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Centrecare Welcomes Rent Supplement Reversal

Centrecare, a project of Crosscare, has welcomed the news that the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mr. Brennan, has axed the rules restricting access to rent supplement.

Since this change was brought in as one of the ‘savage 16’ welfare cuts in the previous budget, Centrecare has campaigned and lobbied to have the changes to rent supplement eligibility amended.

Centrecare undertook research in response to these changes in an attempt to identify issues arising from the first six months since the changes. The report ‘Creating Crisis’ showed the human impact of these changes, and showed that the changes were having an adverse affect on the most vulnerable people in our society.

The study highlighted the plight of people who found themselves having to deal with unexpected crises such as job loss, relationship breakdowns and crisis pregnancy. The rent supplement scheme, in its restricted form, was not available for people in these difficult situations.

Bryan Gavin, Information Officer with Centrecare said, “We are delighted that Minister Brennan has acted on the evidence we and other organisations provided in relation to these cuts and welcome the amendments”.

“As information/advice organisations it is our responsibility to tell policy makers about the impact of policy changes on the ground. We welcome the Ministers decision to make these necessary changes to what was one of the harshest of the 16 welfare cuts,” said Yvonne Fleming, co-ordinator of Centrecare.

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