the following rates:

	%
Computers and telephony	33
Furniture	12.5 to 25
Leasehold improvements	10

4 CAPITAL ACCOUNT

The capital account represents the unamortised amount of income allocated for the purchase of fixed assets.

5 SUPERANNUATION

Superannuation costs are charged against revenue when they arise.

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

FOR PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

I have audited the financial statements on pages 14 to 20 under Section 5 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD AND THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

The accounting responsibilities of the members of the Board are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Board on page 14. It is my responsibility, based on my audit, to form an independent opinion on the financial statements presented to me by the Agency and to report on them.

I review whether the statement on pages 14 and 15 reflects the Agency's compliance with applicable guidance on corporate governance and report any material instance where it does not do so, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information of which I am aware from my audit of the financial statements.

BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General, I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with auditing standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board and by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation.

An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Agency's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations that I considered necessary to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

PENSION COSTS

Without qualifying my opinion, I draw attention to note 7 on superannuation which discloses the Agency's treatment of pension costs in the financial statements. The disclosure does not comply with the requirements of Financial Reporting Standard 17.

OPINION

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Agency and the financial statements, which are in agreement with them, give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency at 31st December 2002 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.



Gerard Smyth

for and on behalf of the

Comptroller and Auditor General
July 2003

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST DECEMBER 2002		Notes	2002	2001
			€	€
INCOME	Oireachtas grant		2,492,382	21,617
	Transfer to capital account	1	(258,004)	-
	Total income		2,234,378	21,617
EXPENDITURE	Service Provision	3	1,187,239	-
	Administration expenses	4	662,806	21,617
	Total expenditure		1,850,045	21,617
	Surplus for year		384,333	-
	Accumulated Surplus at 1 st January 2002		-	-
	Accumulated Surplus at 31 st December 2002		384,333	-

The Agency had no gains or losses in the financial year or the preceding period other than those dealt with in the income and expenditure account.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2002

		Notes	2002	2001
			€	€
FIXED ASSETS		1	258,004	-
CURRENT ASSETS	Debtors and pre-payments		32,712	21,617
	Cash at bank and on hand		542,149	-
			574,861	21,617
CURRENT LIABILITIES	Creditors and accruals		190,528	21,617
	Net current assets		384,333	-
NET ASSETS			642,337	-
REPRESENTED BY	Capital account	2	258,004	-
	Income and expenditure account		384,333	-
			642,337	-

The accounting policies on page 16, together with notes 1 to 8, form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board,



CHAIRPERSON



DIRECTOR

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST DECEMBER 2002		Furniture and Equipment	Computers and Telephony	Leasehold and Improvements	Total
1	FIXED ASSETS	€	€	€	€
	Cost				
	Balance 1 st January	-	-	-	-
	Additions	119,063	78,522	120,871	318,456
	Disposals	-	-	-	-
	Balance 31 st December	119,063	78,522	120,871	318,456
	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION				
	Balance 1 st January	-	-	-	-
	Charge for year	22,194	26,171	12,087	60,452
	Balance 31 st December	22,194	26,171	12,087	60,452
	NET BOOK VALUE				
	31 st December 2002	96,869	52,351	108,784	258,004

		2002	2001
		€	€
2	CAPITAL ACCOUNT		
	Balance 1 st January	-	-
	Income applied to purchase fixed assets	318,456	-
	Amortised in the year in line with asset depreciation	(60,452)	-
	Balance 31 st December	258,004	-

		€
3	SERVICE PROVISION	
	Grant payments	903,522
	Communication programmes	226,715
	Research	57,002
	Total	1,187,239

4	ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	
	Payroll	331,517
	Rent	115,282
	Office supplies	75,309
	Board	33,689
	Utilities and insurance	26,143
	Audit fee	7,300
	Professional fees	12,617
	Bank charges	249
	Repairs	248
	Depreciation	60,452
	Total	662,806

5	CONTINGENT LIABILITIES	There were no contingent liabilities at 31 st December 2002.
6	CAPITAL COMMITMENTS	<p>a) There were no capital commitments at 31st December 2002.</p> <p>b) The Crisis Pregnancy Agency has funding commitments amounting to €2,517,702 and covering the period 2003 to 2005.</p> <p>c) The Crisis Pregnancy Agency has commitments up to 2012 in respect of lease of office accommodation at Capel Street, Dublin 1. The current annual rent is €115,864.</p>
7	SUPERANNUATION	<p>Pending the establishment of an approved defined benefits superannuation scheme under Section 20 of Statutory Instrument No.446 of 2001, a pension scheme is being operated on an administrative basis. Contributions are being deducted from employees and are retained by the Agency pending a decision by the Department of Health & Children on a mechanism for paying over such contributions. An amount of €5,739, included in creditors, represents the cumulative amount of deductions as at 31st December 2002. Superannuation entitlements arising under the scheme are paid out of current income and are charged to the Income and Expenditure in the year in which they become payable. No provision is made in the financial statements in respect of future pension liabilities.</p> <p>The above treatment is not in accordance with the requirements of FRS 17.</p> <p>For accounting periods ending on or after 22nd June 2005, the Standard will require financial statements to reflect at fair value the assets and liabilities arising from an employer's superannuation obligation and to recognise the costs of providing superannuation benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees. As a transitional measure, the Standard requires that the present value of scheme liabilities and the costs of providing superannuation benefits be disclosed in the notes of the 2002 financial statements.</p> <p>In 2002 the Board was not in a position to comply with the requirements of FRS 17 as it did not obtain an actuarial valuation of the schemes liabilities.</p>
8	BOARD MEMBERS - DISCLOSURES OF TRANSACTIONS	The Board adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Finance in relation to the disclosure of interests by Board members and these procedures have been adhered to in the year. There were no transactions in the year in relation to the Board's activities in which Board members had any beneficial interest.

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