



## Youth Work Ireland

**Press Release**  
**Youth Work Ireland**  
**05 November 2011**

### **“Youth Work Saves State up to 2 billion per year” says Leading Youth Organisation at Annual Report Launch**

Youth work Ireland has estimated the preventative impact of its work around the country on the exchequer to be in the region of €1bn and extrapolating from this the impact of all youth work organisations to be in the region of €2bn. The figures were developed in a submission relating to the Governments Comprehensive Review of Expenditure prepared by the organisation for the Department of Children and Youth affairs. The report utilised existing impact figures from the Irish Youth Justice Service and international sources to calculate the impact of resources saved to the state through interventions carried out by local youth services. The figures were announced at the launch of Youth Work Ireland’s Annual report and Volunteer Achievement Awards in Dublin today. The Awards were presented by Simon Harris T.D. (Fine Gael), Irelands youngest TD.



*At the launch today in Dublin of Youth Work Ireland’s Annual Report and Youth Awards Ceremony, left to right, Helen O’Sullivan, Gearoid Murphy and Oonagh Groves, all from Killarney. Pic Tommy Clancy*

“We think it is really important that the Government is aware of the real economic impact of youth work and youth services in Ireland today. The massive impact in terms of preventative work and the leveraging of thousands of volunteer hours into some of the most disadvantaged communities is quite remarkable. Everyone appreciates we are in extremely difficult economic times but our figures illustrate that the economic impact of these services is enormous and that there is potential for voluntary youth services to save the state money by even taking on relevant services that the state currently provides” Said John Gilmore, President of Youth Work Ireland



***The Annual Report Launch coincided with the presentation of the Youth Work Ireland Volunteer Achievements – recipients shown are Karen Dunne, Youth Work Ireland Galway and Gearoid Murphy KDYS. Simon Harris T.D. presented the Awards.***

“We are hopeful that decision makers will begin to see youth services as a resource in the quest to rebuild our economy and to rebuild local communities who have been worst impacted by the economic crisis. The country cannot afford the inevitable extra cost of not supporting this vital work locally. There is a multiplier of at least 10 for every Euro that goes in to local youth work projects. We are bringing this message very clearly to TDs and decision makers in advance of the budget in December” Mr. Gilmore added

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