Supporting and Assisting Civil Servants for over 30 years

Civil Service Employee Assistance Service (CSEAS)



Seirbhís Chúnaimh d'Fhostaithe na Státseirbhíse

CSEAS Annual Report

2001

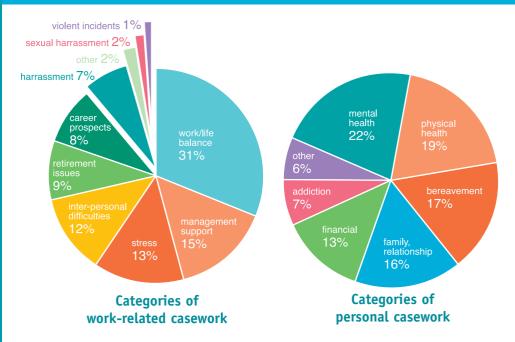


Mission Statement

The Civil Service Employee
Assistance Service (CSEAS) aims
to provide assistance and support on a strictly confidential
basis, to civil servants who may
be experiencing either work or
personal difficulties.

The service provides an in-house programme through which employees can avail of:

- Assistance in evaluating and assessing difficulties
- Help in planning a structured approach to coping with or resolving difficulties
- Counselling
- Management consultancy and support
- Information



Over 7000 individuals availed of CSEAS in 2001

Dear Colleague

Over the last year the 24 Employee Assistance Officers (EAOs) who currently make up the Employee Assistance Service (EAS) have continued to provide a high-quality confidential information and support service to civil service staff.

Most of us, at some stage in our careers, will have to face some form of problem that may impact on our effectiveness at work. These difficulties may be work or health related, or may be caused by matters arising outside of work such as bereavement, addiction, relationships or financial difficulty. Many people who encounter such problems find that it helps if they talk to someone outside their immediate circle of family or friends. The availability of a free, confidential service that may be accessed by all staff for assistance, support, counselling or information can help to identify problems, and work towards solutions.

Although the work of EAOs is, for the most part, reactive the EAS places great emphasis on its proactive and preventative role. In this regard staff are encouraged to approach an EAO at an early stage about potential concerns as problems tend to be resolved more successfully the sooner they are addressed. EAOs can also provide information on a wide range of topics such as family law, health and social welfare services, probate and income tax.

All EAOs work to a Code of Practice and are members of the Irish branch of the Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA Ireland). They are highly motivated and committed to ongoing personal training and development in order to enhance the service.

The Employee Assistance Service is there for your well-being. (Over 7000 individuals availed of the service in 2001.) If you feel it could be of help to you, use it.

Kenneth Spratt Department of Finance.

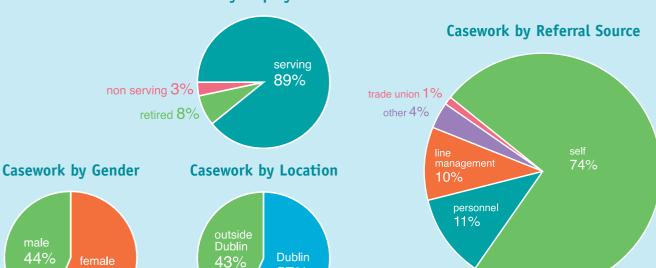




Work related issues include workloads, nature of work assigned, anxiety about level of performance, work related stress, difficult working relationships, harassment, sexual harassment, bullying, violent incidents, communication difficulties, inappropriate workplace behaviour, personal hygiene, management support, retirement, work/life balance etc. Consultation with line managers, personnel section, medical advisors, occupational health department and others may be required where appropriate.

Personal issues include mental and physical health, bereavement, family/relationships, financial, addictions, etc.

Casework by Employment Status



6700 serving staff sought assistance

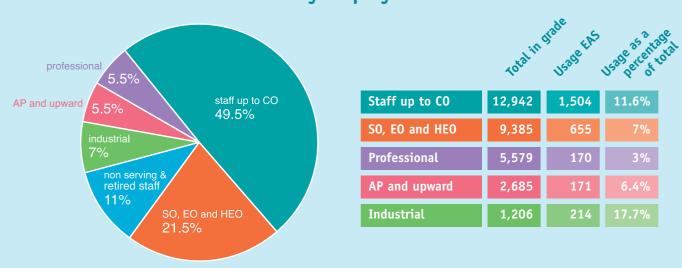
44%

56%

Information queries include a wide range of issues relating to social welfare entitlements, health services, family law, housing, income tax etc. These queries often require ongoing contact and can be complex in nature and time consuming.

Casework by Employment Grade

57%



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Three Decades of Staff Welfare

The civil service has a long history in the provision of welfare services for its staff. The current Employee Assistance Service (EAS) developed from the former Staff Welfare Service which was put in place in some of the larger Government Departments over thirty years ago.

In the mid eighties the Public Service Executive Union made a claim for the provision of an improved Welfare Service to be made available to all civil servants in all Government Departments/Offices irrespective of location. The rationale for the development of the Service was motivated by the desire to assist with personal problems and difficulties which might impair a person's ability to effectively perform his/her duties and the recognition of the contribution which a properly structured Staff Welfare Service could make to the efficient discharge of the work of the civil service. The overall aim was to review and build on the existing service, expand it in terms of staffing, formalise training for Welfare Officers and provide a counselling and referral service to all staff. It was recognised that for the new Service to be successful it would have to continue to be run strictly on a confidential basis between Welfare Officer and client.

By 1989 the restructuring of the Service was complete. The Department of the Public Service assumed responsibility for the management, co-ordination and monitoring of the Service to include the training and development of Welfare Officers. The task of selecting suitable people to staff the Service was assigned to the Civil Service Commission. Additional Welfare Officers were appointed and the Service was extended to all Government Departments.

In 1991, as part of an ongoing process of restructuring and improving the Service, all Welfare Officers completed a course on Employee Assistance run by the Institute of Personnel Management and the Service was re-launched as the Employee Assistance Service. Employee Assistance Officers took on a more pro-active role in promoting the Service as a valuable resource available to all civil servants.

In the intervening decade the Service has continued to develop and expand. In the last year two new posts have been created and four new Employee Assistance Officers have joined the Service making a total complement of 24 EAOs, nineteen of whom are based in Dublin and the remaining five in Limerick, Cork, Sligo, Castlebar and Wexford. Employee Assistance Officers are committed to ongoing personal training and development in order to increase their expertise in different fields. They are conscious of the right which civil servants have under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989 and the Employment Equality Act 1998 to a safe place of work and will continue to develop the Service so that it can respond appropriately to the changing needs of civil servants.

Margaret Griffin, Chairperson, Employee Assistance Network



While most of the time we can take care of our own difficulties, the stresses of modern life are such that there are times when we may need to seek help.

The purpose of the Employee Assistance Service is to provide confidential counselling, referral, support and information to all serving and retired staff



The EAS is:

LOCAL in your department

NATIONAL in every government office

INTERNATIONAL networking worldwide to ensure best practice.





Contact Details of Employee Assistance Officers

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Department

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