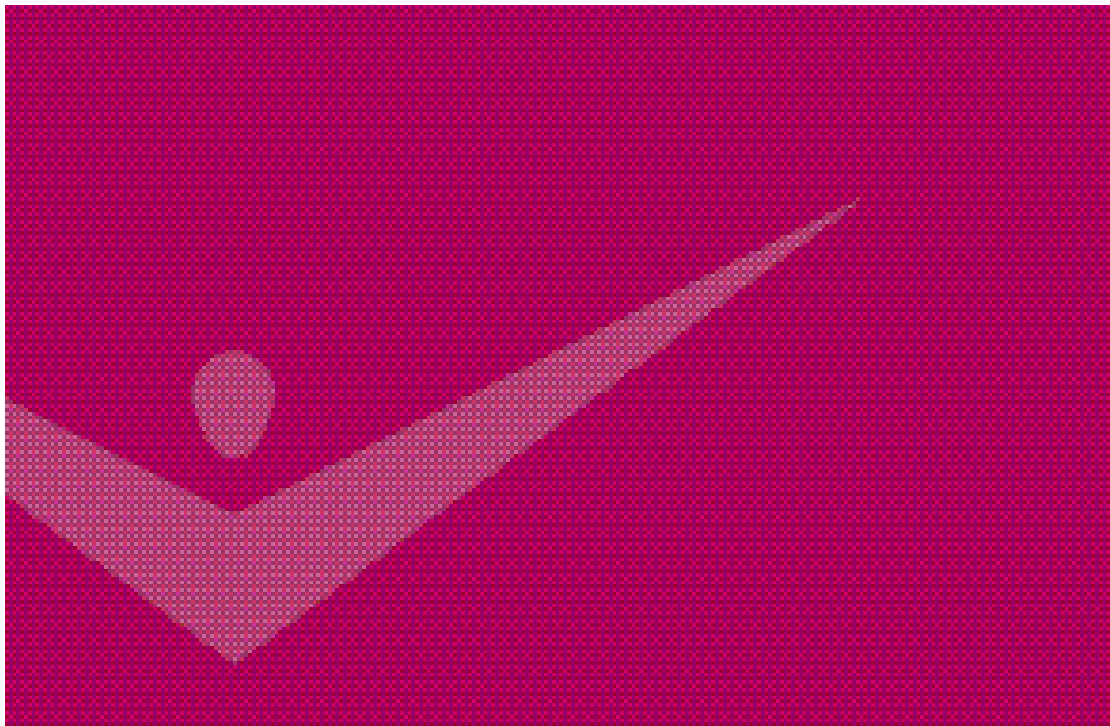


Commission
for the Support of
Victims of Crime

Annual Report 2011



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COMMISSION FOR THE SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF CRIME
REPORT TO THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY
2011

Executive Summary

- The Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime allocated €1,166,548 to 46 voluntary sector organisations providing front-line services for the support of victims of crime in 2011. The 46 funded organisations spent in total €1,205,684 of Commission funding in 2011, a decline of 5.5% on the 2010 expenditure. Some surpluses were carried over by the funded organisations from 2010. (section 1)

- A total of 13,874 victims were assisted with this funding, an increase of 14% over 2010. (section 2.6)

- There were 33,556 meetings or phone contacts with these victims in the year. (section 2.6)

- Funded projects drew on the assistance of 489 volunteers and employed the equivalent of 24 full-time staff. (section 4)

- The Consultative Forum held two meetings in 2011. The meeting in April looked at how the sector can organise itself to work more closely together so that services are delivered more effectively for and with victims. The second meeting continued the focus on co-operation and collaboration between the funded organisations. It also provided organisations with an opportunity to have an input into the drafting of the proposed new victim's legislation. (Section 5)

- The Commission held a training workshop for its funded organisations in 2011. Matters covered included the disclosure of counselling notes in criminal cases and issues concerning potential child witnesses and counselling. (Section 6).

1. Overview of Funding by the Commission in 2011

- 1.1 A key function of the Commission is the allocation of funding to voluntary sector organisations providing support to victim of crime. A total budget of €1,321,000 was made available to the Commission in 2011. However, this was later reduced to €1,181,000. €1,166,548 was allocated to 46 organisations by the Commission. Some organisations carried over surpluses from 2010 with the result that € 1,205,684 was spent in total by the funded organisations. The remainder of the budget was spent on running the Consultative Forum, the provision of training and other administrative expenses.
- 1.2 A public advertisement was placed in national newspapers on the 16th October, 2010, inviting applications for funding for 2011. Most of the applications received were from organisations that had applied for and had received funding in previous years from the Commission. The Commission received 50 applications and approved 46.
- 1.3 The Commission is independent in its decision-making process and assesses each application on its own merits. As in previous years, the Commission decided to prioritise the funding of activities at ground level that provide direct supports for victims of crime, rather than administrative structures or research projects. A substantial amount of the funding provided was towards the provision of a court accompaniment service to victims of crime. The Commission also assisted organisations who support victims of crime to offer support and information to victims who are going through the legal process.
- 1.4 The successful organisations were notified by the end of December 2010, of the Commission's decision that funding would be made available to them. This was to facilitate continuity of services to victims and to enable organisations to more confidently plan their services for the full calendar year 2011. The majority of initial payments were made in the first quarter of 2011, subject to meeting the Commission requirements as regards reports on 2010 funding and expenditure profiles for 2011. By the end of March, 2011, €948,348 had been paid out to funded organisations. This meant that 90% of the possible initial payments were made at that point.

- 1.5 The Commission again carried out a detailed analysis of the end of year returns provided by the funded organisations. The full analysis is available on the Commission's website (www.csvc.ie) under "Publications". As part of this analysis audited accounts for 2010 were examined. Commission funding accounted for only 2% of the funding of organisations overall. However, there was large variance between the different sectors in this amount, with Commission funding accounting for 80% on average of funding in the general crime sector and for more than 95% of funding for three organisations in that sector.
- 1.6 The Commission has been working with the general crime sector to expand services. It is heartened to see the way in which the Federation for Victim Assistance has increased the number of its branches by three in 2011, and the increased number of contacts with the Crime Victims Helpline and Support After Crime Services. However, funding is beginning to act as a constraint on further expansion of services.
- 1.7 The audited accounts for 2010 also revealed that organisations had on average reserves to cover 16 weeks of expenses. Again there was large variance with four organisations, showing deficits and no reserves. The Commission is not surprised but it is concerned that the average lack of reserves has declined by just over a quarter compared to the 2009 situation. It is expected that 2011 audited accounts will show a further decline in reserves. This may call into question the survival of some organisations in 2012 and later years.

2. Funding allocated by the Commission per sector

2.1 The Commission granted funding to the following nine organisations providing services to victims of crime generally:

- **Crime Victims Helpline [116 006]**

The Commission supports and promotes the national Crime Victims Helpline as a central point of contact for all victims of crime. The number of calls to this organisation increased by 12% from 2,897 to 3,253 in 2011.

- **Support after Crime Services** is a voluntary service which provides emotional support and practical information to persons affected by crime. It is based in Cork

City and its services are offered in Cork, Limerick, Clare, Tipperary South and Waterford. In 2011 the number of victims assisted by them reached 1,326.

- **The Federation for Victim Assistance** offers emotional and practical support to victims of crime, through its branch network. The Federation is a voluntary body with a membership of fully trained volunteers who have experience in caring for victims. It has branches in Ballyshannon, Carlow, Drogheda, Enniscorthy, Gorey, Kilkenny, Mayo, Meath, Roscommon, East Galway, Tralee, Wicklow and Wexford. It assisted 1,396 victims in 2011.
- **Victim Support at Court** provides court accompaniment to prosecution witnesses, their families and friends in the Central Criminal Court, the Dublin Circuit Criminal Court and Tallaght District Court. 1,774 victims of crime availed of this service in 2011, an increase of 64% over 2010 levels.
- **Support after Homicide** provides emotional and practical support for those bereaved by homicide.
- **AdVIC** provides access to subsidised counselling for families of homicide victims and also advocates for changes in the criminal justice system. They provided direct assistance to 125 persons who were affected by homicide in 2011.
- **The Irish Tourist Assistance Service** provided a support service to 690 tourists who were victims of crime in 2011.
- **MISS** (Missing in Ireland Support Service) provides information and support to families and friends of missing persons, through a phone helpline. They assisted 112 persons in 2011.
- **Victim Support Ireland** also provided emotional and practical support to 320 victims of crime in 2011.

In total, €493,936 was spent by these organisations in servicing the needs of crime victims. This expenditure accounted for 41% of the funding allocated by the Commission. This enabled the support of 8,996 victims.

2.2 Services to victims of domestic violence

The Commission approved 26 applications for funding from organisations providing services to victims of domestic violence, mainly for the provision of a court accompaniment service. The Commission was pleased to be in a position to make a

small allocation to Oasis House Women's Refuge in Waterford, for the first time in 2011. €452,118 of the Commission's funding was spent by organisations in this sector, which accounted for 37% of the total funding allocated by the Commission. 3,147 victims of domestic violence were assisted.

The Commission continued to assist *Women's Aid Dublin* to enable them to continue to operate a drop in and support service in Dolphin House, Dublin Family Law District Court. *Women's Aid* operate there five mornings a week. *Amen*, a service for male victims of domestic violence, provides a similar service there on Tuesday afternoons.

2.3 Services to victims of sexual violence and human trafficking

The Commission approved four applications for funding from organisations providing services to victims of sexual violence. €159,331 of the Commission's funding was spent by organisations in this sector which accounted for 13% of the funding it allocated to funded organisations. Funding was provided to the *Dublin Rape Crisis Centre*, *Rape Crisis Network Ireland*, *One in Four* and *Sexual Violence Centre Cork*, for accompaniment services to victims of sexual violence to Garda stations, sexual assault treatment units and court. Associated training of staff and volunteers was also undertaken. *Sexual Violence Centre, Cork* received funding towards the provision of support services to a small number of victims of trafficking. The sector assisted 1,119 victims with Commission funding in 2011.

2.4 Counselling services

€61,800 of the Commission's funding was spent by five organisations which provided counselling services to 531 victims of crime in 2011. This accounted for 5% of the Commission's overall allocation to funded organisations.

2.5 Services to children who are victims of crime

The Commission funded *CARI* and *Barnardos* in 2011. *CARI*, which provides support to children who are victims of sexual abuse and their non-abusing parents, received funding towards court accompaniment support service for all children, who have to attend court as a witness. *Barnardos* provides counselling to children who are bereaved and the Commission funding supports counselling for those children bereaved because of homicide. The €38,500 of funding spent by this sector accounted for 3% of the

Commission's total allocation. 81 child victims and their families were supported by these organisations

- 2.6 In summary, a total of 13,874 victims of crime were assisted by 46 organisations. These services cost €1,205,684. There were 33,556 meetings or phone contacts with these victims in the year. 41% was spent by general crime groups, 37% spent by domestic violence groups, 13% spent by sexual violence groups, 5% spent by counselling groups and 3% by groups who provide support to children who have been affected by crime. A list of the organisations funded by the Commission in 2011 is at Appendix A. From its inception in 2005 to the end of 2011, the Commission has allocated just over €7 million to voluntary sector organisations supporting victims of crime. Appendix D displays the number of victims supported in each category.

3 Funding Decisions for 2012

- 3.1 To ensure that the voluntary bodies funded by the Commission would receive their payment as early as possible in 2012, the Commission placed an advertisement in the national newspapers on the 21st October, 2011, inviting applications for funding for 2012 (Appendix E). The closing date for receipt of applications was the 18th November, 2011. The Commission received applications which it considered at its meeting in December, 2011.

4. Staffing and Volunteers

- 4.1 A total of 489 volunteers work in organisations funded by the Commission. Some sectors rely more on paid employees to provide services to victims. Of the volunteers 269 worked in assisting general victims of crime, 18 provided support to victims of domestic violence, 129 worked in the area of sexual violence, 65 worked in the area of counselling and 8 worked with children (Appendix D). Commission funding enabled the employment of 24 full time equivalent paid employees also.
- 4.2 The Commission is deeply grateful to those volunteers working at local level. The Commission also acknowledges the vital contribution made by paid employees. The Commission was concerned to note a trend in expenditure in 2011. Overall, there was a cut of almost a half in spending on volunteer expenses, with a cut of more than a third

in the general sector, more than a half in the counselling sector, more than two thirds in the domestic violence sector and a cut of three quarters in the sexual violence sector. Any impacts arising from reduced outlay in volunteer expenses particularly as it effects service delivery to victims will need to be closely monitored by the funded organisations.

5. The Consultative Forum

- 5.1 The Victims of Crime Consultative Forum, which is attended by one representative of each of the voluntary organisations funded by the Commission, was established in 2009 to take account of the views of victims through those working and volunteering in the groups. The Forum allows the organisations funded by the Commission to have an input into strategy and policy development to assist and support victims of crime. It also facilitates the exchange of good practice between the funded organisations. The Commission has to date held six meetings of the Forum.
- 5.2 Two meetings of the Consultative Forum were held in 2011. The first Forum was held in April, 2011 and was attended by 44 funded organisations. It was opened by Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D. Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence. The Minister said that speaking to the victims groups within a month of being appointed gave him the opportunity to underline his commitment and that of the Government to victims of crime. That commitment is reflected in the Programme for Government 2011 – 2016. The theme of the Forum was “Working together for and with victims”. It focussed on improving cooperation and collaboration between the groups funded by the Commission. To stimulate discussion participants were forwarded questions on the topic in advance of the meeting. At the Forum, participants gave an update on what they had done together and their plans for further work.
- 5.3 The second 2011 Forum held in October continued the focus on co-operation and collaboration between the groups. A session was held on the Commission’s budget for 2011 and the outlook for funding in 2012. The afternoon was devoted to a consultation on proposed legislation to strengthen the rights of victims of crime and their families.

- 5.4 Increased co-operation has been implicit in the work of the Consultative Forum and in training workshops provided by the Commission. In 2011 the topic was made explicit. The Commission did not have a pre-determined outcome in mind. It provided a catalyst for groups to work together organically, based on shared interests, and a focus on improving services to victims.
- 5.5 The Commission is pleased to note that there had been a lot of progress in the area of co-operation and collaboration. A prime example of such co-operation manifested itself in the way a group of clinical directors of counselling assisted organisations in the sexual violence sector to co-ordinate helplines and offer follow through support after the launch of major reports and other significant media attention on sexual violence or child abuse. This group was established on their own initiative by the clinical directors to meet a need they had identified.

6. Training

6.1 The Commission continued with its training programme for the organisations it funds in 2011. The Commission arranged a training day for a number of its organisations that provide counselling to victims of crime in 2011. This was facilitated by presentations from a Senior Officer from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and a member of an Garda Síochána. The two topics covered on the day were

- disclosure of counselling notes in criminal cases and
- issues arising for potential child witnesses and counselling

A member of the Garda Síochána addressed their policy and practice on child witnesses and counselling. A senior officer from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions talked about their policy and practice on disclosure of counselling notes. The participants engaged in active discussions with the speakers after the talks, suggesting a range of possible safeguards in relation to disclosure of counselling notes.

7. Other Commission Activities in 2011

7.1 The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. McAndrew attended and addressed the official openings of the Federation of Victim Assistance branches in Kilkenny in June, 2011

and Gorey in April, 2011.

- 7.2 The Chairman attended the launch of Support After Crime's website in July, 2011.
- 7.3 The Chairman attended a conference in September, 2011 on Criminal Law Reform organised by the Law Society at which the Minister for Justice and Equality gave an address.
- 7.4 Mr. Heylin and Ms O'Shea attended the conference organised by the Federation for Victim Assistance in Tralee from the 14th to the 16th October, 2011. The Conference was opened by Mr. J. Deenihan, T. D., Minister for Sport and Tourism. Mr. Heylin chaired the Saturday morning session.
- 7.5 Mr. Heylin attended the biennial memorial service held by AdVIC for families bereaved by Homicide in the Unitarian Church, Dublin in September, 2011.
- 7.6 Mr. Heylin attended the launch of the annual reports of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and the Rape Crisis Network Ireland in 2011. Ms O'Shea attended the launch of the annual reports of AMEN, CARI, Crime Victims Helpline, One in Four, and Irish Tourist Assistance Service.

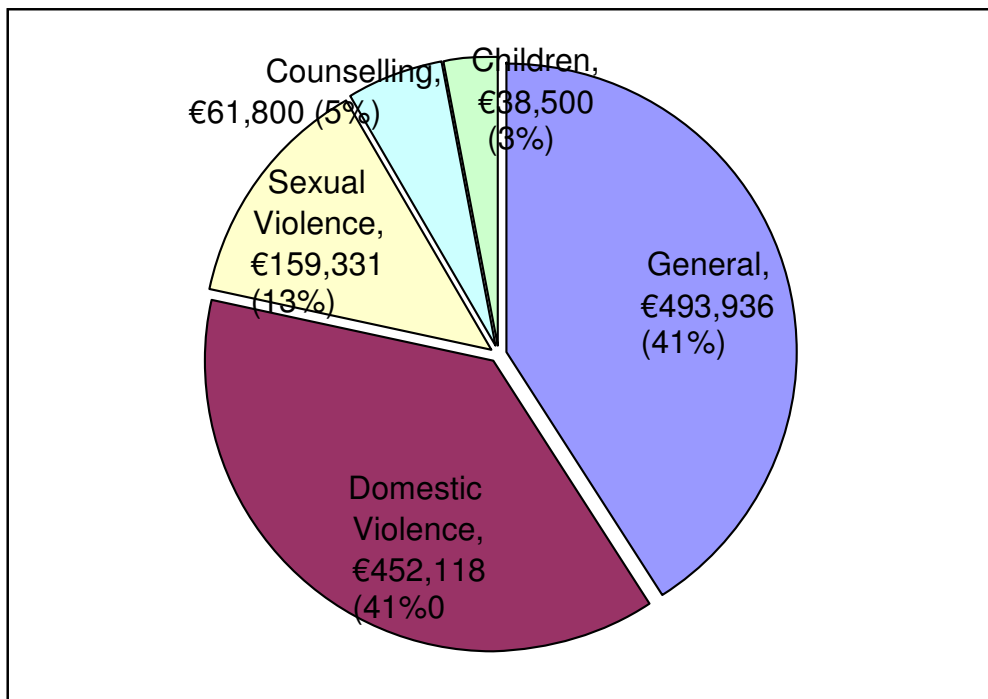
Successful Applicants for Funding in 2011

	Organisation	Category	2011 total allocated	Total Spent
1	Adapt (Kerry)	Domestic violence	€22,300	€22,300
2	Adapt (Limerick)	Domestic violence	€41,000	€41,000
3	AdVIC	General	€23,000	€23,000
4	Amen	Domestic violence	€9,000	€7,200
5	Ascend	Domestic violence	€13,500	€13,500
6	Barnardos	Children	€23,500	€23,500
7	Beacon of Light Counselling Centre	Counselling	€15,000	€15,000
8	CARI	Children	€15,000	€15,000
9	Carlow Women's Aid	Domestic violence	€15,000	€15,000
10	Clare Haven Services	Domestic violence	€11,000	€11,000
11	Cope Galway	Domestic violence	€3,000	€3,371
12	Crime Victims Helpline	General	€68,600	€75,819
13	Cuan Saor Women's Refuge Ltd.	Domestic violence	€19,300	€19,300
14	Domestic Violence (Advocacy Service)	Domestic violence	€8,000	€8,000
15	Domestic Violence Response	Domestic violence	€14,200	€14,186
16	Donegal Domestic Violence Service	Domestic violence	€15,000	€15,000
17	Drogheda Women's Refuge	Domestic violence	€10,000	€10,000
18	Dublin Rape Crisis Centre	Sexual Violence	€17,500	€17,431
19	Dundalk Counselling Service	Counselling	€19,800	€19,800
20	Federation for Victim Assistance	General	€82,000	€86,109
21	Innishowen Womens Refuge	Domestic violence		€3,445
22	IrishTourist Assistance Service	General	€44,600	€44,600
23	Laois Domestic Abuse Service	Domestic violence	€11,748	€15,500
24	Letterkenny Women's Centre (Counselling)	Counselling	€5,000	€5,000

25	Living Life Voluntary Counselling Centre	Counselling	€13,000	€13,000
26	Longford Women's Link	Domestic violence	€19,300	€19,300
27	Mayo Women's Support Service	Domestic violence	€21,800	€21,800
28	Meath Women's Refuge	Domestic violence	€25,900	€25,900
29	Missing in Ireland Support Services	General	€9,000	€9,000
30	Mna Feasa	Domestic violence	€24,300	€24,316
31	Oasis	Domestic violence	€5,000	€5,000
32	Offaly Women in Crisis	Domestic violence	€9,000	€9,000
33	One in Four	Sexual Violence	€69,800	€69,800
34	Rape Crisis Network	Sexual Violence	€49,000	€49,000
35	Roscommon Safe Link	Domestic violence	€16,500	€16,500
36	Saoirse Housing Association	Domestic violence	€13,500	€13,500
37	Sexual Violence Centre	Sexual Violence	€23,100	€23,100
38	Support After Crime	General	€117,000	€117,000
39	Support After Homicide	General	€44,800	€44,800
40	Tearmann Housing Association	Domestic violence	€14,500	€14,500
41	Victim Support	General	€7,000	€4,483
42	Victim Support at court	General	€64,500	€89,125
43	Westmeath Support Service against Domestic Abuse	Domestic violence	€15,000	€15,000
44	Women's Aid Dublin	Domestic violence	€74,000	€74,000
45	Women's Aid Dundalk	Domestic violence	€14,500	€14,500
46	Women's Therapy Centre	Counselling	€9,000	€9,000
			€1,166,548	€1,205,684

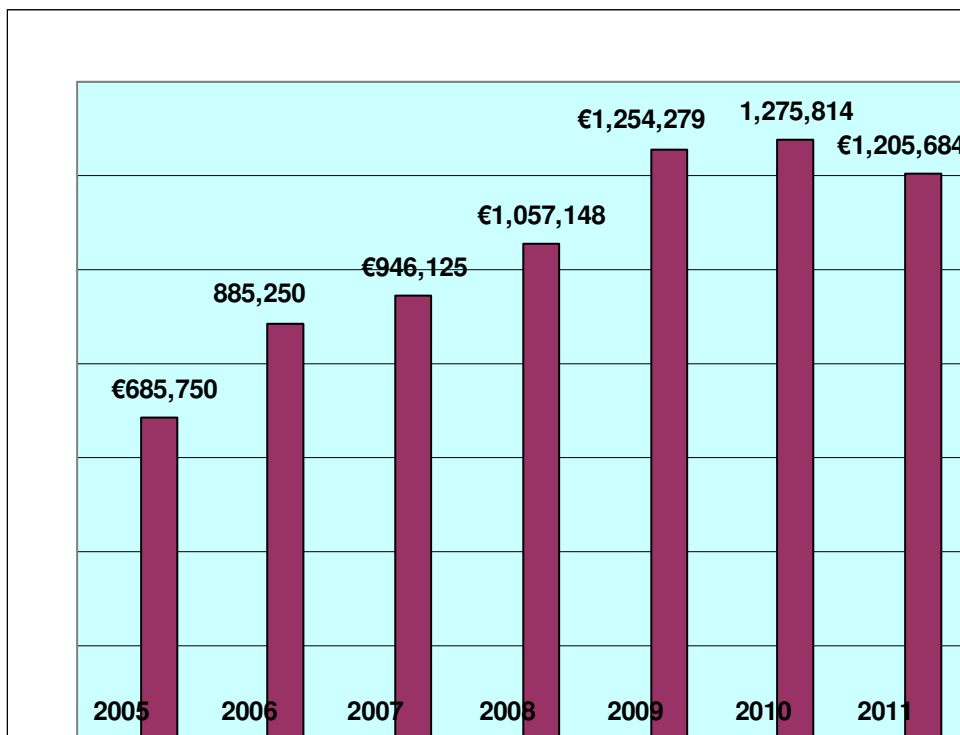
Distribution of Funding 2011

Sector	Amount spent	% of total spent
General Crime	€493,936	41%
Domestic Violence	€452,118	37%
Sexual Violence	€159,331	13%
Counselling	€61,800	5%
Children	€38,500	3%
Total	€1,205,684	100%

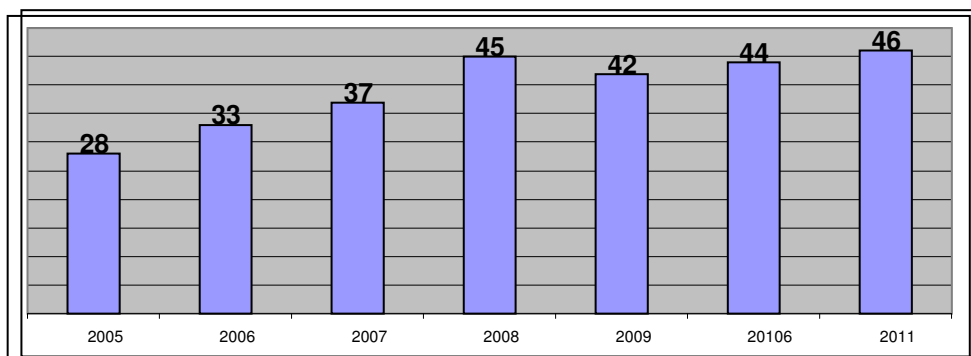


Funding allocated to Organisations 2005 to 2011

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
€685,750	€885,250	€946,125	€1,057,148	€1,254,279	€1,275,814	€1,205,684



Number of organisations funded 2005- 2011



Numbers of victims supported in each sector

Numbers of victims helped - 2011			
Sector	Total spent	Nos. helped	Average cost per victim
General	€493,936	8,996	€55
Domestic Violence	€452,118	3,147	€144
sexual violence	€159,331	1,119	€142
Counselling	€61,800	531	€116
Children	€38,500	*81	€475
Total	€1,205,684	13,874	€87

Numbers of Volunteers				
Sector	No. of Projects	No. of volunteers	No. of projects which use volunteers	No. of projects which use staff only
General	9	269	9	
Domestic Violence	26	18	4	22
Sexual violence	4	129	3	2
Counselling	5	65	2	3
Children	2	8	1	1
	46	489	19	



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Commission for the
Support of Victims of Crime**

**2012 funding for provision of
services to victims of crime**

The Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime is inviting applications for funding for 2012 from registered charities, voluntary/community groups and other bodies which provide or have proposals for the provision of services/assistance to victims of crime.

Applicants for funding must be either a registered charity or a limited company. Enquiries about joint applications between two or more groups would be welcome.

Application forms can be downloaded from www.csvc.ie or can be obtained from Anne O'Shea, Secretary to the Commission at the address below.

**Application forms must be returned by Friday,
18th November, 2011**

Contact details:

**Ms Anne O'Shea
Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime,
c/o Department of Justice
and Equality
51 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2**

Tel: 01-6028681. e-mail: csvc@justice.ie

Membership of the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime

1. Members of the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime in 2011:

Mr. Ray McAndrew, Chair (former Assistant Commissioner of
An Garda Síochána)

*Mr. P.J. Fitzpatrick , Former Chief Executive of the Courts Service

Mr. Terry Delany (Deputy General Secretary, Communication's
Worker's Union of Ireland)

Mr Greg Heylin, ex officio (Director of the Victims of Crime Office)

* Mr. Fitzpatrick retired as a member of the Commission on the 4th January, 2012

1.2 The Victims of Crime Office provides a full-time secretariat to the Commission. The Commission also has the services of a co-ordinator, who visits the organisations funded by the Commission, monitors the services available from them and assists in local problem-solving.