

### Revenue and Tax Credits

- Blind Tax Credit, Incapacitated Child Credit, Home Carer Credit cut by 10%.
- Introduction of the Universal Social Charge.
- Rental tax credits reduced by 20%
- VAT increased from 21% to 23% in 2012.
- Household charge of €100 introduced
- Carbon tax on petrol, diesel, oil and gas.

### Income Support

- Disability Welfare payments cut by €16.30 or 8% since 2010.
- Loss of xmas bonus of €204.30 in 2009
- Child Benefit cut of between €26 - €55 per month depending on family size.
- Fuel allowance Scheme cut by 6 weeks.
- Electricity and National Gas Allowance cut
- Telephone Allowance cut.

### Health

- Monthly threshold for the Drugs Payment Scheme increased from €100 to €120 in 2010, and then to €132 in 2012.
- Prescription charge of 50 cent for medical card holder to a monthly ceiling of €10 per family.
- The Dental Treatment Benefit Scheme was limited to one annual oral examination in 2010. Dental treatments for medical card holders have also been restricted.
- The Optical Treatment Benefit Scheme was limited to a free eye exam only; free spectacles or contact lenses are no longer available.

### Education Support

- National Council for Special Education (NCSE) budget cut by €2.3 million or 21% in 2011.
- In 2011, the number of SNA's was capped.
- In 2011, number of NEPS psychologists restricted to 178 rather than the increase to 210 promised in Budget 2010.
- In 2012, funding for access programme for students with disabilities cut by 20% in universities.
- In 2012, the teacher-pupil ratio allocations increased.



### Disability Services Funding

- A 14% drop in annual HSE-funded net expenditure on disability services between 2008 and 2011<sup>1</sup>.
- In addition, research done by DFI found that fundraised income has been severely affected by the economic downturn. Over half of the organisations we sampled sustained an average drop of 17% in their fundraised income<sup>2</sup>.

### Housing

- Funding for social housing reduced by 36% in 2011.
- The Capital Assistance Scheme, used to house people with disabilities reduced from €145m in 2010 to €75m in 2011.
- Housing Adaptations Grant reduced by 21% from €94m in 2010 to €73m in 2011 and again to €55m in 2012.
- The minimum contribution required of rent supplement recipients increase in 2012.

Registration Office. Contact DFI for more information on this research.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Health (2012) Value for Money Review of Disability Services, Table 1.1.