

**IRISH WELFARE BUREAU**  
HAMMERSMITH — LONDON

# Fourth Annual Report 1974

## DIRECTOR'S FORWARD

The support of so many organizations and individuals enables me to present the Bureau's fourth Annual Report with pride. The past year has been a very testing time, however the dedication and concern of our volunteers has enabled Sr. Jane Frances to present a report of varied and valuable work.

Our plans for a small hostel mentioned in previous reports were formally concluded later this year. After many disappointments with properties it was decided when the necessary permission was granted to purchase 72 Hammersmith Grove, W.6. Under difficult circumstances the Social Services Committee gave the project keen support and forwarded its application for Urban Aid, for this we were most grateful. All that remains now is for the legal transfer of the property and it is hoped to be in operation by the end of March 1975.

With the depression of inflation all round us, I feel it is very appropriate to say a word to those who made the capital available for the new hostel. The Hammersmith and Birmingham Communities of the Augustinian Order, the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigration and the many people who helped by supporting our dances, raffles and jumble sales etc over the years to create a development fund. The Irish community in London acting through the County, parish and various other associations have not only supported our functions but contributed to our finances in a personal way. To you our friends I would like to say a very sincere thank you.

In September Sr. Jane Frances joined the staff. For many years she was connected with the Irish Centre in Liverpool, we welcome her and

wish her many happy years in the West London area. In maintaining the efficient daily running of the Bureau no praise is high enough for our voluntary workers, their dedicated support is in no small way responsible for the team spirit that prevails.

In conclusion I would like on a personal note to express thanks to all the local organizations who have cooperated so cordially for the benefit of our clients. To my fellow priests in St. Augustines, Mayor of Hammersmith Councillor George Simpson and that devoted group who rally so often for all our fund raising activities. With this spirit of cooperation and goodwill so obviously evident I look forward to the coming year with confidence.

Brian Lawlor.



## SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT

It was decided that in future the Annual Report, issued by the Bureau, would be based on the Calendar year, i.e. January to December instead of the November to October period. This fourth Annual Report therefore covers a 14 month period as the November to December 1973 figures were not accounted for in the previous report which covered the 12 months November 1972 to October 1973.

The number of cases dealt with during these 14 months was 840. This figure was arrived at as follows:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| New Applications  | = 691 (717 persons <u>not</u> including children) |
| Re-applications from previous clients and cases continued from previous year. | = 149   |
| Total   | <hr/> 840   |

The number of families included in the figure of 691 New Applications was 121 (266 children) some were two parent families, others one parent families.

Most of the cases were dealt with on a short-term basis. Long-term supportive care was given in 48 cases through home visits and counselling interviews in the Bureau. Substantial material and financial aid was given when it was evident that such aid was necessary.

The statistical tables attached show:

1. the wide range of problems dealt with by the Bureau
2. the sources of referral
3. the nationalities of the clients.

The figure of 41 persons newly arrived from Ireland only includes those who came to the Bureau directly on arrival from Ireland. Many other young people came to us through other helping agencies i.e. Centre Point, The Cyrenians and Local Authority Social Services. Many of these had come to London only recently. There has been an increase of young people between 16 - 24 years applying to the Bureau for help. A large proportion of these appear to come to London determined to live the 'life style' of living together in squatting accommodation and crash pads and 'conning' their livelihood whenever they can. This particular type of young person is not prepared to accept the type of help we can offer i.e. help with employment and hostel accommodation or residential employment. It is interesting to notice that this type of young person comes not only from the cities of Ireland but from quite remote parts of the country.

Local Authority Social Workers often request material and financial aid for their clients. Furniture, bedding, clothing and in some cases financial grants have been given whenever it was possible to do so within the limits of our resources.

The Bureau does not provide any service specifically for the 'Down and Out' but these people use the Bureau's 'Wardrobe and Meal Voucher Service' very frequently. These particular clients appreciate the opportunity of coming into a place where they can talk and be listened to. I have only recently joined the staff of the Bureau and I have been most impressed by the friendly relationship which has been built up with these men.



### Accommodation

Accommodation is our greatest problem here in London. We therefore regret that the Bureau cannot help families seeking accommodation. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable accommodation for single people. We have some contacts but the demand far exceeds the supply. At present we are exploring the possibility of developing further contacts by appealing to the local parishes. May we ask the Emigrant Bureau and Social Welfare Centre in Ireland to make the accommodation problem in London known to prospective Emigrants.

### Employment

Can often be found for people provided they are experienced and have references from former employees with them.

### Hostel for Working Men Project

In order to offer some constructive aid in the field of accommodation Father Lawlor plans to open a hostel for young working men whose only problem is lack of accommodation. It is also hoped to provide a Career Guidance Service for the residents of this hostel. This project is seen as preventive work.

### Holiday Fund

It is hoped to build up this Fund so that the Summer Holiday Scheme for unsupported mothers with families and some elderly folk may be repeated next summer.

## Voluntary Staff and Helpers

The very varied and efficient service which is given by the Bureau would not be possible without the co-operation of the Local Authority Social Services, Voluntary Agencies and Hostels. Our thanks is due to them and the Irish Embassy for the help given with repatriation.

To all these I wish to say a sincere

'Go Raib Mile Mait Agaib'

Sr. Jane Francis (Hons. Dip. Soc. & Econ. Studies.,  
C. M. W.)  
Social Worker.

# COUNTIES OF EIRE AND NORTHERN IRELAND

| County   | No. of Referrals |         | County    | No. of Referrals |         |
|----------|------------------|---------|-----------|------------------|---------|
|          | 1972-73          | 1973-74 |           | 1972-73          | 1973-74 |
| Antrim   | 4                | 36      | Leitrim   | 3                | 8       |
| Armagh   | 1                | 10      | Limerick  | 20               | 27      |
| Cavan    | 4                | 5       | Longford  | 2                | 3       |
| Carlow   | 5                | 4       | Louth     | 4                | 6       |
| Clare    | 14               | 9       | Mayo      | 15               | 23      |
| Dublin   | 90               | 103     | Meath     | 3                | 5       |
| Cork     | 54               | 102     | Monaghan  | 2                | 8       |
| Derry    | 5                | 7       | Offaly    | 1                | 5       |
| Donegal  | 3                | 20      | Rescommon | 3                | 8       |
| Down     | 38               | 9       | Sligo     | 6                | 9       |
| Galway   | 16               | 40      | Tipperary | 20               | 21      |
| Kerry    | 21               | 22      | Waterford | 10               | 22      |
| Kildare  | 1                | 4       | Westmeath | 1                | 11      |
| Kilkenny | 2                | 12      | Wexford   | 8                | 8       |
| Laois    | 1                | 7       | Wicklow   | 1                | 2       |

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Irish (County unknown - 27)



## SIMPLE ANALYSIS OF REFERRALS

| Age Groups | 0-16 | 17-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50-59 | 60+ | Not Known |
|------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----------|
| 1972-73.   | 118  | 64    | 130   | 80    | 103   | 58    | ( 76  | )   | 95        |
| 1973-74.   | 8    | 71    | 170   | 108   | 137   | 82    | 51    | 44  | 46        |

| Types of Problem          | Nov - Oct<br>1972-73 | Nov - Dec<br>1973-74 |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| New arrivals from Ireland | 85                   | 41                   |
| Financial                 | 183                  | 254                  |
| Accommodation             | 268                  | 241                  |
| Employment                | 62                   | 67                   |
| Information               | 35                   | 46                   |
| Advice                    | 28                   | 74                   |
| Material (Clothing etc.)  | 36                   | 98                   |
| Personal                  | 63                   | 50                   |
| Marital                   | 27                   | 35                   |
| General Welfare           | 10                   | 61                   |
| Emotional & Mental        | 25                   | 28                   |
| Ex Offenders              | 15                   | 26                   |
| Alcoholic                 | 10                   | 21                   |
| Pregnant & Unmarried      | 14                   | 18                   |
| Repatriation              | 20                   | 18                   |

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|                                     |     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Males                               | 330 | 436       |
| Females                             | 341 | 332       |
| Families                            | 60  | 121 (266) |
| Other Nationalities                 | 178 | 145       |
| Cases continued from previous years | 72  | 149       |
| Domiciliary visits                  | 208 | 185       |
| Hospital visits                     | 41  | 52        |
| Prison visits                       | 35  | 10        |
| Continued supportive work           | 40  | 48        |
| Telephone enquiries                 |     | 2400      |

# SOURCES OF REFERRALS

|                                    | 1972-73 | 1973-74 |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Personal application               | 92      | 197     |
| Clergy                             | 73      | 172     |
| London Borough of Hammersmith      | 42      | 63      |
| 'Friend'                           | 30      | 137     |
| Medical Social Workers (Hospitals) | 10      | 15      |
| Health visitors                    | 2       | 6       |
| Citizens' Advice Bureau            | 2       | 4       |
| Probation Service                  | -       | 5       |
| Irish Centre                       | -       | 6       |
| Centre Point                       | -       | 51      |
| Samaritans                         | -       | 5       |
| Cyrenians                          | -       | 3       |
| C.S.W.B. (Cork and Dublin)         | -       | 7       |
| Chiswick Women's Aid               | -       | 2       |

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## OTHER BOROUGHES

|                        |    |   |
|------------------------|----|---|
| Brent                  | 10 | 1 |
| City of Westminster    | 17 | 5 |
| Hackney                | 7  | 1 |
| Islington              | -  | 1 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 23 | 3 |
| Lewisham               | 1  | 1 |
| Tower Hamlets          | -  | 1 |
| Wandsworth             | 20 | 3 |

SOURCES OF REFERRALS

| 1973-74 | 1972-73 |                                    |
|---------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 197     | 32      | Personal Application               |
| 172     | 73      | Clery                              |
| 62      | 42      | London Borough of Hammersmith      |
| 137     | 30      | Friends                            |
| 12      | 10      | Medical-Social Workers (Hospitals) |
| 6       | 2       | Adult Visitors                     |
| 4       | 2       | Citizens Advice Bureau             |
| 2       | -       | Referral Service                   |
| 2       | -       | Irish Centre                       |
| 21      | -       | Centre Point                       |
| 2       | -       | Family and                         |
| 3       | -       | Cyrians                            |
| 7       | -       | C.S.W.R. (Cook and Duffin)         |
| 2       | -       | Claremont Women's Aid              |

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OTHER BOROUGHS

| 1 | 10 | Hampton                |
|---|----|------------------------|
| 2 | 17 | City of Westminster    |
| 1 | 7  | Wokingham              |
| 1 | -  | Reading                |
| 3 | 23 | Reading and Cheltenham |
| 1 | 1  | Reading                |
| 1 | -  | Tower Hamlets          |
| 2 | 20 | Reading                |



## OTHER NATIONALITIES

| Country     | 1972-73 | 1973-74 |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| Australia   | 2       | 4       |
| Austria     | -       | 1       |
| Brazil      | -       | 1       |
| Burma       | -       | 1       |
| Canada      | -       | 2       |
| Dominica    | -       | 1       |
| England     | 110     | 83      |
| Egypt       | -       | 2       |
| Guyana      | -       | 1       |
| India       | 2       | 1       |
| Iran        | -       | 1       |
| Italy       | 6       | 2       |
| Morocco     | -       | 1       |
| Nigeria     | -       | 3       |
| Poland      | 1       | 1       |
| Portugal    | 1       | 1       |
| Scotland    | 18      | 25      |
| Spain       | 6       | 1       |
| Syria       | -       | 1       |
| Tunisia     | -       | 1       |
| U.S.A.      | 4       | 2       |
| Wales       | 2       | 4       |
| West Indies | 3       | 5       |