

**FIRST PROGRESS REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE TO MONITOR AND
CO-ORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE
TRAVELLING COMMUNITY**



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM
AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ**

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5 DECEMBER, 2000

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Chairperson's Statement

I am pleased to present the first Progress Report of the Committee which co-ordinates and monitors progress on the recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community.

The Committee was established by John O'Donoghue, TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in June, 1998. Since then the Committee has met on nineteen occasions.

The Committee found that the monitoring of progress was difficult due to the lack of good quality data on the numbers of Travellers availing of services, such as, education and health services and mainstream employment. Reliable information is needed on an annual basis, on the numbers of Travellers at schools and colleges, in employment, accessing health services, or taking up accommodation in houses, if progress is to be measured. The Monitoring Committee sees the development of baseline data as a priority and will continue in its efforts to promote the establishment of reliable data collection systems.

The Report shows that over the past five years there has been a lack of adequate progress at local level and that approximately one quarter of all Travellers continue to live out their daily lives in difficult conditions. However, the Monitoring Committee welcomes the many important developments which have taken place in the same period in establishing the administrative and legislative measures necessary to implement the Task Force recommendations. Measures such as the establishment of a National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and a Traveller Accommodation Unit in the Department of the Environment and Local Government; the enactment of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 which includes a requirement for five-year local authority Traveller accommodation programmes; the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Traveller Education and the expansion of the visiting teacher service; the establishment of a Traveller Health Advisory Committee and local Traveller health units in each health board area; and, the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation, will have positive and long-lasting effects on the Traveller community. The Monitoring Committee is confident that when these measures take effect and begin to produce results, the quality of life of Travellers will progressively improve.

The Committee is hopeful that Travellers will also be encouraged to participate in our economic development both through the growth of the Traveller economy and by greater participation in the mainstream labour force. Travellers are generally self-reliant and resourceful and these attributes have not been fully supported up to now. In this regard, the Monitoring Committee has recommended the establishment of a working group, consisting of relevant Departments, FAS, social partners and the Traveller organisations, to examine the economic development issues of Travellers.

Looking to the future, I feel that it is important to maintain the momentum for change and improvement now that the resources and structures are in place in most Departments. We cannot continue to have the Traveller community treated as an underclass and have them deprived of the rights enjoyed by other Irish people. There is a continuing need for a strong policy commitment to Traveller issues if outcomes are to be achieved for the Traveller community.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the members of the Monitoring Committee both past and present and to the secretariat for their hard work and dedication over the past two and a half years. The Committee will continue to monitor developments and publish further reports on progress during the coming years.



Niall McCutcheon
Chairperson.

Chapter 1

Background Information

Terms of Reference

Membership of the Monitoring Committee

Background Information

The Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community was published in July, 1995 by the Minister for Equality and Law Reform. The Report contains 341 recommendations addressed to the Government and to non-Government interests in the areas of accommodation, health, education and training, employment, development of a Traveller economy, relationships between the Traveller and settled community, culture and discrimination, the role of Traveller women, and the strengthening of co-ordination arrangements among the various statutory agencies that provide services which impact on Travellers. The Task Force recommended that a formal monitoring mechanism should be put in place to co-ordinate, oversee and progress the implementation process.

Soon after publication, an Inter-Departmental Working Group was set up to consider the implementation of the Report of the Task Force. On 26 March, 1996 the Government decided in principle to accept the main thrust of the proposals of the Inter-Departmental Working Group and announced the Government's strategy in relation to Travellers which included:

- A 5 year National Strategy for Traveller Accommodation to be put in place by the Minister of State at the Department of the Environment;
- The introduction of legislation to give effect to the National Traveller Accommodation Strategy including amendment of the Housing, Planning and Local Government Management Acts;
- The establishment of a special unit in the Department of the Environment to monitor the National Traveller Accommodation Strategy, as well as a National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Group;
- A commitment to strengthen Health and Education services for Travellers;
- A commitment that the Task Force recommendations would be taken into account in preparing Employment Equality and Equal Status Legislation; and
- The transfer of responsibility for Senior Traveller Training Centres from the Department of Enterprise and Employment to the Department of Education.

Before setting up the Committee to Monitor and Co-ordinate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community (short title: "Monitoring Committee") in June 1998, the Report of the Task Force had not been monitored on a centralised basis unlike other reports in the Equality area, such as the Report of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Report of the Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities. While implementation of some of the recommendations to which the Government was committed, mainly in the area of accommodation, was already under way, Traveller organisations expressed their concern about the lack of action on the implementation of the Task Force Report and requested that the Report be monitored and implemented in a way similar to that of the Report of the Second Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities.

The Action Programme for the Millennium included a commitment to the creation of a new deal for the Travelling Community. Partnership 2000 (para. 5.3.2.) promised that the Government Strategy in relation to the Travelling Community would continue to be implemented and would be monitored with a view to effecting a real advance in the living circumstances of members of the Travelling Community.

Following a number of meetings with Traveller organisations in the latter half of 1997 the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr John O'Donoghue, TD, during an all-party motion on Racism on 16 December, 1997, gave a commitment to the establishment of a monitoring committee to co-ordinate the implementation in a practical way. In further consultations, the Traveller interests requested that the monitoring committee be broadly-based, be made up of both Traveller representatives and Partnership 2000 pillars and that it should take a proactive and analytical approach, rather than simply recording material supplied by Departments.

On 5 March, 1998, the Minister informed the Government in an Aide Memoire of his proposal to proceed with the establishment of a monitoring committee chaired by his Department and representative of the Departments of the Environment and Local Government; Finance; Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Tourism, Sport and Recreation; Education and Science; Health and Children; and Social, Community and Family Affairs. Ministerial appointments were also included. The three main Traveller organisations, Pavee Point, the National Travellers Women's Forum, and the Irish Traveller Movement, and each of the four pillars in Partnership 2000 would also be represented on the committee. The Departments represented on the committee were those in whose areas of responsibility the bulk of the Task Force recommendations lay. Other Departments had the option of appointing link persons who could participate in the Committee as the need arose.

The Government approved the Minister's proposal and the Monitoring Committee on the Implementation of the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community was established. It had its first meeting on 19 June, 1998. Under its terms of reference the Monitoring Committee is required to draw up and submit to the Government from time to time, a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations including proposals for acceleration or prioritisation of implementation of recommendations.

Terms of Reference of the Monitoring Committee

The Terms of Reference of the Monitoring Committee on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community are:

- 1.To co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the recommendations on the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community which have been accepted by the Government or by Ministers.
- 2.To draw up and submit to the Government from time to time, starting in 1999, a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations including proposals for acceleration or prioritisation of implementation of recommendations.
- 3.To re-examine recommendations where necessary in the light of changes in Government policy and practice and of legislative, demographic, social and economic change.
- 4.To serve as a forum for consultation on current issues of national importance affecting the Travelling Community.

Membership of the Monitoring Committee

Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform:	Sylda Langford, Chairperson Margaret O'Connor, Niall McCutcheon / Stephanie O'Donnell**
Secretary	Hannah O'Mahony, Liam Conlon*, Mary Mulvanerty, Secretariat.
Department of the Environment & Local Government:	John Murphy, Joe Harrington* Dominick O'Brien, Danny McElhinney*
Department of Education & Science:	Matt Ryan
Department of Health & Children:	John Cronin
Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs:	Deirdre Hogan
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment:	Terry Lonergan, Margaret Malone*
Department of Finance:	Brid McSweeney / John Fitzpatrick*
Minister's Representative:	John O'Leary
Minister of State's Representative:	Beryl Donnelly
Tanaiste's Representative:	Patricia Collins
Pavee Point Traveller Centre:	Martin Collins
National Traveller Women's Forum:	Julie Smyth
Irish Traveller Movement:	Jimmy Power, David Joyce*
Trade Union Pillar of Partnership 2000:	Pat Richardson (ICTU)
Employer Pillar of Partnership 2000:	John Dunne, Joe Heron* (Chamber of Commerce)
Farming Pillar of Partnership 2000:	Jim Healy (Wicklow Rural Partnership)
Community and Voluntary Pillar of Partnership 2000:	Liam O'Dwyer (St. Vincent de Paul Soc.)

* Indicates changes in representation over the life of the Committee.

** Niall McCutcheon and Stephanie O'Donnell are job-sharing Principal Officers who replaced Margaret O'Connor in June, 2000.

Secretariat

Liam Conlon replaced Hannah O'Mahony with effect from December, 1998. The secretariat was assisted by Barry Quinn and Margaret Davis.

Chapter 2

Overview and Recommendations

Chapter 2

Overview and Recommendations

1. Introduction

1. Life as a Traveller - The Reality

About one quarter of all Traveller families continue to live out their day to day lives in very poor conditions. Five years after the publication of the Task Force Report, there is a lack of real improvement on the ground. This and the daily reality of discrimination makes it very difficult for a large section of the Traveller community to have faith in the promises contained within the recommendations of the Task Force Report. The words of the 1986 ESRI report “the circumstances of the Irish Travelling people are intolerable. No decent or humane society once made aware of such circumstances, could permit them to persist.” are still relevant in the year 2000. This is the case despite the huge efforts made at informing the general public of the position of the Traveller over the past twenty years. It raises very serious questions both at home and abroad of our society and why we have been unable to make significant improvements in the quality of life for the Traveller community.

2. Obstacles Towards Progress

The lack of good quality data on Travellers is a major obstacle to monitoring and assessing progress. The availability of reliable information on an annual basis on the numbers of Travellers, in all levels of education, in employment and training, or accessing health services, is vital if progress is to be measured properly. The Monitoring Committee notes that this issue has been identified in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness and that commitments have been made to address it. The Committee will continue to give this issue priority.

Another obstacle to progress is the difficulty of translating policy into action and in prioritising action towards implementation. The operation of the pilot caravan grant and loan scheme demonstrates this point. The scheme was devised by the Department of the Environment and Local Government with the day-to-day implementation of the scheme the responsibility of local authorities. The Department of the Environment and Local Government has indicated that, because of difficulties in implementation of the scheme, a number of alterations have already been made to the scheme. The Department will also be reviewing the overall operation of the scheme in February 2001, when it will be in operation for one year.

A considerable amount of work remains to be done to ensure that the importance of recognising the distinct culture and identity of the Traveller community, as being central to the recommendations of the Report of the Task Force, is fully understood and accepted by all officials and elected representatives at local level who are responsible for the implementation of many of the recommendations of the Task Force.

Traveller organisations claim that they have not been adequately resourced to address the new demands brought about by the partnership approach which they sought and which is necessary if progress on the recommendations of the Task Force is to be made. This is particularly true in respect of efforts in the areas of education and accommodation at the local level. It is essential therefore to ensure that Traveller representative organisations are included fully in the process of decision making and the development of policy and procedures.

One of the sections in the Task Force Report which has received the least attention is the Traveller Economy. This is a complex and multifaceted area, which needs particular attention by a number of Government Departments and bodies. The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness states that the recommendations in the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community on economic activities will be progressed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in consultation with representatives of the social partners, inclusive of the national Travellers' organisations. In order to stimulate progress on this issue, the Monitoring Committee has recommended the establishment of a special working group, composed of relevant Departments, agencies and Traveller organisations to deal specifically with the Traveller economy. It is intended to set up the working group before the end of 2000.

The Control of Horses Act, 1996 made no provision for assistance to Travellers in complying with the requirements of the legislation. This has caused great hardship, both financial and personal, to Travellers who keep horses and for whom this has been an important part of their cultural expression.

The Monitoring Committee notes that there has been no development of a gender impact assessment in the work of any of the national, local or regional advisory committees, and this has led to a failure to address the gender dimension of policies affecting Travellers.

3. Challenges for the Future

One of the key challenges for the future will be the development of good practice in relation to consultation and partnership approaches, in following through on the implementation of the recommendations in the report of the Task Force. This will apply to the national, regional and local committees. It will require a greater understanding of the role of the different partners in the process and a recognition of the independence of each of the partners. It will also require more concentration on the 'rules for engagement' in the different committees. Practical issues such as the resources needed for each of the partners to the process, and the choice of locations in which to meet, will need to be given greater consideration.

The Monitoring Committee considers that there is a need for a more positive approach to the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force report particularly at the local level. The idea that the responses needed are being forced on local communities by directives from the top creates a negative atmosphere and it raises doubts about the solutions proposed. Local authorities or other local bodies should, where relevant, take ownership of the recommendations proposed and implement them with confidence. This will ultimately not only benefit the Traveller community but also address the legitimate concerns of the settled community in their area.

There is a need to develop a clear strategic direction for Traveller education including addressing the issue of inter-cultural education. The model developed by the creation of a National Traveller Health Strategy should be considered in addressing the educational needs of the Traveller community.

Greater concentration in the next five years will need to be given to translating the new policies into positive change for Travellers. This should seek to ensure that the policies, legislation, and strategies developed are implemented in a way that results in real change on the ground. These will include: the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998; the National Traveller Health Strategy; the Employment Equality Act, 1998 and the Equal Status Act, 2000.

As already mentioned, advances will need to be made on the collection of data, including the Census, and by responding to the commitments made in this regard in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness.

The identification of clear objectives in relation to gender equality should become part of the work of each of the committees working to implement the recommendations contained in the Task Force Report. In this regard, there is a need also to gender-proof initiatives in relation to Travellers.

The implementation of the Control of Horses Act needs to be reviewed from the perspective of assisting Travellers to comply with the legislation.

The resourcing of Traveller Organisations and the Citizen Traveller communications campaign needs to be continued in order to further engage Travellers and members of the settled community in a dialogue leading to the creation of a better understanding between the two communities.

2. DETAILS OF PROGRESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While the Monitoring Committee concedes that much more progress is needed on the Task Force recommendations if the quality of life for the Traveller community is to be improved, it would like to point to the number of important developments that have taken place since its publication in July 1995. These are summarised below under the original headings used in the Task Force Report. The Monitoring Committee has added its own recommendations under each heading.

Section A - RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TRAVELLERS AND THE SETTLED COMMUNITY

The Monitoring Committee acknowledges the initiatives undertaken in the past twelve months in increasing awareness and developing relationships between Travellers and the settled community. The Citizen Traveller Campaign is a three year communication programme managed by four Traveller organisations. It has been allocated £300,000 by Government in each of the years 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Financial support has also been provided by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to the Mediation Service operated by Pavee Point Traveller Centre. The service was set up to resolve, through mediation, disputes which arise between Travellers and other sectors of the population. In addition, awareness initiatives targeted at Travellers and other minority groups are being developed on an ongoing basis by the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism. The Monitoring Committee accepts, however, that much work remains to be done in improving relationships between both communities.

It is important to recognise the ongoing work by Traveller organisations in building links with the settled community. Traveller representatives have become actively involved in organisations at local, regional and national level which bring together the different sectors of society. The inclusion of Travellers in the Community Development Programme and in the Local Development Programme is also a significant development and it has allowed for the emergence of a stronger organisational infrastructure in the Traveller community.

Section A - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

- A1. Organisations made up wholly or predominantly from members of the settled community should take up initiatives which generate support across the two communities. Social Partner organisations, church organisations and other community and voluntary sector organisations could play a role in this regard. Such organisations should consider identifying separately in their Annual Reports actions they take in this regard.**
- A2. Traveller organisations should have access to adequate core funding. Financial support for the Citizen Traveller Campaign and the Mediation Programme should continue.**
- A3. Models of good practice and agreed operational rules for the involvement of Traveller organisations in partnership arrangements and committees should be further developed.**
- A4. The new Equality institutions, i.e. the Equality Authority and the office of the Director of Equality Investigations should ensure that relevant institutions engage with Travellers and Traveller Organisations in a meaningful manner.**
- A5. Political parties and political institutions should be called upon to develop particular strategies and action programmes for generating greater awareness across the two communities.**
- A6. Any future reform of Seanad Éireann should provide an opportunity for the involvement of Travellers within representative political structures. If possible, this representation should be organised through the Traveller organisations. Discretionary nominations to the Seanad could be used to appoint a Traveller representative in the interim.**
- A7. All media should adopt a Code of Practice derived from the NUJ guidelines. In addition, some sections of the media need to establish and maintain guidelines and standards specific to their particular spheres of work. For instance, in talk radio, there is a need to ensure that free speech and fair comment in public debate are not abused, and that radio does not become a platform for rabid incitement or the spread of ignorant prejudice.**

Section B - CULTURE

Progress has been made in acknowledging Traveller culture in a number of areas including Traveller accommodation provision, anti-discrimination legislation, through the work of Traveller organisations and in the Citizen Traveller programme. The distinct culture and identity of the Traveller community is a central issue to Travellers and should receive proper recognition. It is not fully understood and accepted by all officials and elected representatives at local level who are responsible for the implementation of many of the Task Force recommendations.

Owning horses is an integral part of the culture of many Travellers. Many Travellers would consider, however, that the Control of Horses Act, 1996, has created difficulties for some Travellers. The Act does not contain proper provisions to assist Travellers in complying with its requirements and has caused great hardship both financial and personal for Travellers who keep horses.

Section B - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

- B1. Statutory and non-statutory bodies with responsibility for social policy and local development should develop a clear and collective understanding of the importance of taking into account the recognition of the distinct culture and identity of Travellers in the design and implementation of policies.**
- B2. The development of a clear focus and strategy for inter-cultural education should become a priority concern. The Department of Education and Science should identify the role inter-cultural education has to play in a multicultural society.**
- B3. The implementation of the Control of Horses Act 1996 should be reviewed so as to assist Travellers to comply with the conditions laid down in the legislation in a way that recognises the role of horses in Traveller culture.**

Section C - DISCRIMINATION

Progress has been made in the past two years on the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation and the establishment of an equality infrastructure. The Employment Equality Act, 1998, prohibiting discrimination in employment on nine grounds including membership of the Traveller community came into operation in October, 1999. At the same time the Equality Authority and the Directorate of Equality Investigations became operational.

The Equal Status Act, 2000, prohibiting discrimination in the delivery of goods and services in the non-employment area on the same nine grounds came into operation on 25 October, 2000.

The new legislation will make an essential contribution towards eliminating discrimination. Its operation will need to be monitored, however, to ensure that it is effective in protecting Travellers from the significant discrimination that they have to endure in their day to day lives.

The Traveller community has been, on occasion, derided in the press and the media. The Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act, 1989 has been criticised by Traveller organisations as being ineffective in dealing with verbal and racist attacks on their community. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform is currently undertaking a review of the 1989 Act.

Section C - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

C1. The operation of the Equal Status Act, 2000 will need to be monitored by the Equality Authority, particularly with regard to the following issues:

- **the impact of the Section 15 provisions;**
- **the omission in the Act of any quantitative measure of difference between communities in access to goods and services, indicating discrimination; and**
- **its effectiveness in providing protection from indirect discrimination where Travellers are unable to comply with requirements, conditions, policies or practices which are inconsistent with the maintenance of their cultural norms.**

C2. The Task Force Report recommends (C.R.10.1 to 10.4) that each Government Department, semi-state body, State agency, local authority, private sector and voluntary sector organisation should adopt, implement and monitor an equal status policy. This issue will need to be examined after the Equal Status Act, 2000 has come into operation. (See initiative on Equality Proofing in Section M).

C3. The Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act, 1989 should be reviewed in order to address its shortcomings.

C4. A representative of the Equality Authority should be appointed to the Monitoring Committee.

C5. Travellers are currently represented on the board of the Equality Authority. It is important that Traveller interests continue to be represented within the structures put in place by the Equality Authority.

C6. Travellers should be represented on the proposed Human Rights Commission.

Section D - ACCOMMODATION

Much progress has taken place over the past five years in putting in place the administrative, legislative and financial framework for the provision of Traveller accommodation. The framework is underpinned by mechanisms at national and local level for consultation with Travellers and Traveller representatives.

The main developments which took place were the adoption of a National Strategy for Traveller Accommodation in March, 1996 and the enactment of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act in July 1998. To oversee the implementation of the National Strategy a dedicated Traveller Accommodation Unit was established in the Department of the Environment and Local Government in May, 1996. In December, 1996, a National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Group was set up under the aegis of the Department and in April, 1999 this Group was established on a statutory basis as the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. All local authorities have adopted their five-year local Traveller accommodation plans in 2000 and progress on these plans will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Consultative Committee

Progress in the actual provision of new accommodation has been very slow. Between 1998 and 1999, for example, there was an increase of only 68 in the numbers of Traveller families in accommodation provided by local authorities, or with local authority assistance. It is particularly unsatisfactory that, over the same period, the numbers of families on the roadside or in other unauthorised sites, rose from 1148 to 1207.

The annual count of Traveller families carried out by local authorities in November, 1999 shows that there were overall increases in the number of families accommodated in standard housing, group housing and halting sites. However, the results also show an increase in the number of Traveller families on the roadside. The following data refer to the years 1996 - 1999.

<u>Accommodated Families</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Local Authority Housing*	2135	2260	2367	2483
Permanent Halting Sites	777	789	824	802
Temporary Halting Sites	351	326	309	271
Transient Halting Sites	15	19	15	27
Families on the Roadside	1040	1127	1148	1207

** This includes families in Local Authority standard housing, local authority group housing, private houses assisted by local authorities and housing provided by voluntary bodies assisted by local authorities.*

The Monitoring Committee is aware that in reality one in every four Traveller families are currently living without access to water, toilets and refuse collection. The accommodation provision has not kept pace with increasing demand over the past five years and the Committee would like to emphasise in the strongest terms the importance of having the local Traveller Accommodation Programmes delivered in a way that clears the backlog in Traveller accommodation. Local authorities have a crucial role to play in making progress in this area.

Section D - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

- D1. The operation of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 should be reviewed in 2002, i.e. two years into the delivery of the Traveller Accommodation Programmes.**
- D2. The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee should prepare a report on the functioning of Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees, and be proactive in promoting good practice in relation to the local committees.**
- D3. The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee should prepare a report on the implementation of the pilot scheme of assistance to Local Authorities for the management of halting sites.**
- D4. The initiative to co-ordinate planning for Traveller accommodation provision across the four Dublin areas should include the involvement of representatives of Traveller interests as recommended by the Task Force. Dublin Accommodation Coalition for Travellers (DACT) is the appropriate body for such involvement.**
- D5. The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee should re-examine the recommendations in the Task Force Report in relation to land acquisition and compulsory purchase orders with a view to expediting the local Traveller Accommodation Programmes.**
- D6. Local Authorities in conducting their annual counts and in making their accommodation assessments of need should do so in consultation with the local Traveller organisations.**
- D7. An initiative should be taken by the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to ensure that there is an improvement in the design of Caravans to make them suitable for long term living.**

Section E - HEALTH

The Monitoring Committee is satisfied that the new structures recommended by the Task Force have been established by the Department of Health and Children. A Traveller Health Advisory Committee has been set up in the Department and a Traveller Health Unit in each of the eight health boards. The advisory committee and the Traveller health units exemplify the partnership approach to the development of health services which is being pursued by the Department of Health and Children as part of its overall health strategy. These structures bring together the statutory service providers, voluntary sector service providers and consumers.

Many difficulties still remain in the provision of services and Travellers continue to endure a poor health status and a low rate of life expectancy. The Monitoring Committee considers that it is important that funding which has been allocated to health boards specifically for expenditure on Travellers' health should be ring-fenced to ensure that it is used only for that purpose. In the area of general hygiene, the sanitary conditions on halting sites need to be improved by the appropriate agencies.

There is also a need to identify Travellers on hospital and clinic records to enable data on Travellers' health and morbidity to be collected and properly analysed. The patient record system requires further development and the procedures for exchanging information on Traveller patients moving between health board areas needs to be improved.

Section E - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

- E1. Procedures should be put in place by the Department of Health and Children to target and monitor funding allocated to health boards for Traveller health, i.e. regular reports including a breakdown of expenditure.**
- E2. In view of variations in the operation of Traveller Health Units between health boards it is recommended that the Department of Health and Children carry out a review of their operation and hold a national conference to discuss the findings of the review. It is also recommended that adequate funding be provided to enable Travellers to participate in these units.**
- E3. The necessary arrangements should be made by the Department of Health and Children to identify Travellers, in the context of ethnicity and self-identification, on all data collection systems to enable data on Traveller morbidity to be collected and published.**
- E4. The Departments of Health and Children and Environment and Local Government should set up a joint committee of officials and Travellers to explore the possibility of developing initiatives to improve the environmental health of halting sites.**
- E5. A working group should be set up to evaluate the patient held medical record pilot projects carried out in two health board areas and to design a suitable card for the patient held record, which will operate pending development of the "smart card".**
- E6. A national compatible IT system should be developed to facilitate exchange of information within and between health boards.**
- E7. The Primary Health Care for Travellers Project initiative is only reaching a relatively small number of Travellers and it is recommended that it be supplemented by other initiatives such as the nomination by Traveller patients of a person or organisation to which correspondence could be sent.**
- E8. The Department of Health and Children should identify or create suitable posts in health boards for Travellers.**
- E9. The Department of Health and Children should explore the possibilities of outreach clinics in relation to hospital services and review the operation of existing outreach services as to their impact on the Traveller Community.**

- E10. The Departments of Health and Children and Environment and Local Government should explore the possibility of including structures on halting sites suitable, inter alia, for the holding of outreach clinics.**
- E11. A national committee, to include Traveller representatives, should be established by the Department of Health and Children to develop guidelines on genetic counselling for Travellers.**
- E12. The Traveller community should be resourced for capacity building so that Travellers can participate effectively in health service structures.**
- E13. Present procedures regarding access to General Practitioner services should be reviewed.**
- E14. The Department of Health and Children should consider whether other models of remuneration or grant assistance for GP services, such as those which are based on consumer satisfaction or grants for practice nurses, might be beneficial.**
- E15. A more simplified system of medical card issue and renewal should be developed which takes account of the special needs of Travellers.**
- E16. The Department of Health and Children should acknowledge the impact which poor living conditions and discrimination have on Travellers' health.**
- E17. The Department of Health and Children should examine the issue of including a module on cultural awareness in the training courses of all health professionals.**
- E18. Culturally appropriate alternatives to institutional care for Travellers should be explored and resourced.**
- E19. Specialist Traveller social workers should be appointed as part of a multidisciplinary specialist team to respond to the special needs of Travellers.**
- E20. The delivery of social work services to Travellers should be examined and clarified by the Departments of Health and Children and Environment and Local Government in conjunction with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and the Traveller Health Advisory Committee.**

Section F - EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A number of developments in the area of Education and Training for Travellers have taken place. The Department of Education and Science published the White Paper on Early Education in December 1999. It also published the document entitled: "A New Deal - a Plan for Educational opportunities". These are positive moves by the Government to tackle the structural inequalities which exist in our education system and the strategies outlined in both of these documents will impact favourably on the Traveller Community. The valuable role of Visiting Teacher Service (VTS) and the progress made in expanding its services for Traveller children is also acknowledged.

There have been other developments in the area of education which will have a positive impact on Travellers' education such as: the Education (Welfare) Bill, 1999 which provides for the establishment of an educational welfare service to monitor school attendance and support children at risk to remain at school. The National Education Psychological Service was established in September, 1999 with responsibility for delivering a nation-wide psychological service to schools and other recognised centres of education. The White Paper: "Adult Education in an Era of Lifelong Learning", was published in August, 2000.

Despite these developments, the Monitoring Committee is concerned about the lack of progress generally on the recommendations of the Task Force in the area of education. Of particular concern is the failure of the Department of Education and Science to establish the Traveller Education Service as recommended by the Task Force. It is the view of the Committee that had such a service been set up more progress would have been made on implementing the Task Force recommendations. The Department of Education and Science set up a co-ordinating committee within the Department, but in the opinion of the Monitoring Committee its brief is too wide and its resources are limited. On a positive note, however, both the setting up of an advisory committee on Traveller education in 1998 and the commitment in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness to provide a co-ordinator for Traveller Education should ensure that progress will be delivered more speedily in future.

The Monitoring Committee notes that very little progress has been made on the integration of intercultural education into the education system as a whole. The Committee considers that more progress would be made in this area if better co-ordination existed within the Department of Education and Science.

Section F - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

- F1. Prompt action should be taken by the Department of Education and Science to ensure that services to Travellers are managed in a more co-ordinated and integrated way. There is an immediate need to set out a co-ordinated educational strategy. This should be the first task of the co-ordinator for Traveller Education, when appointed.**
- F2. More effective efforts should be made to advance progress on the integration of intercultural education into the education system as a whole. The Monitoring Committee will monitor progress in this area.**
- F3. The role of Traveller organisations in a whole range of educational actions should be recognised and adequate resources to undertake this work provided. A specific budget head should be established in the Department of Education and Science to support this work and the development of Traveller organisations education initiatives.**
- F4. An independent evaluation of the various services, such as the additional resources put into first and second level education, psychological services, etc., should be undertaken to set good practice guidelines and priorities for action.**
- F5. The issue of definitive figures (on Travellers' attendance at school) should be addressed through the establishment of a tracking system. This is particularly important to establish not just the numbers of children entering second level schooling but also to ascertain how many young people are progressing through the system and at what point they exit it. This system should be developed within a broader equality framework which should include equality proofing mechanisms, in particular, monitoring by ethnic identity.**

The development of school plans and the mainstreaming of equality should be part of the whole school evaluation process.

- F6. Contracts between VECs and Voluntary Youth organisations should contain specific commitments in relation to anti-racist practice, interculturalism and other mechanisms to mainstream equality.**
- F7. An equality mechanism which tracks and monitors Traveller involvement in mainstream youth work provision should be introduced to ensure that programmes are properly targeted at Travellers.**
- F8. Restrictions which prevent suitably experienced Travellers accessing youth work jobs, such as third level qualification as the only entry mechanism, should be eliminated.**
- F9. The establishment of after-school projects and the resourcing of same to support Travellers in education should be a priority for the Department of Education and Science. This can be achieved through effective partnerships with the Community and Voluntary sector and Traveller support groups.**
- F10. A conscious plan with a funding line needs to be established by the Department of Education and Science to ensure that pro-active steps are taken to encourage and enable Traveller parents to participate on school management boards.**
- F11. The funding of Traveller pre-schools and the setting of standards and Management support as outlined in the White Paper on Early Education needs to be implemented forthwith. The continuance of a two tiered funding arrangement must be ended.**

Section G - TRAVELLER ECONOMY

Limited progress has been achieved in this sector. The Monitoring Committee considers that the Traveller economy is an area which would benefit greatly from development. The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness states that the recommendations in the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community on economic activities will be progressed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in consultation with representatives of the social partners, inclusive of the national Travellers' organisations. The Monitoring Committee recommends the establishment of a working group, under its aegis and consisting of relevant Departments, FAS, social partners and the Traveller organisations, to examine the economic activities of Travellers with a view to their development. The working group will look at the traditional occupations of Travellers, such as: casual trading, home/work spaces, caring for horses and recycling, as well as options for mainstream employment.

Travellers involved in casual trading have been adversely affected by the introduction of new legislation. Under the Casual Trading Act, 1995, a trading licence is required for each local authority area and this has increased the costs of trading considerably. In addition markets have been relocated to less accessible parts of towns and some have closed as a result. The operation of the Casual Trading Act is currently being reviewed. Guidelines on the operation of transient sites have been published. The guidelines contain advice on matters such as the local authorities' obligations to accommodate transient groups, assistance to enable such groups to provide their own accommodation and the proper management and maintenance of sites.

Following the enactment of the Control of Horses Act, 1996, there is a need to develop Travellers' skills at breeding and caring for horses in order to create employment in this area, particularly for young Travellers.

Travellers favour self employment and because of poor education and the fear of discrimination they avoid mainstream employment. While the Monitoring Committee notes the improvements in the labour market since 1995, it believes that participation by Travellers continues to be very low. One of the difficulties in measuring the progress of Travellers in mainstream employment is the lack of available statistics on Traveller employees. A tracking system is necessary. In this regard the Committee has been informed that FAS has revised its application forms for training courses to include a question on Traveller status. Therefore it is hoped that in the future FAS will be in a position to monitor the number of Travellers availing of FAS services and programmes.

Labour market measures, which target the long-term unemployed, actively promote labour force participation by Travellers. In particular, FAS already assists Travellers as a distinct cohort in the labour market, requiring extra support and targeted programmes. In addition, the development of the Social Economy Programme is expected to create opportunities for Travellers to develop projects supplying local services. Area Development Management has pursued a three pronged strategy to ensure that all Travellers are fully included in local development activities. Initiatives should also be developed to facilitate access by Travellers to jobs in the Civil Service.

Section G - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

- G1. A working group consisting of relevant departments, FAS, social partners and the Traveller organisations should be established to examine economic development issues affecting Travellers.**
- G2. An equality mechanism which tracks and monitors Traveller involvement in mainstream education, training and employment provision should be introduced to ensure that programmes are properly targeted at Travellers.**
- G3. Policy-making, practice and delivery in relation to market trading and casual trading should acknowledge Travellers' culture and identity.**
- G4. Local Authorities should inform licence holders, local business representatives, Traveller organisations and the Gardai in writing of any changes in policy on casual trading.**

- G5. The Competition Authority should, in the context of reviewing the Casual Trading Act, 1995, address the issue of licences and how their introduction has affected casual trading by Travellers. Any review of the Act should take into account the views of the Social Partners and the Traveller organisations on the operation of the Act.**
- G6. The supports provided by some County Enterprise Boards are welcomed. It is recommended, however, that the provision requires expansion and the development of a positive and systematic approach to developing supports for Traveller enterprises.**
- G7. It is incumbent on the Local Employment Service to target the Traveller Community by mainstreaming the model already used in some areas.**
- G8. Traveller organisations should be included in the process of developing and implementing policies on waste management at local level which have an effect on the Traveller economy.**

Section H - TRAVELLER WOMEN

There have been a number of developments which have had positive effects for Traveller women. Through its Community Development Programme, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs supports a number of projects which focus particularly on the needs of Traveller women. In acknowledging the particular issues facing Traveller women, the Department supports the National Traveller Women's Forum who co-ordinate Traveller Women's Groups nationally. The Department's support for such groups is based on the groups identifying and prioritising their own needs and also identifying the appropriate means to address those needs. The Department of Health and Children states that it is prepared to co-operate with Traveller women's organisations in identifying the particular health needs of Traveller women. Needs that are identified will be incorporated in the Department's policy on Traveller health. FÁS provides training programmes for Traveller women at local level through the community Response Programme. These programmes are provided within FÁS mainstream training.

The Monitoring Committee considers that it is important that the issue of violence against Traveller women is viewed in a wide ranging way which takes into account the multiple forms of violence experienced by them and allows for the development of multiple strategies to address their concerns. The Department of Health and Children proposes to expand the services for women who are victims of domestic violence and to co-ordinate these more effectively with other health services. Increased financial support has been made available for counselling and telephone help line services for victims of domestic violence and it is planned to make continued progress with the development of services for such victims. The Monitoring Committee recommends that these developments should include a particular focus on intercultural services for Traveller women.

There is a need for the collection and collation of data on Traveller women through research projects. Specific resources should be provided to Traveller organisations to carry out such projects.

A Partnership 2000 Working Group on "Equality Proofing" reported in January 2000. It proposed a longer term vision of a single integrated equality proofing process which would measure the impact of policies, programmes and projects on the nine target groups (including gender and Travellers) covered in equality legislation. This would later extend beyond the civil and public service to cover the private as well as the voluntary and community sector. The particular needs of persons who cross more than one group, such as Traveller women, need to be identified through the equality proofing process. (Further details are in Section M)

Section H - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

- H1. Traveller women should be represented on any monitoring mechanisms established to review progress for women to ensure that all equality policies have a direct positive impact on Traveller women.**
- H2. Proposals for future initiatives in each area, particularly Travellers' health, education, discrimination and accommodation should be monitored in terms of their impact on equality for Traveller women.**
- H3. Resources should be allocated to local Traveller organisations, Pavee Point and the National Traveller Women's Forum to undertake specific research on the needs and current position of Traveller women at local and national level.**
- H4. Traveller organisations at local and national level should be resourced in their efforts in providing education and training opportunities for Traveller women. A co-ordinated national programme of adult education for Traveller women should be developed.**
- H5. Maternity leave, childcare and sick leave should be provided for Traveller women on Community Employment schemes. (It should be noted that entitlement to Social Welfare benefits/payments e.g. Disability Benefit, Maternity Benefit, etc. would of course, still be subject to the normal PRSI and other qualifying conditions).**

- H6. The National Traveller Women's Forum should be supported in its efforts in seeking funding as a National Anti Poverty Network from the Combat Poverty Agency.**
- H7. The development of strategies and actions which address the issue of institutionalised violence against women should be supported.**
- H8. Childcare provision should be culturally appropriate and the allocation of resources should involve the specific targeting of children from disadvantaged communities and in particular Traveller children.**
- H9. Increased financial support has been made available for counselling and telephone help line services for victims of domestic violence and it is planned to make continued progress with the development of services for such victims. The Monitoring Committee recommends that these developments should include a particular focus on intercultural services for Traveller women.**
- H10. Traveller organisations should be represented on the National Co-ordinating Childcare Committee.**

Section J - TRAVELLERS WITH A DISABILITY

The Progress Report of the Interdepartmental Task Force on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Commission on the Status of People with disabilities states that substantial progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Report of the Commission. The Commission identified groups, such as Travellers, as having particular concerns and needs over and beyond those of the general population with disabilities. The Progress Report states that these groups would be helped by targeted awareness programmes aimed at professionals working in disability fields as well as at the general public. It also states that health and personal support services for vulnerable people, (which includes Travellers) have been reviewed and are the subjects of development planning.

The Monitoring Committee considers that further research is needed into the particular experience and needs of Travellers with a disability and calls for research to be carried out in association with Traveller organisations.

Section J - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

- J1. Research on the experiences of and the needs of Travellers with a disability should be carried out in association with Traveller organisations. Travellers with a disability should be supported and resourced to play a key role in the carrying out of such research.**
- J2. The experiences of Travellers with a disability, and in particular those who have experience of living in residential care should be listened to and taken into account in the development of much needed intercultural methods of providing care to Travellers with a disability.**
- J3. An official link should be established between the Monitoring Committee and the Interdepartmental Task Force on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities to ensure the inclusion of Travellers with a disability in the actions and strategies resulting from the deliberations of the Interdepartmental Task Force.**

Section K - MONITORING OF PROGRESS

The process of monitoring to date has been time-consuming for those involved due mainly to the sizeable number of departmental, community and Traveller organisations involved in a broad spectrum of activity. Many excellent presentations have been received by the Monitoring Committee during its first two years of operation. The presentations dealt with the development of services to the Traveller community and the development of the Traveller community in providing supports to itself. These presentations coupled with the on the ground experience of those on the Monitoring Committee have contributed significantly to the contents of this Report. It is clear however that much of the Task Force agenda has still to be tackled.

The Monitoring Committee is of the view that in the light of the setting up of a number of Travellers Advisory Committees by relevant Government Departments e.g. Health and Children, Education and Science, Environment and Local Government, and the recent development of numerous other liaison committees between Departments and Travellers groups e.g. accommodation committees, economic development liaison groups, the most appropriate model for monitoring future developments is through liaison between these groups and the Monitoring Committee. These groups/committees will be asked to submit their annual reports and work programmes to the Monitoring Committee and to arrange for a representative to meet with the Monitoring Committee at least once a year.

This will enable this Committee to hear at first hand from both department officials and Traveller representatives a cogent up to date analysis of present activities and future plans in respect of the implementation of both the Task Force recommendations and other agreed developments. This will lead to a thematic monitoring of developments by the Committee, and the issuing of a yearly report.

One of the difficulties the Monitoring committee will have to face is the overlap in the delivery of services between different departments and their local delivery agencies i.e. Local Authorities or Health Boards. This overlap may fall outside the ambit of the advisory groups, so will receive particular attention from the Monitoring Committee again on a thematic basis to ensure that services are delivered in a co-ordinated manner.

The Monitoring Committee will also serve as a forum for consultation on current issues of national importance affecting the Traveller Community as required under its Terms of Reference.

Section K - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

K1. The effectiveness of the Monitoring Committee will be reviewed by the Committee itself.

K2. The Monitoring Committee will agree a work programme and working methods for itself based on the above.

Section L - SPORT AND OTHER RECREATIONS

One of the objectives of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation is to encourage increased participation in sport and recreation, particularly by disadvantaged communities (including the Traveller community). In some cases grants to sports organisations are based on initiatives being developed which increase and enhance participation in sport by disadvantaged groups.

Sulky (or harness) racing is a very common recreational activity among Travellers and should be managed and supported.

Travellers are protected from discrimination when accessing venues which provide sport and recreational services under new legislation. The Equal Status Act, 2000 outlaws both direct and indirect discrimination in the provision of goods and services including the provision of recreational services on nine grounds, including membership of the Traveller community.

Section L - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

- L1. Traveller organisations should be resourced and funded to organise Traveller participation in sport and recreational activities at both local and national level.**
- L2. Sporting organisations in receipt of public funding who are found to be discriminating against Travellers should have their funding withdrawn completely or suspended until such a time as the situation has been rectified.**
- L3. Sulky racing is a very common recreational activity among Travellers and it is gaining in popularity. Travellers state, however, that they are experiencing some difficulty in pursuing this recreational activity. The relevant authorities and Government Departments should take steps to support and resource Traveller participation in this activity.**
- L4. Traveller organisations should establish a body to regulate the sport of Sulky racing.**
- L5. While the Monitoring Committee welcomes the goals outlined in the Statement of Strategy, 1998 - 2001 of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, it believes that the particular needs of Travellers can only be effectively addressed when they are specifically reflected in the strategy and it should not be assumed that Travellers needs will be addressed by simply locating them under the disadvantage category.**

Section M. - EQUALITY PROOFING

There have been calls for guidelines to be developed on “Traveller proofing” of policies and practices. It should be noted in this regard that issues relating to poverty in the Traveller community come under the remit of the current poverty proofing guidelines. The enhanced guidelines on poverty proofing, circulated to all Government Departments in 1999, featured a worked example which used the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 as a guide to the practical implementation of poverty proofing.

A Partnership 2000 Working Group on "Equality Proofing" reported in January 2000. It proposed a longer term vision of a single integrated equality proofing process and extending beyond the civil and public service to cover the private as well as the voluntary and community sector and covering the nine target groups (including Travellers) covered in equality legislation. The Working Group recommended and its recommendation has been incorporated in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, that a "learning phase" be implemented during the period 2000 - 2003 covering three separate proofing strands:

Gender proofing in the context of the Structural Funds and National Development Plan 2000 - 2006; Poverty proofing in the context of NAPS; and Equality proofing initiatives covering the nine target groups (including Travellers).

The Monitoring Committee considers that the following three recommendations on Traveller participation, Traveller culture and Equality Proofing are central to the implementation of this report and should be applied to each working area.

Section M - Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee

- M1. Traveller representative organisations should be included fully in the process of decision making and the development of policy and procedures.**
- M2. Statutory organisations should take a lead role in conveying a positive attitude to the Traveller Community and to issues affecting the well being of Travellers by proofing their policies and procedures to ensure that they do not discriminate against Travellers’ distinct culture and identity, through improved interdepartmental co-operation and recognition of the close links between statutory provision and improved relations between the Traveller and settled communities.**
- M3. All policies, reports and procedures should also be equality proofed to ensure they take due account of Travellers with special needs i.e. all of the nine grounds covered in the anti-discrimination legislation, e.g., Traveller women, Travellers with a disability, etc.**

Chapter 3

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Section A

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TRAVELLERS AND THE SETTLED COMMUNITY

1. Introduction

The Task Force concluded that complex relationships existed between Travellers and the settled community and that there was a need for measures aimed at reducing conflict and strengthening mutual respect between the two communities. Relationships were, to some extent, based on lack of contact and knowledge on the part of each community and the task of developing relationships between the two communities was a mutual responsibility. The Task Force suggested that the State had a role to play in the process of reconciliation. Current attitudes were influenced by external factors, in particular, the media and the influence of the educational process in forming attitudes.

2. Survey of Attitudes

A marketing research survey was commissioned by the Traveller Communication Committee in February 2000 as part of its "Citizen Traveller" campaign. The survey showed that there were very few people who would express very favourable attitudes towards Travellers. Poor hygiene, living conditions and deficiencies in education were all seen as significant negatives. The research revealed that as many as 20% of the population had had no contact whatsoever with Travellers yet half of the population claimed to have a Traveller site within two miles of their home. A new survey is being planned for the coming year which will focus on Travellers' attitudes at the start of a new millennium. Five years after the publication of the Task Force report there is still a lot of ground to be made up in improving attitudes to Travellers among the settled community. Media reporting of and commentary on Traveller issues has at times been offensive and racist in tone, and tended to reinforce negative stereotypes of Travellers.

A number of initiatives aimed at increasing awareness and developing relationships between Travellers have taken place over the past twelve months. The Monitoring Committee acknowledges the commitment by Government in funding the Citizen Traveller Campaign. The support for the Traveller Mediation Service and the awareness initiatives of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism are also acknowledged. Of no less importance is the vital role played by the Traveller organisations in developing increased contact between Travellers and members of the settled community.

3. Communication Programme

In 1998, the Government allocated a sum of £900,000 to fund a Traveller Communications Programme over a three year period; 1999 to 2001. The objective of the programme is to address the underlying causes of mistrust between Travellers and the settled community and to promote a greater understanding between both communities. The implementation of the programme is managed by an independent committee, the Traveller Communication Committee, comprising four Traveller organisations; Irish Traveller Movement, the National Traveller Women's Forum, Pavee Point and the Parish of the Travelling People.

The programme is entitled: "Citizen Traveller". Its overall strategy is divided into a number of distinct areas, i.e., market research, public relations, public education and awareness initiatives, lobbying (e.g., seeking to influence and inform relevant politicians and public bodies), media relations, advertising and direct marketing, appropriate training, and ongoing community activities involving settled and Traveller communities. When the communication programme is completed at the end of its third year, the Traveller Communication Committee intends to carry out an overall evaluation of the campaign.

A Traveller Focus Week, organised by the Traveller Communication Committee as part of its "Citizen Traveller" campaign, took place at the end of February 2000 and coincided with an outdoor billboard advertising campaign. Projects which took place during the Traveller Focus Week were: TV Show specials about Travellers and featuring Travellers; a series of articles written by Travellers in a national daily newspaper; and regional media events. A briefing seminar with all Traveller organisations was held prior to the launch of Traveller Focus Week to encourage local and regional group participation.

4. Traveller Organisations

Traveller organisations play a vital role in developing increased contact between Travellers and members of the settled community. At the national level the Irish Traveller Movement, the National Traveller Women's Forum and Pavee Point are active to ensure that Traveller interests are reflected in the wider community and voluntary sector. The participation of these organisations in the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF), the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and the National Agreement negotiations is vital to ensuring that the concerns of Travellers are brought to the attention of organisations who exclusively or predominantly represent the interests of the settled community.

Local Traveller organisations play a similarly valuable role in ensuring contact on an equal level is built up between Travellers and members of the settled community. As structures to engage local organisations in local governance and local development are further developed this role will become increasingly important.

The specific committees at local and national level which have emerged from the recommendations of the Task Force report are also an important arena for views emanating from the settled community and Travellers to be debated and responded to. Examples of such committees at national level are the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education and the Traveller Health Advisory Committee. Local level committees include the local Traveller accommodation consultative committees in each local authority area and the Traveller health units which are in place in most of the health board areas. Developing models of good practice for the operation of these committees will make an important contribution towards improving the quality of the contact between Travellers and the settled community.

5. Mediation Service

In 1999, Pavee Point Traveller Centre established a Mediation Service to provide a mechanism for responding constructively to the various conflicts and disputes which arise between Travellers and members of the majority population. The centre set up the service with some funding from private sources and it was officially launched by President McAleese on 9 September 1999. The centre intends to develop the service further over the next three years at a total cost of over £300,000. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform has undertaken to provide a grant of £50,000 towards the funding of the service in 2000.

One of the objectives of the Mediation Service is to bring together the various stake-holders who are concerned about conflicts, including local authority officials, Gardai, politicians, community leaders, Travellers and Traveller support groups and resident associations and to encourage such people to develop new and constructive approaches to the resolution of disputes and conflicts. The service provides training and educational workshops which contribute to a greater awareness and understanding of a range of non-violent approaches for dealing with conflict. The service is available to members of both the Traveller community and the non-Traveller population who wish to find a solution to their conflict through the process of mediation. It is intended that the mediation service will help to strengthen relationships between Travellers and the State authorities, such as the Gardai, local authorities, etc. When the service is fully operational it should provide an effective alternative to litigation and prove to be cost effective in the long term.

6. Community Development Programme

The Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs has informed the Monitoring Committee that through its Community Development Programme, the Scheme of Grants for Locally-Based Community and Family Support Groups and a category of funding within that scheme for core-funding of more developed community groups, the Department is committed to targeting particular support to Travellers groups, as Travellers in Irish society suffer significant poverty and disadvantage. The aim of this support is to raise awareness of Travellers issues and contribute to development initiatives by Travellers themselves.

Under the once-off grants scheme, once-off grants are given each year to a range of local Traveller groups for personal development, social development and vocational training initiatives.

The Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs supports some 91 community development projects many of which would identify and target Travellers in their community for support. Eight of these are specialist community development projects working with the Traveller community. In addition, Pavee Point Traveller Centre is provided with funding as a specialist support agency to the programme. The overall aim of the Specialist Support Agency is the appropriate inclusion of Travellers in the various aspects of the programme and progress in addressing their social exclusion. These aims are addressed through three strategies (i) impacting on area based projects, Travellers projects and the overall programme, (ii) providing an information service and (iii) work on policy.

While many of the geographically based community development resource centres in the Community Development Programme give a high priority to working with Travellers, the inclusion of specialist Traveller projects in the programme ensures that Traveller issues and concerns are highlighted in a way that is not always possible in a purely area-based approach. It also ensures resources for development initiatives that come from within the Traveller community itself.

It is intended that other specialist Travellers projects - including those addressing the needs of Traveller women - will be included in the Community Development Programme or Core-funded Community and Family Groups Programme as appropriate in the future.

7. National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism

The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) was established by the Minister in July 1998. One of its roles is to encourage integrated action towards acknowledging, understanding and celebrating cultural diversity in Ireland. The NCCRI endeavours to promote a more participative and intercultural society which is inclusive of persons such as Travellers and minority ethnic groups.

In November, 1999 the NCCRI organised a two-week awareness programme which focused on the inclusion of Travellers and other minority groups into Irish society. The programme consisted of a wide range of different types of events at national, regional and local levels, including a film festival, workshops, seminars and the launching of publications. The participation of community groups, schools and Traveller and other organisations was encouraged and a small grant fund was set up to support non-statutory groups who became involved in the programme.

8. Anti-Racism Protocol and Declaration of Intent

Recent initiatives being developed by the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) as part of its overall aim of developing an integrated approach against racism are the draft Anti-Racism Protocol for Political Parties and the draft Declaration of Intent for Candidates in Elections. The initiative is modelled on a Europe - wide initiative called the Charter of Political Parties for a Non - Racist society, which is supported by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia.

Political parties who sign the Anti-Racism Protocol must undertake to ensure that election campaigns are conducted in such a way that they do not incite hatred or prejudice on the grounds of race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins, religious belief and membership of the Traveller community. Similarly, candidates for elections who are signatories to the Declaration of Intent, undertake to ensure that election campaigns are conducted in such a way that they do not incite hatred or prejudice on the same grounds.

The initiatives are, as yet, in their early stages. The Monitoring Committee will continue to track developments.

9. Other initiatives

In addition to the initiative outlined above, funds are provided by statutory bodies for various initiatives, described throughout this Report, which contribute to increasing levels of contact between Travellers and the settled community. A Code of Practice, which provides a framework for community development projects to address racism and promote equal outcomes for minority ethnic communities, which would include Travellers, was published by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs in November, 1999.

Section B

CULTURE

1. Introduction

The Task Force recommended that the distinct culture and identity of Travellers should be recognised and taken into account. It suggested that the issue was of crucial importance for finding real and appropriate solutions to the problems faced by the Traveller community. It presented a challenge to the settled community and especially to policy makers and those responsible for the implementation of the policies, to ensure that the policies pursued were likely to have positive outcomes that were respectful of Traveller culture.

Progress has been made on this issue in a number of areas including Traveller accommodation provision, anti-discrimination legislation, through the work of Traveller organisations and, the Traveller Communication Programme. Many Travellers consider, however, that the Control of Horses Act, 1996, albeit necessary, has created difficulties for some Travellers.

2. Recognition of Traveller Culture in Legislation

Section 2(1) of the Equal Status Act, 2000 contains an explicit definition of 'Traveller community' which states: “'Traveller community' means the community of people who are commonly called Travellers and who are identified (both by themselves and others) as people with a shared history, culture and traditions including, historically, a nomadic way of life on the island of Ireland.”. This definition is modelled on the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order, 1997. The Employment Equality Act, 1998 was also amended to include the above definition of 'Traveller community'.

3. Traveller Accommodation Provision

Advances that have been made in this area include the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998. The Act recognises the need to provide transient sites, which for the first time acknowledges the nomadic identity of Travellers. The guidelines on the provision of Traveller accommodation, produced by the Department of the Environment and Local Government are also worth noting.

4. Traveller Organisations and the Traveller Communication Programme

The work of Traveller organisations and the Traveller Communication Programme entitled “Citizen Traveller” both of which are referred to in the Section ‘A’ have assisted in developing a greater awareness of Traveller culture in the broader society and to a reduction in negative attitudes towards Travellers.

5. Control of Horses Act

The owning of a horse/horses is an important part of Traveller culture. It also plays an important part in the lives of Travellers in a situation where they have been excluded from opportunities to engage in social or economic activities. The way we respond to Travellers who keep horses is a key test of the value we place on culture in devising responses to the needs of Travellers.

The Control of Horses Act, 1996 was necessary to deal with the genuine concerns and dangers arising from wandering horses particularly in urban areas. The way the Act has been implemented without taking account of the particular needs of Travellers demonstrates how necessary it is to equality proof policies for their potential and real impact on the different communities affected by legislation. The way the Act has been implemented also demonstrates what happens when you fail to take account of culture when devising and implementing policies. In reality, the Act creates huge difficulties for Travellers and it also undermines the potential of the Act to address the concerns for which it was introduced in the first place. To ensure that the law is effective will require an examination of how those affected by the Act can be assisted to comply with its conditions.

Section C

DISCRIMINATION

1. Introduction

The Task Force Report states that Travellers experience direct and indirect discrimination at the individual or interpersonal level and at the institutional level. Discrimination at the individual level is most common when a Traveller seeks access to any of a range of goods, services and facilities, to which access was denied purely on the basis of their identity as Travellers. There are many examples of public houses refusing to serve Travellers, hotels refusing to book Traveller weddings, leisure facilities barring access to Travellers, and insurance companies refusing to provide motor insurance cover.

The Task Force found that at the institutional level discrimination could occur where procedures and practices reflect a lack of acceptance of Travellers' culture and identity and can involve controls placed on Travellers in excess of those placed on members of the settled community in similar circumstances. Where Travellers are segregated in the provision of various services it is seen as an imposed setting apart of a group. Legislation, policy making and provision can develop in a manner that only reflects the settled community's culture and identity and ignores the impact it may have on the Travellers as a minority ethnic group. The Task Force concluded that while legislation alone would not put an end to such discrimination, it would make an essential contribution.

2. Anti-discrimination Legislation

2.1 Employment Equality Act, 1998

The Employment Equality Act, 1998 was brought into operation in October, 1999. The Act outlaws both direct and indirect discrimination in relation to employment on nine distinct grounds: gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race (including colour, nationality or ethnic or national origin), and membership of the Traveller community. The scope of the 1998 Act is comprehensive and deals with discrimination in work related areas, from vocational training to access to employment and employment conditions generally, including training, work experience and advancement within employment. The publication of discriminatory advertisements and discrimination by employment agencies, vocational training bodies and certain vocational bodies, i.e. trade unions and employer, professional and trade associations are also outlawed.

2.2 Equal Status Act, 2000

The Equal Status Act, 2000 outlaws discrimination in the provision of goods and services on the same nine grounds as the Employment Equality Act, 1998. As in the case of the Employment Equality Act, membership of the Traveller Community is specifically mentioned as one of these grounds. The Act came into operation on 25 October 2000.

Direct and indirect discrimination is prohibited by the Equal Status Act and the legislation applies to both the public and private sectors. It prohibits policies and procedures that discriminate against Travellers, and outlaws the exclusion of Travellers from goods, services and facilities. The Act also ensures protection from victimisation.

3. Equality Infrastructure

3.1 Equality Authority

A new infrastructure was established under the Employment Equality Act, 1998 to underpin the statutory rights being provided under both the employment equality and equal status legislation. The infrastructure comprises, the Equality Authority, which replaced the Employment Equality Agency, and the office of the Director of Equality Investigations,

to provide a forum for redress of first instance. Both bodies came into operation in October, 1999. Their remit is broadened beyond the employment equality area with the enactment of the Equal Status Act, 2000.

The Equality Authority will work to (i) eliminate discrimination; and (ii) promote equality of opportunity. Its board comprises twelve members, one of whom is a representative from a Traveller organisation.

Many of the recommendations of the Task Force Report have been satisfied by the establishment of the equality infrastructure. The Equality Authority will keep under review the workings of equality legislation. As part of its work it will use consultative processes with the range of key players to assist it with particular areas of its work: including the development of equality review frameworks, codes of practice and affirmative action to address discriminatory practice. The Authority will also develop demonstration models, organise seminars and public education projects on equality issues and rights.

The Equality Authority is seeking to pursue an integrated approach across both employment equality and equal status legislation. The Authority points out that this will allow a coherence of approach by organisations to equality in relation to their internal relations, human resource function, and to their external relations and customer source function.

3.2 Office of Director of Equality Investigations

The office of Director of Equality Investigations provides the main locus for redress of first instance for equality cases arising under both employment equality and equal status legislation. The office is staffed by equality officers and equality mediation officers.

Equality cases, other than those involving dismissal, may be referred to the Director of Equality Investigations. The Director or an equality officer may, subject to the agreement of the parties to the claim, refer the case for mediation, if it appears possible to resolve it in that way. The Director will investigate each case submitted to her and will issue a decision. There is provision for the award of redress where discrimination is found to have occurred in the employment area. In cases taken under the Equal Status Act, 2000 the discriminator will be fined. Decisions of the Director and mediation settlements are binding and enforceable through the Circuit Court.

4. Issues Relating to the Equal Status Act, 2000

4.1 Section 15 - Certain Activities not Discrimination

Section 15 of the Equal Status Act, 2000 allows a service provider to refuse a potential customer in circumstances which would lead a reasonable individual to anticipate that there would be a substantial risk of criminal or disorderly conduct or behaviour or damage to property.

This particular provision has been criticised by Traveller organisations because it could allow, for example, a publican to refuse to serve a Traveller based on what the publican believes other customers may, or may not, do by way of “disorderly conduct”. Similarly, it has been argued, that the section could allow a landlord to refuse accommodation to a potential tenant who has black skin because of the possibility of trouble from racist individuals or groups. The section is seen by Traveller groups as a major loophole in the legislation. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform states that it was not intended that section 15 would provide an escape route from the requirements of the legislation. It was intended to relieve the concerns of licensed vintners and other commercial interests without altering the essential thrust of the Act.

4.2 Indirect Discrimination

Indirect discrimination is prohibited under the Equal Status Act (section 3) as an added facet of each of the nine distinct grounds covered by the Bill. Indirect discrimination occurs where a requirement to comply with a condition has a disproportionately adverse effect on a particular category of persons and this requirement cannot be justified as being reasonable in all the circumstances of the case.

4.3 Twenty Percent Differential

The Task Force recommended the setting of the twenty percent differential “between communities in their access to goods, services and facilities as the point beyond which indirect discrimination requires to be investigated.”

The Equal Status Act, 2000, includes indirect discrimination. However, as regards the accessing of goods, services and facilities as between different communities (e.g., Travellers and settled people), the relevant factor which determines if indirect discrimination is occurring is that substantially more people outside the particular ‘community’ (the discriminated against or affected category) than within it, can comply with the particular condition being imposed by the service provider.

The purpose of this recommendation was to encourage pro-active investigations, in particular to ascertain the impact of discrimination on communities, rather than waiting to investigate cases taken by individuals. The focus within the Equal Status Act is a more limited re-active one rather than the pro-active one envisaged by this recommendation.

4.4 Positive Action

The Equal Status Act, 2000 (section 14(b)) allows for preferential treatment or the taking of positive measures which are bona fide intended to promote equality of opportunity for Travellers or other persons or groups suffering disadvantage.

4.5 State Sector

The provisions of the Equal Status Act, 2000 are equally applicable to the state sector as to the private sector and the Minister, during the course of the Oireachtas debates on the Bill, confirmed this. A “service” is defined in section 2 of the Bill as a service or facility of any nature which is generally available to the public or a section of the public. This very wide definition applies to public services as well as to those provide by the private sector.

5. Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act, 1989

Legislation has been in place for the past ten years prohibiting incitement to hatred. The Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act, 1989 makes it an offence to incite hatred against any group of persons in the State or elsewhere on account of their race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origins, or membership of the Traveller community.

Bringing a successful case under the Act can be difficult however, and Traveller organisations complain that the Act is ineffective in dealing with verbal and racist attacks on their community. The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform has acknowledged the criticism and following his request a review of the legislation has commenced in his Department.

6. International Standards

The Task Force Report calls on the Irish Government to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. The current position is that while Ireland has signed the Convention, it has not ratified it yet. The legal advice to the Government is that legislation is required in order that full effect is given to the provisions of the Convention at domestic level. The passing into law of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 and the Equal Status Act, 2000 puts in place the necessary domestic legislation. The Irish Government has proceeded with the steps for Ireland’s ratification of the International Convention.

7. Access to Voting

The Electoral Act, 1992 makes residence within a constituency a pre-requisite for registration. Under the Act, therefore, Travellers who are nomadic are liable to be disenfranchised. The Task Force called on the Department of the Environment and Local Government to introduce procedures and any necessary amendments to legislation to ensure that this situation did not continue. The Department of the Environment and Local Government explains that the Electoral Act, 1992, recognises that a person may be ordinarily resident in more than one place and thus have a prima facie claim for registration in respect of more than one premises (in law “premises” does not necessarily imply a structure of any kind). A person may be registered in respect of one place only. The law, however, provides that, in circumstances where a person could be registered in respect of more than one address, the registration authority shall determine the address at which the person shall be registered subject to any expression of choice by the person concerned. According to the Department, these provisions enable Travellers to be registered as electors, even where they have a nomadic lifestyle.

It is important that Travellers be informed of this position given the experience of members of the Traveller community of accessing their right to vote. The Department of the Environment and Local Government indicates that it has advised local authorities, in preparing the register of electors, to contact those sections of the authorities and urban district councils in their areas which have responsibility for Traveller accommodation or any other matter concerning Traveller affairs with a view to ensuring that as many as possible of eligible Travellers are included in the register. The memorandum issued by the Department to registration authorities also draws attention to the choice of registration address, where more than one address is relevant.

Section D

ACCOMMODATION

1. Introduction

The Monitoring Committee agrees with the view expressed by the Task Force that accommodation which is provided to Traveller families must be appropriate to their needs, and must be met through a range of accommodation types. On the basis of research into population projections and demographic trends within the Traveller community the Task Force estimated that 3,100 units of accommodation would be needed by the year 2000 to meet the commitment in the Programme for Partnership which set a target of providing permanent, serviced caravan site accommodation for all Traveller families who require such homes by the year 2000. An accelerated national programme was recommended.

The Task Force pointed to the need for mechanisms to provide for consultation with Travellers/Traveller representatives and the need for improved design of Traveller accommodation including caravans for long term living. The Report recommended the provision of specific funding for Traveller accommodation; financial assistance to local authorities in the management and maintenance of accommodation and, the establishment of an independent Traveller Accommodation Agency. In addition, it recommended greater tenant participation in matters relating to accommodation, as well as mechanisms to deal with anti social behaviour.

2. Main Developments

Much progress has been made in the area of Traveller accommodation since the publication of the Task Force Report, in putting in place the administrative, legislative, and financial framework, for the provision of Traveller accommodation. The framework is underpinned by mechanisms at national and local level for consultation with Travellers and Traveller representatives.

Nevertheless, the Monitoring Committee wishes to highlight the fact that in reality one in every four Traveller families are currently living without access to water, toilets and refuse collection. The accommodation situation has disimproved over the past five years and the Monitoring Committee would like to emphasise in the strongest terms the importance of having the local Traveller Accommodation Programmes delivered in a way that clears the backlog in Traveller accommodation. It is also particularly unsatisfactory that the numbers of Traveller families on the roadside has increased.

The main developments which took place in the past five years were the adoption of a National Strategy for Traveller Accommodation in March, 1996 and the enactment of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act in July 1998. To oversee the implementation of the National Strategy a dedicated Traveller Accommodation Unit was established in the Department of the Environment and Local Government in May, 1996. In December, 1996, a National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Group was set up under the aegis of the Department and in April, 1999 this Group was established on a statutory basis as the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

3. National Strategy

Following the publication of the Task Force Report, the Government set up an Interdepartmental Committee to consider the recommendations contained in the Report. The Government, on foot of recommendation brought forward by the Committee adopted a National Strategy for Traveller Accommodation in 1996. The elements of the Strategy were as follows:

- Each major local authority (i.e. county boroughs, county councils) to prepare and have adopted by the elected Council a 5 - year plan for the provision of Traveller accommodation in their area. The plans would be subject

to periodic review by local authorities in the light of progress and developments or otherwise, including changes in the local Traveller population etc.

- The local plans would be co-ordinated by the Department of the Environment and Local Government with the assistance of the Consultative Group into a national plan to deliver the 3,100 units of accommodation required. The types of accommodation as set out in the Report of the Task Force are (i) permanent halting sites (1,200 serviced bays) and 900 houses and (ii) a network of serviced transient halting sites (1,000 bays).
- The Housing Acts and the Management Acts to be amended to impose on local authorities the obligation to prepare and adopt their plans by a specified deadline and to provide that, in the event of the elected members not adopting a plan within the time allowed, the Manager would then be empowered and required to formally make the plan. When a plan had been made the authority would be required to take the necessary steps to secure its implementation.
- The Planning Acts to be amended to put an effective planning framework in place which would facilitate implementation of the Traveller accommodation plans.
- A special Unit to be established in the Department of the Environment and Local Government to oversee the preparation, monitoring, implementation, co-ordination, etc. of the programme for Traveller accommodation, including the preparation and enactment of the necessary legislation.
- A National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Group to be established on a statutory basis to monitor preparation, adequacy and implementation of the local accommodation programmes, and to advise the Minister as necessary.
- Wider legislative powers to be given to local authorities to deal with illegal and unauthorised parking by Travellers and related matters.
- Management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation by local authorities to be improved with a view to securing higher standards of upkeep. The Task Force recommended 75% recoupment of local authority expenditure at an estimated annual cost to the Exchequer of £7.5 million over the six year period.
- There should be a statutory requirement that Traveller accommodation committees, representative of the elected members and officials of the local authority and Travellers, be established in each local authority area to facilitate consultation and to assist in the development and implementation of the local programmes.

4. Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998

The principal development in the area of Traveller accommodation since the Report of the Task Force was published in 1995, and the adoption of the National Strategy was the enactment of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, in July, 1998. The primary purpose of the Act was to provide a legislative framework within which the accommodation needs of Travellers are to be met in a reasonable period of time. The Act implemented the main elements of the National Strategy as outlined above.

The Act :

- requires local authorities, in consultation with Travellers/Traveller representatives, to prepare and adopt by a date to be specified by the Minister 5-year programmes to meet the existing and projected accommodation needs of Travellers in their areas;
- allows for public input to the preparation and amendment of such programmes;
- obliges local authorities to take the appropriate steps to secure implementation of programmes;

- establishes on a statutory basis the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee;
- requires local authorities to set up local Traveller accommodation consultative committees on which local authority members, officials and representatives of local Travellers and Traveller bodies are represented;
- amends planning legislation to require planning authorities to include objectives concerning Traveller accommodation in their county/city development plans;
- provides improved powers for local authorities to deal with unauthorised temporary dwellings where alternative serviced accommodation is available, or within one mile of existing accommodation, regardless of whether alternative accommodation is available;
- applies relevant provisions of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1997 in respect of the control of anti-social behaviour to halting sites provided by local authorities or by voluntary bodies with the assistance of local authorities; and,
- provides for a loan scheme to enable Travellers to purchase caravans or sites for caravans.

5. Accommodation Provided / Refurbished

The latest annual count of Traveller families carried out by local authorities in November, 1999 shows that there were overall increases in the number of families accommodated in standard housing, group housing and halting sites. However, the results also show an increase in the number of Traveller families on the roadside. The following data refer to the years 1996 - 1999.

<u>Accommodated Families</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
*Local Authority Housing	2135	2260	2367	2483
Permanent Halting Sites	777	789	824	802
Temporary Halting Sites	351	326	309	271
Transient Halting Sites	15	19	15	27
Families on the Roadside	1040	1127	1148	1207

* This includes families in Local Authority standard housing, local authority group housing, private houses assisted by local authorities and housing provided by voluntary bodies assisted by local authorities.

As is evident from the foregoing figures the rate at which accommodation was provided was not sufficient to address the existing Traveller accommodation needs as outlined by the Task Force. Furthermore this need did not include the ongoing increase in the number of Traveller families which the Task Force estimated at 4% per annum.

(More detailed statistics on accommodation units and halting sites are contained in Chapter 4 - Statistics and Information on Funding).

6. Five-Year Local Traveller Accommodation Programmes

In order to accelerate the rate at which accommodation is provided, the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 required each relevant housing authority (i.e. county council, county borough corporation, borough corporation, and Bray and Dundalk Urban District Councils) to prepare and adopt a five year local Traveller accommodation programme by a date specified by the Minister (31 March 2000). The implementation of these local programmes will be overseen and funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government and monitored by the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. All relevant local authorities have adopted an Accommodation Programme.

In its Memorandum on Implementation of the 1998 Act circulated to housing authorities, the Department advised that the adoption of accommodation programmes by all relevant housing authorities by the specified date was a critical feature of the Act in the interests of ensuring a comprehensive and integrated response to the identified accommodation needs of Travellers.

Following the implementation of these measures the Department of the Environment and Local Government envisages that the provision of accommodation for Travellers will increase substantially over the period 2000 - 2004, i.e. the period of the five year accommodation programmes.

7. National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

A National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Group was established by the Minister for Environment and Local Government on a non statutory basis in December, 1996 and has since been established on a statutory basis as the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. The membership of the Committee includes representatives from Traveller organisations, local authorities and Government Departments. One of its functions is to advise the Minister on the most appropriate measures for improving, at local level, consultation with and participation of, Travellers in the provision and management of accommodation and on general matters concerning the preparation, adequacy, implementation and co-ordination of Traveller accommodation programmes.

8. Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 requires each of the major local authorities to establish a local Traveller accommodation consultative committee for their respective functional areas. Each consultative committee is comprised of officials and members of the local authority and representatives of local Travellers and Traveller bodies. The role assigned to local consultative committees under the Act is to facilitate consultation between housing authorities and Travellers and to advise on any aspect of accommodation for Travellers. Under the Act the committee may advise in relation to the preparation and implementation of any accommodation programme for the functional area of the appointing authority; advise on the management of accommodation for Travellers; and provide a liaison between Travellers and members and officials of the appointing authority concerned.

9. Capital Funding and Assistance

The Department of the Environment and Local Government provides 100% capital funding for the provision of new and redeveloped halting sites and group housing schemes for Travellers. Expenditure for the provision of accommodation for Travellers has increased from £6.5m in 1996 to £8.9m in 1999. There is provision for £12m in 2000. This is in addition to expenditure on the provision of standard local authority housing to which Travellers are allocated from the local authority housing lists. The Department envisages that expenditure on Traveller accommodation will increase in line with the anticipated increase in the provision of additional accommodation for Travellers under the five-year local Traveller accommodation programmes.

The Department of the Environment and Local Government refunds to local authorities 100% of a special grant of £3,000 paid to Travellers who satisfy the criteria for the schemes to purchase or construct a house. This is in addition to the £3,000 grant available to persons who purchase or build a new house and who have never purchased or built a house for their own occupation. This grant was introduced to encourage Travellers to provide their own accommodation. Expenditure on this special grant has increased from £30,000 in 1995 to £78,000 in 1998. In 1999 £45,000 was refunded.

The Department has produced a comprehensive booklet entitled “Accommodation Options for Travellers” which sets out the range of options available to accommodate families.

10. Management and Maintenance

On foot of a commitment given in the National Strategy for Traveller accommodation in 1996, the Department of the Environment and Local Government introduced a scheme of assistance towards the management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation. Under the scheme local authorities are refunded part of their eligible expenditure on caretaking, routine maintenance and waste disposal relating to halting sites and group housing schemes. At the end of 1999 there were 37 authorities participating in the scheme. Refundment under the scheme has risen from £802,000 in 1997 to £1.1m in 1999. A sum of £1.07 million has been provided for this purpose in 2000.

A further scheme is operated on a pilot basis by the Department of the Environment and Local Government and is part funded by that Department at the rate of 50%. The aim of the scheme is to encourage initiatives which would bring about partnership arrangements between Travellers and local authorities for the management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation. It is the objective of the initiatives, through Traveller participation, to contribute to significant and long term improvement in the management of housing and halting sites. The pilot initiatives are being monitored by the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee with a view to maximising their contribution to the management and maintenance of accommodation.

11. Traveller / Tenant Participation

The Task Force concluded that it was appropriate to include Traveller tenants of local authorities in halting sites and group housing schemes in any consideration of tenant involvement in housing management. It recommended the setting up of a Traveller Tenant Accommodation Committee by each local authority, representing a partnership of local authority councillors, Travellers and Traveller organisations based in the local authority area. The Task Force proposed that the key role of the committees would be in assisting in the development and implementation of the accommodation programme and of Traveller tenant participation strategies.

In this regard, Guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government advise that flexible site management plans should be drawn up with particular attention being paid to the involvement of tenants in the management and maintenance of the site. These guidelines also draw attention to the Guidelines on Best Practice in Housing Management which deal comprehensively with tenant participation strategies. The Department of the Environment and Local Government, in conjunction with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, has approved a number of pilot initiatives on the management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation. The outcome of these initiatives is being monitored by the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

12. Standards of Accommodation

The Department of the Environment and Local Government in conjunction with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee has issued a number of Guidelines on the provision of Traveller accommodation viz:

- Guidelines on the design of permanent Residential Caravan Parks for Travellers
- Guidelines on Basic Services and Facilities for Caravans Pending the Provision of Permanent Accommodation
- Guidelines on the provision of accommodation for transient families

A subcommittee of the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee is currently overseeing the preparation of guidelines on group housing schemes for Travellers.

Local authorities are obliged to have regard to the advice and guidance contained in the guidelines when formulating proposals for new and refurbished Traveller accommodation.

Presently, most caravans are not designed for long term living. Research is needed to develop a caravan design that continues to allow mobility while improving its capacity for long term occupation as well as increasing its fire safety features. This is being considered by the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee through a sub-committee which has been established for that purpose.

13. The Dublin Area

Because of the large concentration of population of Travellers and “settled” communities within the greater Dublin area the Task Force considered it necessary to examine the particular situation of Traveller accommodation in Dublin. The Task Force noted that the Dublin situation was characterised by the presence of large numbers of Traveller families either in unofficial locations or on temporary sites, in addition to families on permanent sites, and families in group housing schemes and standard housing. It recommended a workable strategy which would involve the development of a network of permanent halting sites country-wide and would allow families in the Dublin area the option of moving back out of Dublin as well as minimising the drift to Dublin. It also recommended the development by Dublin Corporation of a range of infill sites for Traveller specific accommodation as well as the establishment of a Strategic Planning Unit to co-ordinate the strategies of the four local authorities for the accommodation of Travellers over the greater Dublin area.

The Department of the Environment and Local Government points out that the current housing situation as a whole has led to there being a distinct shortage of brownfield, as well as greenfield sites, in the functional area of Dublin Corporation. The Department confirms that the corporation has joined with the other Dublin authorities in formulating a regional policy for general housing in Dublin which will include Traveller accommodation issues. The Department states that this development is ongoing and it acknowledges the role of the Dublin Accommodation Coalition for Travellers in representing Traveller interests on this issue.

14. Lands owned by Institutions or by the State

In 1999 the Department of the Environment and Local Government met with the Conference of Religious in Ireland, the Representative body of the Church of Ireland and the Irish Episcopal Conference regarding land or property surplus to these bodies' requirements and which could be converted to residential use or development. All of the religious bodies were supportive of releasing any surplus land or property for social and affordable housing projects at agreed terms and gave an undertaking to carry out a survey within their organisations of the lands which may be available. A reply was received from the Conference of Religious in Ireland in January 2000 which indicated that the amount of land likely to become available in the near future was small.

The Department of Education and Science acquires land for the building of schools. That Department states that land which is purchased by its Building Unit is acquired solely for the purpose of building schools. In cases where such land is not used it is generally disposed of by the Department on the open market. The Department explains that in some rare cases, because of planning or access difficulties, the land may be in the ownership of the Department for more than five years before the building of a school and may still be required. The Department does not favour the Department's ownership of land lapsing after five years as recommended in the Task Force Report.

The Department of Education and Science also advises that if it became widely known that land being acquired by the Department for a school could potentially be used as a halting site, vendors would react by, at the very least, insisting on inserting restrictive clauses in the contracts of sale confining the land to educational usage. Restrictive practices of that nature have caused severe problems in the past where a re-sale became necessary. They could also potentially lead to problems for the Department in acquiring land in the first place and increase the cost of such land.

15. Development Plans

The Task Force found that the zoning of land for particular usage in development plans had on occasion presented obstacles to the location of Traveller accommodation. It recommended that the planning legislation be amended to

include a reference to the provision of Traveller specific accommodation as an objective in development plans. It suggested that planning authorities should review and, where necessary, amend their development plans immediately in order to allow the provision of Traveller specific accommodation in all land zoned. In this regard, sections 26 and 27 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, provide for the amendment of the Planning Acts to require the provision of accommodation for Travellers as a specific objective in the local authority's development plan. The Department of the Environment and Local Government states that it is not practical that all zoned lands should provide for Traveller specific accommodation. Section 27(2) of the 1998 Act provides that, as a temporary measure pending the variation of existing plans or the making of a new plan, the provision of Traveller specific accommodation should not be regarded as a material contravention of the local authority's development plan.

16. Compulsory Acquisition of Land

The Task Force recommended that legislation be amended to provide for the acquisition of land for the provision of accommodation for the Traveller community on the same model as set out in the Roads Act, 1993 (Section 47). The procedure set out in the 1993 Act provides for the making of a Motorway, Busway or Protected Road Scheme for the purpose of acquiring land for certain specific road uses. The Department of the Environment and Local Government states that the compulsory purchase procedure for the acquisition of land for Traveller accommodation is used only in some cases by local authorities. The Department has advised the Monitoring Committee that the Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides for changes to the law in relation to the compulsory acquisition of land, including changes which will lead to a more expeditious procedure in dealing with compulsory purchase orders.

17. Unauthorised Temporary Dwellings

The Task Force recommended the enactment of legislation to prevent parking of caravans and other temporary dwellings within one mile of Traveller specific accommodation. It suggested that the local authority be given powers to keep these areas clear of such parking. However, it also recommended that the legislation should not apply to existing families on long term unofficial sites, without prejudice to the provisions of Section 10 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992.

In this regard, Section 32 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, provides for improvements in the powers available to housing authorities under the Housing Acts to require the removal of an unauthorised temporary dwelling e.g. a caravan etc. parked in a public place. Under the revised provisions a housing authority is empowered to serve a notice to move in certain situations. These situations are summarised in Appendix (I) under Recommendation No. DR.43. In the event of non compliance with the terms of the notice the housing authority may remove the temporary dwelling to a specified location or, in some cases, to a place which is not less than one mile from the accommodation concerned.

18. Anti-Social Behaviour

The Task Force made a number of recommendations for developing responses by local authorities in instances of unauthorised parking in a halting site, anti-social behaviour by existing tenants on a site, or intimidation against Travellers moving into standard housing. Powers similar to those contained in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1997, (i.e. that relate to the control of anti-social behaviour on local authority housing estates) are provided for in the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 in relation to such behaviour in halting sites. Powers provided for under the 1997 Act in relation to such behaviour in standard local authority housing may be applied in instances where Traveller families who have recently moved into standard local authority housing are subjected to intimidation by other local residents. Under these powers, a housing authority may apply to the District Court for an excluding order against the person whom they believe is threatening, intimidating or harassing any other person (including a Traveller tenant) in the estate.

19. Control of Horses

The Task Force pointed to the need to provide adequate controls and sanctions where owners allow their horses to wander, especially in built-up areas. It recommended the introduction of legislation to control wandering horses. The Control of Horses Act, 1996 was enacted in December, 1996. The Act provides for the control of horses in urban and

other areas where horses cause a danger to persons or property or constitute a nuisance. The legislation has had a particular effect on Travellers, many of whom own horses. The Department of Agriculture and Food, which has responsibility for this area, has been monitoring progress and developments since the enactment of the Act in 1996.

The Act provides that grant assistance may be made available to local authorities towards the cost to them of implementing the Act. Local circumstances and factors must be among the primary determinants in assessing the merits of any individual project. It is therefore a prerequisite of any support from the Department of Agriculture and Food for any equine project that the promoters/local people and their local authority co-operate and work with one another. Traveller organisations point out that Travellers have not benefited from the funding made available for horse projects.

The Task Force called on FÁS (Training and Employment Authority) and the Vocational Educational Committees to explore the possibility of providing training and work schemes for Travellers in developing their skills at breeding and caring for horses in order to create employment for young Travellers and to ensure the continuation of a tradition that is culturally important to them. In response, FÁS states that following the enactment of the Control of Horses Act 1996, exploratory/feasibility work has taken place involving FÁS and community groups, including Traveller representatives and that courses have been successfully held in Sligo and Dublin. FÁS acknowledges, however, that further work needs to be done to meet the objectives called for in the Report.

20. Traveller Population

The number of Travellers in Ireland is increasing every year by about 4 per cent per annum. Currently the main source of information on the Traveller population is the annual count of the number of Traveller households carried out by local authorities. The count is beneficial in providing details regarding the accommodation position of Travellers and in identifying the number and the accommodation requirements of Traveller families on the roadside or in unofficial encampments. The Department of the Environment and Local Government encourages local authorities to consult with local Travellers and their organisations before they carry out the annual count.

21. Census

The Task Force recommended that the Central Statistics Office (CSO) should include the Traveller community as a separate heading in its classification of households in all future Censuses of Population. The CSO has informed the Monitoring Committee that as part of its preparations for the 2001 Census of Population it carried out a pilot survey of 8,000 households in September 1999. The main objective of the pilot was to test the acceptability of questions for inclusion in the 2001 census. Following the survey and further consideration of the whole issue of determining ethnicity and nationality, the CSO decided, inter alia, to include a Yes/No question in the 2001 census asking households if they are a member of the Irish Traveller community. The question will enable members of the Travelling Community, whether settled or otherwise, to be separately distinguished.

22. Traveller Accommodation Agency.

The Task Force recommended the establishment of a Traveller Accommodation Agency to draw up in consultation with local authorities, a National Programme for the provision of Traveller specific accommodation in order to achieve the Government's target for the year 2000. However the Government rejected this recommendation and opted instead to establish a special Unit in the Department of the Environment and Local Government to oversee the preparation, monitoring, implementation, co-ordination, etc of the programme for Traveller accommodation, including the preparation of the necessary legislation. The Government was of the view that the proposed agency would introduce a new layer of administration, which would be expensive and run contrary to the policy to devolve powers to local authorities.

The Department of the Environment and Local Government advises that an agency would have had to rely entirely on local authorities to provide accommodation, and would have no power to provide accommodation in circumstances where the local authority failed to do so. The Department points out that, in general, progress is hampered by local opposition to specific developments and that an agency would have been ineffective and would have had no role in these situations.

The Government considers that the package of measures in the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 and the improved financial and administrative framework now being pursued is a more effective way of meeting the accommodation needs of Travellers without the disadvantages of an independent agency. However, the view of the Traveller organisations is that if the present system does not make a significant impact on the backlog in Traveller Accommodation provision over the next two years, the option of establishing a National Traveller Accommodation Agency should be reconstituted.

Section E

HEALTH

1. Introduction

The Task Force observed that the nomadic way of life of Travellers made it difficult for them to avail of some health service provision such as ante-natal and maternity care, child health services and protective immunisation. Two health issues were of particular concern, i.e.; the low rate of life expectancy and the high infant mortality rates among the Traveller community. Much ill-health among Travellers had been attributed to the over-crowded accommodation, poor ventilation and insanitary conditions in which some Travellers live.

The Task Force drew attention to the poor health status of the Traveller community. A significant factor giving rise to this is the low level of take-up of health services by Travellers. The Task Force recognised that radical steps would be needed to change established patterns in the relationship between the Traveller community and the health services. It recommended initiatives such as delivering health services to the Traveller community on an outreach basis and the involvement of Travellers themselves in the delivery of primary health care services.

The Department of Health and Children accepts the broad thrust of the Task Force approach. The Department has put in place new structures recommended by the Task Force by establishing a Traveller Health Advisory Committee (THAC) in the Department and a Traveller Health Unit (THU) in each health board. The advisory committee and the health units exemplify the partnership approach to the development of health services which is being pursued by the Department as part of its overall health strategy. This brings together the statutory service providers, voluntary sector service providers and consumers.

2. Traveller Health Advisory Committee

A Traveller Health Advisory Committee on the lines recommended by the Task Force was established in September, 1998 and its terms of reference includes all of the functions recommended by the Task Force.

The committee is chaired by the Department of Health and Children and has representatives from that Department, the Traveller organisations, individual Travellers and the health boards. Its principal functions include the drawing up of a national policy for a health strategy to improve the health status of the Traveller community; ensuring that Traveller health is a priority area within the Department of Health and Children and co-ordinating the implementation of national strategies and supporting the health boards in developing strategies to improve Traveller access. It also provides a forum for discussion of health initiatives for Travellers and for ongoing consultation with Travellers and Traveller organisations on health service delivery to Travellers. The committee is currently finalising a draft policy document on Traveller health which will be published by the Minister for Health and Children shortly.

3. Traveller Health Units

The Department of Health and Children is in the process of establishing a Traveller Health Unit (THU) in each health board. To date Traveller Health Units have been set up in six health boards and the remaining two will be set up before the end of 2000. These units bring health board officials and Travellers together to monitor and plan services and discuss the allocation of funding available for Traveller health initiatives. The Department confirms that the terms of reference of the units include all of the functions recommended by the Task Force.

The principal functions of each unit are to monitor the delivery of health services to Travellers and to set regional targets against which performance can be measured. It also ensures that Travellers' health is given prominence on the agenda of the health board and it supports the development of Traveller specific services. Each unit has a committee consisting of representatives from the various sectors of the health board and from local Travellers and Traveller organisations. The Department of Health and Children proposes to formally review the operation of the units with a view to standardising best practice.

4. Traveller Participation

The Department of Health and Children considers the involvement of Travellers themselves in the delivery of health services as crucial in bridging the gap between the Traveller community and the health services. The principal initiative in this respect to date has been the Primary Health Care for Travellers Project pioneered by Pavee Point and the Eastern Health Board. This involves the training of Travellers for involvement in the delivery of primary health care services. This model is now being replicated in four other health boards. The Traveller Health Advisory Committee and the Traveller Health Units will also provide opportunities for Travellers to be involved in exploring other ways for Traveller participation in the health services. Traveller organisations say that they would like to see a part of the funding of Traveller Health Units directed towards Traveller groups to enable them to participate more effectively in the units.

5. Medical Records

The Task Force found that due to the absence of comprehensive statistics on health service utilisation, very little quantitative data on Travellers' utilisation of the health services was available. It recommended the introduction of an improved health record keeping system governed by a code of practice along with a nation-wide system of patient held records and an improved system of transferring records. The Department of Health and Children advised the Monitoring Committee that the question of introducing a record keeping system was one of the issues which would be addressed by the Traveller Health Advisory Committee and the Traveller Health Units.

There are a number of obstacles to Travellers' access to health services. One problem raised in the Task Force Report is the absence of a system of tracing and transferring health records of Travellers who are mobile. With regard to patient held records, the Department of Health and Children states that two health boards had set up pilot projects, which, if successful, would act as a model for other health boards. The Department considers that there would be a number of difficulties in setting up procedures for a system of transferring records, both within and between health board regions. The view of the Department is that if patient held records proved feasible, a system of transferring records might not be necessary. A nationally centralised compatible record system, which would also facilitate the transfer of records between and within health boards, would be the ideal solution favoured by Traveller organisations.

6. Primary Health Care Projects

The Task Force recommended the setting up of a system of personal communication allowing the transfer of correspondence from the health services to Traveller patients. The Department of Health and Children advises that this is one of the elements of the Primary Health Care for Travellers Project, piloted by the Eastern Health Board and Pavee Point. The project is currently being replicated in a second community care area in the Eastern Region Health Board and in three other health board areas. Traveller organisations point out that the Primary Health Care Projects continue to reach only a small proportion of the Traveller community and that other initiatives are necessary to complement the projects. Traveller representatives suggest that Travellers, when registering at a health service, should be asked by the service provider to nominate a person, Traveller organisation or alternative address to which their correspondence could be sent.

7. Social Work Service

The Task Force identified a number of challenges in the operation of the Health Board Social Work Service as it applied to Traveller families. It recommended the establishment of systems of formal co-ordination, notification and tracing within and between health boards to trace families of Traveller children at risk who moved between health board areas. The Department of Health and Children advises that it is the practice for social workers to inform colleagues in another health board area when a family (including a Traveller family) they have been working with moves to that area. Local authorities also provide a social work service which is available to Traveller families. The Monitoring Committee recommends that the delivery of social work services to Travellers should be examined and clarified by the Departments of Health and Children and Environment and Local Government.

8. Funding

The Task Force called for the allocation of increased funding to tackle the unacceptable health status of the Traveller community and the widespread obstacles to access. The Department of Health and Children advises that there has been a significant increase in funding in this area since 1997. The Department states that to enable the recommendations of the Task Force on health to be implemented a total of £2.3 million revenue funding has been allocated to the health boards, £0.1 million in 1997, £0.4 million in 1998, £0.9 million in 1999 and a further £0.9 million this year. Travellers would like to see monitoring of the funding provided to ensure that it is spent directly on Traveller health initiatives. They would also like to see a breakdown of the expenditure provided over the past three years to show how it contributed to improvement in Travellers' health.

9. Environmental Health Inspections

The immediate improvement of the accommodation situation of Travellers is a pre-requisite to the general improvement of the health status of Travellers. The Task Force recommended that health boards should periodically inspect all halting sites so as to report on health and safety matters and that the resulting reports should be publicly available. The Department of Health and Children confirms that Environmental Health Officers in health boards carry out such inspections at the request of local authorities, however, no details are available of inspections carried out and there is no information on the frequency or thoroughness of these inspections. Travellers would like to see properly documented and accessible information on the results of inspections in place. They call for the development of a system which formalises health and safety inspections and that it should be conducted by an appropriate team, every six months. An agreed time-frame for action and a penalty system should also be included.

10. Access to Mainstream Services

The Task Force suggested that Traveller specific services should be designed to complement mainstream services and to improve Traveller access to these. Travellers should have the right to opt out of any Traveller specific service and to choose to use mainstream services. Furthermore, there should be no segregation of Travellers in the implementation and provision of these services. The Task Force also called for support for Traveller participation in health service delivery at all levels, particularly in the area of primary health care which should be delivered on an out-reach basis. It requests the establishment and servicing of on-site clinics in Traveller specific accommodation facilities and in general hospital services, the provision for out-reach paediatric and obstetric clinics for Travellers.

With regard to Traveller participation, the Department of Health and Children states that the Primary Health Care for Travellers Project involves the training of Travellers for involvement in the delivery of primary health care services. On the proposal for out-reach delivery, the Department reports that organisational issues in relation to the delivery of health services can now be examined by the health boards in consultation with the Traveller Health Units. In this way, regional differences can be accommodated and the wishes of local Traveller groups taken into account. Travellers suggest that quantitative and qualitative indicators of the change in the uptake, utilisation and outcome of access by Travellers to both Traveller specific and mainstream health services should be shown in an Annual Report by the Department's Traveller Health Advisory Committee.

12. Consanguinity

The Task Force Report refers to the issue of consanguinity in the context of the findings of the Health Research Board (HRB) Report of 1987. The HRB findings were not adequate enough to draw any conclusions and the Task Force reported that further work was required in this area. The Report calls on the Department of Health and Children to commission an in-depth analysis by independent experts of issues related to consanguinity in the Irish context and set up a genetic counselling service for Travellers. The Monitoring Committee calls for the establishment of a national committee of Traveller groups, health officials and genetic experts to examine consanguinity and to develop guidelines on genetic counselling for Travellers.

13. Mental Health

The Task Force Report recommends that provisions should be made for community psychiatric out-reach services to deal with the issues of mental health in the Traveller community. The Department of Health and Children advises that in view of the expansion of community based psychiatric services in recent years, it should be possible to incorporate out-reach services for Travellers into existing community health structures. Traveller groups would like to have more information on these community mental health structures and how they incorporate Travellers into the service.

14. Traveller Specific Services

The Task Force Report proposes that the provision of Traveller specific health services be subject to ongoing evaluation to assess their impact and continuing need. It also suggests that regular conferences of service providers and Traveller organisations be organised to exchange information on experiences. The Department of Health and Children affirms that all new initiatives will as far as possible have a built in evaluation process. It points out that structures already exist which facilitate the exchange of experiences between health boards. The Department considers that this, combined with the Traveller Health Advisory Committee and the Traveller Health Unit in each health board should satisfy the Task Force's proposal.

The Task Force Report stresses the importance of Traveller support groups in the targeting and appropriate delivery of health services to the Traveller community. The Report suggests that this role could be considerably enhanced through support from the health boards and recommends that health boards make funding available to such support groups for the employment of community workers. The Department of Health and Children advises that these objectives can be catered for within the existing structure of the Traveller Health Units in health boards. The Department explains that it is a matter for each health board to decide on priorities for the allocation of funds available for Traveller health. It is also open to each board to take into account the recommendations of its Traveller Health Unit in deciding what is most appropriate in its own area. Traveller representatives would like to see more support, however, from health boards for Traveller organisations in employing community workers and in funding capacity building and training courses, with health modules for Travellers.

15. General Practitioner Services

According to the Department of Health and Children, the terms of the General Medical Service (GMS) contract permit a choice of doctor by medical card patients and an option for a doctor not to accept a particular patient. The Task Force Report calls for an amendment to the GMS terms to prohibit the refusal to accept a person as a registered patient solely on the basis that he or she is a Traveller. The refusal of a patient solely on the basis that he/she is a Traveller is a violation of the provisions of the Equal Status Act, 2000 which outlaws discrimination in the supply of goods and services on nine grounds, one of which is membership of the Traveller community. The Monitoring Committee calls on the GMS to seek an explanation in cases where General Practitioners refuse service to Travellers. The Committee considers there is a need for a review of the present procedures for access to GP services.

16. Drug Target Scheme

The Task Force Report recommends that where specific practices have a large proportion of Travellers on their lists, an audit and evaluation of drug utilisation by such practices should be conducted with the regional General Practitioner Unit to establish if there is an impact on their drugs bill and to analyse any high prescription rates. It suggests that if it is found that this has an impact on the drugs costs of such practices, a special allowance should be introduced in the drugs payment scheme. The Department of Health and Children states that it would be very reluctant to make special provisions in the indicative drug target scheme for any specific group such as Travellers. The Department points out that it is a matter for the GP concerned to decide on whether medication is appropriate or not and following through on this recommendation would only diminish this responsibility. The Monitoring Committee calls on the Department of Health and Children to revisit this issue and examine other models of remuneration such as those which are based on consumer satisfaction or grants for practice nurses etc.

17. Medical Card Renewals

The Task Force recommended a simplified system for renewing medical cards and for payments to General Practitioners to receive payment for Traveller patients who move into their area or who are in temporary residence there. The view of the Department of Health and Children is that the procedures for paying GMS doctors in respect of temporary residents is already straightforward. The Department advises that it would be difficult to see health boards agreeing to special arrangements for Travellers in the issue and renewal of medical cards, given their statutory responsibility to ensure the validity of medical card eligibility in individual cases. The development of a more simplified system would be favoured by the Monitoring Committee along the lines of the new GMS card with a three-year validity and more basic application form which is currently being piloted in the Eastern Health Board.

18. Health Promotion Education

The Task Force recommended the making of a programme for health promotion and education for Travellers with the objective of restoring Travellers' confidence in their ability to distinguish and to cope with minor illnesses. The Department of Health and Children advises that this recommendation is in keeping with its Health Promotion Strategy, which states that focusing on specific sub-groups of the population, including Travellers, will help address particular vulnerabilities within these groups. Actions planned in this area include developing health education programmes for those with low literacy skills, providing targeted educational materials for Travellers and others in lower socio-economic groups on nutrition, smoking, alcohol and substance misuse, and developing training programmes for those working with Travellers. The Monitoring Committee calls on the Department of Health and Children to re-examine this issue and resource some Traveller organisations to work with the health promotion unit to draw up a more culturally appropriate health promotion and education policy in partnership with Travellers for Travellers.

19. Training in Intercultural Practices

The Task Force recommended that all health professionals should receive training on the circumstances, culture of, and discrimination practised against Travellers, as part of their training. The Department of Health and Children states that some health boards and health professionals are implementing such training and that it is considering the possibility of a structured review of the extent of implementation. Traveller representatives point out that in reality this is happening on an adhoc basis and call on the Department of Health and Children to re-examine the impact and quality of training of health professionals.

20. Street Begging

The Task Force Report calls on the statutory authorities to provide support facilities, including day-care centres for children, including Traveller children, involved in begging and the appointment of outreach workers in major urban areas to work with vulnerable Traveller children and their families, in conjunction with the social work teams already in place. In order to deter begging by unaccompanied children, the Task Force Report recommends that Section 14 of the Children Act 1908, which makes it an offence on the part of parents to cause or procure their children to beg or to be involved in petty theft, should be updated to a level where the penalties are an effective deterrent, including the power to confiscate any moneys proven to be procured from such activity.

The Department of Health and Children confirms that there are a number of initiatives in the Eastern Regional Health Authority region which are aimed at assisting Traveller children and their families, including the operation of a day care centre, support for a resource centre which provides amongst other services, an after-school and youth programme support for an outreach social worker and financial assistance to two residential centres, all in the Dublin city centre area. The Department of Health and Children, in consultation with the relevant health boards, is prepared to consider extending these initiatives to other areas in accordance with need.

The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform states that the Children Act, 1908 makes it an offence for any person having the custody, charge or care of a child to allow the child to beg in public. The penalty for conviction is a fine not exceeding £25 and/or up to three months imprisonment. The Children Bill, 1999 when enacted will replace the Children Act, 1908. The 1999 Bill provides for a maximum fine of £250 for a first offence and £500 for a second or

subsequent offence and it does not have a penalty of imprisonment. The 1999 Bill also proposes to reverse the burden of proof, thus making it easier to obtain convictions.

The Department of Health and Children advises that the relevant provisions of the Child Care Act, 1991 which assist the relevant statutory authorities in removing children involved in begging to a suitable place, were brought into effect in October 1995.

Traveller representatives would like to see responses to this issue developed in partnership with Traveller organisations which constructively address the underlying issues and causes of begging. They suggest that new models of working in this area should also be explored so that the resource and institutional centres are culturally appropriate and user friendly for Travellers.

Section F

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1. GENERAL

2. PRE-SCHOOL

3. PRIMARY EDUCATION.

4. SECOND-LEVEL EDUCATION

5. THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION.

6. ADULT EDUCATION.

7. TRAINING

8. YOUTH WORK

Section F

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1. General

1.1 Introduction

Nearly half of the Task Force Report recommendations are dedicated to the subject of education for Travellers. The Report examines the position regarding access by Travellers to the education system, and their treatment within that system. As a basis for its examination, the Report outlines a list of fundamental principles and broad objectives which the Task Force believes should underlie and be applied in the development and provision of education services at all levels (pre school, primary, second level, third level and adult) to Travellers. Briefly these are: equality of access; no discrimination in provision; acknowledgement of cultural diversity; the principle of affirmative action; no refusal on grounds of social distinction; full parental involvement; and the principle of integration (save in exceptional circumstances). The Report also mentions and agrees with the general principles for the education of children with special education needs as set out in the Report of the Special Education Review Committee (published by the Department of Education in 1993). These principles state, essentially, that all children have a right to an appropriate education and that the needs of the individual child is of paramount consideration in the provision of special education.

The Report continues with a list of certain key issues which impact on all education sectors but which are of particular concern in the case of Traveller children in the pre school, primary and second-level sectors, namely, school attendance, parental involvement, Traveller nomadism, and intercultural education. The Monitoring Committee acknowledges the progress made by the Department of Education and Science in the recent past. The publishing of the White Paper in Early Education, and the New Deal - a Plan for Educational Opportunities are positive moves by the Government to tackle the structural inequalities which exist in our education system. The strategies in both of these documents will impact favourably on the Traveller Community. The valuable role of Visiting Teacher Service (VTS) and the progress made in expanding its services for Traveller children is also acknowledged.

There have been other developments in the area of education which will have a positive impact on Travellers' education such as: the Education (Welfare) Bill, 1999 which provides for the establishment of an educational welfare service to monitor school attendance and support children at risk to remain at school. The National Education Psychological Service was established in September, 1999 with responsibility for delivering a nation-wide psychological service to schools and other recognised centres of education and the White Paper: "Adult Education in an Era of Lifelong Learning", was published in August, 2000. Details of these developments are outlined later in this section. The Monitoring Committee is concerned however about the lack of progress generally on the recommendations of the Task Force in the area of education. Of particular concern is the failure of the Department of Education and Science to establish the Traveller Education Service.

It is the view of the Committee that had such a service been set up more progress would have been made on implementing the Task Force recommendations. While the Committee acknowledges that the Department of Education and Science set up a co-ordinating committee within the Department, it considers that its brief was too wide and its resources were limited. The Committee hopes that the establishment of an advisory committee on Traveller Education in 1998 and the commitment in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness to provide a co-ordinator for Traveller Education will ensure speedy progress.

The Monitoring Committee notes that very little progress has been made on the integration of intercultural education into the education system as a whole. The Committee considers that more progress would be made in this area if better co-ordination existed within the Department of Education and Science.

1.2 Departmental Co-ordinating Committee on Traveller Education

A Co-ordinating Committee on Traveller Education was formed in the Department of Education and Science in late 1996 and is comprised of officials drawn from the various branches of the Department having responsibility for the delivery of services to members of the Traveller community, e.g. Special Education, Inspectorate (Primary and Post-Primary), National Education Officer, Post Primary Administration, In Career Development Unit, Adult Education, Higher Education, ESF Section and Youth Affairs. The Committee's terms of reference include:

- Co-ordinating the Traveller related activities of the Department;
- Plan for implementation of the Task Force recommendations approved by Government and the White Paper proposals relating to Travellers;
- Overseeing and reviewing this plan, and
- Consulting with all interested groups, including Travellers.

As stated earlier, the Monitoring Committee acknowledges the work of this Committee, but considers that its brief was too wide in the light of the resources allocated to it. It expects that the new co-ordinator for Traveller Education will bring a streamlined and proactive approach to this committee.

1.3 Advisory Committee on Traveller Education

The Advisory Committee on Traveller Education (ACTE) was established in late 1998. Its terms of reference are to "advise the Minister for Education and Science on the provision of education services to members of the Travelling Community". ACTE is comprised of members drawn from the Department of Education and Science, teacher unions, school management authorities, Traveller representative organisations, national parents councils, etc.

The Advisory Committee on Traveller Education is an encouraging development and with the support of the new co-ordinator for Traveller Education in place, it is expected that greater progress will be made on implementing the recommendations of the Task Force.

1.4 Traveller Education Service

The Department of Education and Science decided not to establish a Traveller Education Service because it considered that services in relation to Travellers were already being delivered in an integrated way by various sections within the Department including the Inspectorate, National Education Psychological Services, National Education Officer for Travellers, Visiting Teacher Service, etc. These together with the Departmental Co-ordinating Committee and an Advisory Committee on Traveller Education were considered by the Department to be sufficient to ensuring delivery of the Task Force recommendations.

The Monitoring Committee is of the view that there has been a lack of co-ordination which has held up progress on implementing many of the Task Force Recommendations, but is positive about the commitment to appoint a new co-ordinator of Traveller education.

1.5 Intercultural Education

The Department of Education and Science advises that the intercultural/anti-racist programme in national schools and second level schools recommended by the Task Force has not been commissioned nor has a steering committee been set up to address it. However, the Department points out that the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) module of the revised curriculum for primary schools specifically addresses such issues as interculturalism and anti-racism and these issues will consequently form part of the curriculum taught at primary level once the revised curriculum is introduced. The Department distributed the revised curriculum to all primary school teachers in September 1999. The various subject areas, including SPHE will be phased in over a three to five year period. The Department states that appropriate in-service training for teachers in all aspects of the revised curriculum, including SPHE, will be provided.

The Department of Education and Science has informed the Monitoring Committee that it would welcome proposals from any source on how to implement intercultural and anti-racism education in schools.

The Department states that the proposal to establish a working group (steering committee) will be referred to the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education and that the Advisory Committee will take the issues of interculturalism/anti-racism up directly with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)

Intercultural education is a key area of importance to Travellers and it impacts on all pupils, teachers and other players in the education field. The view of the Monitoring Committee is that it is not sufficient to locate this within any individual programme such as the Social Personal and Health Education Programme. Interculturalism and anti-racism should impinge on the whole school, the whole curriculum. No action has been taken on implementing the changes in text books and teaching materials promoting interculturalism and anti racism. The Monitoring Committee is concerned about this and points out that there is a clear lack of co-ordination here in respect of in service training, teacher training, and curricula development. This should be one of the early tasks given to the new co-ordinator of Traveller Education.

1.6 Visiting Teacher Service

The role of Visiting Teacher Service (VTS) and its importance in the development of education services for Traveller children should be emphasised. The Department of Education and Science states that the number of visiting teachers was increased from 20 to 30 with effect from September, 1999 and from 30 to 40 with effect from September, 2000. The Minister for Education and Science is committed to increasing further the number of visiting teachers up to the level recommended by the Task Force, i.e. 1 per 100 Traveller families (50 teachers), within the lifetime of this Government.

The Visiting Teacher Service is now available to post-primary schools, as are additional capitation funding and resource and teaching hours. This will mean that the service will be available in all areas of the country for the first time. Each visiting teacher operates on a county basis and has responsibility for the pupils, primary and post primary, of Traveller families in each area.

The Monitoring Committee welcomes developments in this area but points out that as the number of Traveller children at post primary rises, pressure will increase on the VTS and the ratio will have to be re-examined. The extra teacher hours at post-primary level should be used to provide a range of supports to develop equal outcomes for the Traveller children and should impact on the whole school system.

1.7 School Attendance

The Education (Welfare) Bill provides for the establishment of an educational welfare service to monitor school attendance and support children at risk to remain at school. More details are needed about the objectives of the provisions of the Education (Welfare) Bill and the proposed time frame for its introduction. The Monitoring Committee advises that the integrated approach advocated at local level should include the Traveller organisations and that this should be stipulated in the legislation.

The Department of Education and Science needs to be sure that the human rights of children are respected. This includes their right to an education. The child's right to a safe environment and to its own cultural integrity must also be respected. The school environment into which Traveller children are required to go must be one which is free from prejudice and discrimination and one which reinforces and supports the child's identity and sense of self-worth rather than undermining it. The Monitoring Committee's view is that legislation is of little use without the support of adequate levels of teacher training on interculturalism and anti-racism and the implementation of comprehensive school equality policies.

1.8 Parental Involvement

Direct involvement between schools and Traveller parents has been encouraged by the Department of Education and Science. The Department has confirmed that in-service courses have been organised involving both school staff and Traveller parents and that the Visiting Teacher Service actively encourages and supports Traveller parents to enrol their children in school. Resource Teachers for Travellers have been advised and encouraged by the Department and by their respective visiting teachers to establish contact with Traveller parents and support them in their home-school links. The Home School Community Liaison co-ordinator is in a supportive role in this respect.

The White Paper "Adult Education in an Era of Lifelong Learning" stresses that parental levels of education, particularly those of mothers, exert a critical influence on their children's participation in education and on their school performance. Senior Traveller Training Centres provide an integrated general education, vocational training and work experience for those in the 15 plus age group who have left school early with no qualification (i.e. less than 5D's in the Junior cycle). There is now no upper age limit governing eligibility on the programme. This is part of a strategy to encourage parents onto the programming because of the influence this can have on their children's participation in schooling.

The Monitoring Committee acknowledges that Traveller organisations have a particular contribution to make in this area, given the high level of contact with Traveller parents. It recommends that these organisations should, in collaboration with the visiting teachers, be resourced to organise actions to raise awareness among Traveller parents regarding their children's education and enhance communication with schools.

1.9 Parents on Boards of Management

It is possible for Traveller parents to serve on Boards of Management either as elected representatives or to be nominated by the original six members of the Board. The Visiting Teacher Service will seek to encourage Travellers to engage and consult with the school authorities. Support from the Traveller organisations in this matter is welcomed by the Department of Education and Science. The Monitoring Committee recognises that it is not sufficient just to point out that it is possible for Travellers to become members of a Board but that a more proactive approach is required; which will involve mentoring and training of parents to enable them to participate on such Boards.

1.10 Homework Programmes

The Department of Education and Science has informed the Monitoring Committee that supervised homework programmes are now in place in some schools. Some have been organised by the Visiting Teacher Service and by Traveller support organisations and the Department is considering ways and means to improve this exercise. Progress to date has been slow, but the Department acknowledges in the New Deal that such programmes fall within its remit and these initiatives such as homework clubs and homework projects will be supported and resourced, in future, as recommended by the Task Force.

1.11 Traveller Nomadism

The Department of Education and Science through its grant scheme helps schools to purchase school textbooks for needy pupils. It also offers increased levels of grant assistance to those schools that operate loan/rental schemes. In effect, this allows schools to purchase textbooks which they loan to pupils during the school year. In addition, the enhanced capitation grant for Travellers is being used to help transient pupils to acquire books.

The Monitoring Committee is dissatisfied with progress in this area and would like the Department to standardise textbooks at primary level. The Committee is of the view that the new curriculum may in fact exacerbate this problem. The Department's view is that its grant scheme towards the cost of school textbooks enables schools to loan books to needy pupils. Traveller representatives have advised the Monitoring Committee that in their experience the grants for books scheme is implemented on an ad hoc basis and varies from school to school. It is difficult, in some cases, for school principals to decide who is in need or not so schools in many areas do not wish to administer the scheme. In those areas, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society intervenes and, through the Visiting Teacher Service, provides sizeable grants to parents of children for school books each year. The Monitoring Committee calls on the Department of

Education and Science to provide funds for the scheme and to ensure that school authorities operate it in a way that does not stigmatise needy pupils.

1.12 Enrolment

The Department of Education and Science explains that while most schools enrol pupils on the 1st September, all schools are obliged to enrol pupils at any time during a school term, providing there is adequate accommodation available in the school. Schools do not have authority to refuse to enrol a child on the basis of the social background of that child. The Department points out that it has responded very vigorously in situations where Travellers have been refused enrolment.

Traveller representatives have advised the Monitoring Committee that the issue of cut-off dates has not been dealt with adequately. Many schools in their view require parents to book a place years in advance of the first actual day in school which makes it difficult for Travellers who are nomadic. They recommend the introduction of a mechanism whereby this extra difficulty in enrolling Traveller children is removed. There is substantial anecdotal evidence to support the case that some schools deliberately use these various criteria to exclude Travellers. The Monitoring Committee recommends that where such cases are brought to the attention of the Department of Education and Science they should be investigated fully and firm action taken.

1.13 Distance Learning

The Department of Education and Science states that a pilot project aimed at meeting the needs of occupational Travellers (e.g., circus and fairground children) has operated successfully since 1997. Support teaching is provided in several locations throughout the country via the Education Centres. Distance learning for Traveller pupils is being explored by the Visiting Teacher Service. The Monitoring Committee recommends that a presentation on the work of the pilot scheme should be made to the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education and that a seminar should be organised to explore its application to Travellers.

1.14 School Transport

The Department of Education and Science facilitates Traveller children whenever possible with free transport on existing school transport services. Special transport arrangements are made in some cases. The Department provides 98% grant-aid towards the cost of approved special transport services operated to cater solely for primary school going-age Traveller children.

1.15 Collection and Collation of Statistics

The Department of Education and Science collects annual data on the number of Traveller children in primary school (gender specific) and has extended this to second level schools with effect from September 1999. The Department is currently planning to extend the range of data gathered, as part of the development of a comprehensive database, which will provide critical information on all pupils, including Traveller pupils, to support the development and implementation of policy. A total of £4.5 million is being provided to develop this database over the next three years.

The Monitoring Committee recommends that this collection of data should be done within a mainstreaming equality framework. The identifying process should not be targeted only at Traveller pupils. The ethnic monitoring of all students should be incorporated into the primary (when in place) and post-primary databases within an equality framework, thus ensuring compliance with the data protection requirements. The pilot project carried out to develop these systems in partnership with Pavee Point Traveller Centre should be mainstreamed.

The Monitoring Committee notes the commitment in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness requesting the allocation and dissemination of data in respect of Travellers. Paragraph 12 of Section 3.12.12 of Framework III of the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness states:- “A co-ordinated strategy including the relevant Government Departments, the Equality Authority and the Central Statistics Office will develop a system for the collection and dissemination of disaggregated data for women and, in relation to health, education and training, for Travellers.”

2. Pre-School

2.1 White Paper on Early Childhood Education

The White Paper on Early Childhood Education was published in December 1999. It sets out the Department of Education and Science's policy proposals on the quality of early childhood education to be put in place in the future. The White Paper acknowledges that Traveller children and their parents who have a positive experience of pre-school provision are better prepared for primary school and are therefore, more likely to obtain maximum benefit from their primary and post-primary schooling. The White Paper seeks to underpin and support the growth of, rather than replace existing provision in the Traveller education area. The Department of Education and Science proposes to establish an Early Childhood Education Agency which will be responsible for all aspects of early childhood education for Traveller children. The Monitoring Committee recommends that Traveller interests should be adequately represented in the structures of the agency.

2.2 Pre-School Service

The Monitoring Committee is concerned at the lack of progress in the area of pre-school services for Traveller children. The Committee considers that an integrated pre-school service is the best model, but this is not yet feasible in many areas. While acknowledging that action will be taken under the implementation of the White Paper on Early Education, the Committee points out that Travellers' pre-schools have been running on very small budgets in comparison with State funded Early Start programmes. Traveller support groups, Barndardos and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are providing community based pre-schools and are under-resourced for this work. There is a need for ownership of these community led schools by one Department. At present, the local authority, the health board and Department of Education and Science are all involved, often in an uncoordinated manner. This has impeded the development of Traveller pre-school services. The Monitoring Committee recommends the introduction of the White Paper on Early Education protocols as early as possible.

2.3 Links with Primary Schools

The Task Force recommended that more effective Traveller pupil participation through the development and maintenance of close links between pre-schools for Travellers and local primary schools was required. The Department of Education and Science accepts this idea and points out that the Visiting Teacher Service is promoting those links. However, Traveller representatives have advised the Monitoring Committee that while the Visiting Teacher Service is excellent it is limited in its ability to maintain close links between pre-schools and local primary schools because of its heavy workload. The Monitoring Committee calls for the provision of extra resources to promote this alliance and to promote parental links and participation with the pre-school. Greater flexibility is needed (for example in the Early Start enrolment procedures) to allow parents wishing to enter an integrated service the opportunity to do so.

2.4 Play Groups

The Task Force recommended that in areas where no Traveller pre-school existed, the attendance of Traveller children at community play groups and pre-schools should be resourced. The Department of Health and Children would be willing to support the provision of such services to Traveller children as required. The Monitoring Committee welcomes the support of the Department of Health and Children for the provision of such a service, however, it points out that Traveller parents tend not to send their children to a mixed pre-school setting. There is a need, therefore, for a resource worker or a visiting teacher service to bridge the gap between the parents and the pre-school to encourage trust and participation in the service.

3. Primary Education

3.1 Underachievement

The Task Force recommended that an in-depth analysis was needed into the problem of poor performance and the reasons for the failure of the present primary education system for many Traveller children. In December, 1999 the Minister for Education and Science announced his intention to introduce a radically new scheme to target the diverse range of educational disadvantage in primary schools. All schools are being considered for inclusion, but effective targeting on areas of greatest need will be implemented. Over £25 million will be made available to this initiative in the next three years. It is the view of the Monitoring Committee that an in-depth analysis of underachievement is required as a matter of priority.

3.2 Resources and Funding

The Department of Education and Science has informed the Monitoring Committee that substantial resources are being made available to schools in order to meet the needs of Traveller children. Since the publication of the Task Force report in 1995 significant additional teaching resource have been deployed at primary level and a total of 400 Resource Teacher for Travellers (RTTs) are now deployed. In addition, the enhanced capitation grant in primary and post primary schools has helped to promote integrated education for Traveller children.

3.3 Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Scheme

The Health Boards administer the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Scheme on behalf of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. The scheme provides additional payments to assist in meeting the extra costs that arise at the start of each school year. The scheme is available to all families, including Traveller families, who are recipients of social welfare and health board payments and who satisfy a means test. The allowance is payable in respect of each qualified child. There is also provision for a Health Board to make an additional single payment to meet an exceptional need to a person getting a social welfare or Health Board payment.

The Monitoring Committee welcomes both the substantial rate increases from June 2000 and the setting up of a working group to review the scheme. The review will examine all aspects of the scheme including the current income limits, the means test and the cost of sending a child to school and the adequacy of the existing rates in payment. The Report of this Working Group is expected to be finalised by late 2000 and the Working Group has already consulted with the Voluntary and Community sector.

The rates of Allowance under the scheme have been increased by £20 from £43 to £63 for children aged 2 to 11 years and from £58 to £78 for children aged 12 to 22 years from June 2000 under Budget 2000.

There is a commitment in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness as follows: "In order to address barriers to participation, progress will be made in improving the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance with respect to tapering, rate of allowance and income thresholds".

3.4 Research into Benefits of Resources

The Monitoring Committee calls on the Department of Education and Science to commission independent research to explore how the extra resources at primary level are being used and to what extent they are benefiting Travellers and are in keeping with best international practice. In particular the study should examine how the Resource Teachers for Travellers (RTT) service is being operated. While there is a welcome for the move away from special classes concern is expressed that the RTT system may in some cases be used as a replacement for the special classes with Traveller students being withdrawn from their mainstream class. The Monitoring Committee recommends that withdrawal from mainstream classes should only happen as a last resort and after a range of other interventions have been fully tested with each individual student.

3.5 Guidelines in National Schools

The Department of Education and Science states that schools are required to comply with the Rules for National Schools and with the policy on Traveller education as set out in the Guidelines entitled: “The Education of Traveller Children in National Schools - Guidelines” issued in 1994. The Department considers that there should be no need for the issue of another circular (which would in effect restate the guidelines) as recommended by the Task Force. The guidelines on Traveller Education will, in any event, be reviewed and school inspectors will be briefed again on Traveller education policy. Traveller representatives point out that the requirement for instructions for teachers stems from the evidence that the Department’s guidelines are being breached in some cases. The Monitoring Committee would like the Department of Education and Science to clarify how it proposes to ensure that the guidelines are being fully adhered to.

3.6 Integration

The policy of the Department of Education and Science is that Traveller children be fully integrated in mainstream classes whenever possible. The Department advises that there are 400 Resource Teachers for Travellers (RTT) now deployed in primary schools to support the education of Traveller children. Very few of these operate on the special class basis and the Department is doing everything possible to ensure that “special class” provision is discontinued. This policy is outlined in the “Guidelines” published by the Department of Education and Science in 1994.

3.7 Psychological Services

The Task Force recommended that, based on teacher vigilance and the concerns of parents, any Traveller children who were experiencing learning difficulties should be given access to a psychological service at primary level. It suggested that a standard psychological test, appropriate to Traveller children, should be designed and used for this purpose. Where required, Traveller children, including children from transient families, should have access to speech therapists. The National Education Psychological Service was established in September 1999 with responsibility for delivering a nation-wide psychological service to schools and other recognised centres of education. The Department of Education and Science advises that the Agency provides an educational psychological service to all second level schools and to more than 700 primary schools. The Department expects that this service will be expanded to all primary schools on a phased basis over the next five years.

A management committee, comprising of officials of the Department of Education and Science, Department of Health and Children and health boards has been established to prepare a plan for approval of the Minister of Education and Science for the development of the National Psychological Service over the next five years. A National Policy Advisory Board, representative of the partners in education and of the main client group of the National Psychological Service, has been established to advise the Minister on the policy, general principles and planning for an efficient and effective National Psychological Service.

3.8 Speech Therapists

The view of the Department of Health and Children on the recommendation that Traveller children should have access to speech therapists is that the various initiatives, arising from the recommendations of the Task Force or otherwise, being taken to improve access by Travellers to the full range of health services will improve access to speech therapy services.

The Monitoring Committee points out that there is a lack of statistics available in respect of speech therapists and psychological services, serving Travellers in school, which would indicate the levels of service being provided. The Committee recommends the development of a system to assess the impact of these services on an ongoing basis. Such services should also develop culturally appropriate tests and materials.

3.9 Resource Teachers for Travellers

The Task Force recommended that special additional assistants who are appointed to work with Travellers in schools should be designated Traveller resource teachers. Such teachers are now called Resource Teachers for Travellers (RTTs) and there are currently in excess of 400 in place. The Monitoring Committee welcomes this development.

3.10 School Record System

No progress has been made on the development of a comprehensive school record system in recognition of the nomadic lifestyle of Travellers. Traveller representatives recommend that a school record card system should be designed to enable the educational progress of children of transient families to be documented. The Monitoring Committee calls on the Department of Education and Science to examine how a suitable system could be established to ensure that the transfer of information to schools on the enrolment of pupils is carried out.

3.11 School Plan for Primary Schools

The Department of Education and Science has confirmed that guidelines for primary schools on developing a school plan have been drawn up and have been issued to all primary schools. The guidelines advocate that clear school policies need to be formulated on the arrangements for the education of the children of the Traveller community. The Monitoring Committee recommends that equality, and measures to monitor and promote it, be fully integrated into the school planning system.

4. Second-Level Education

4.1 Transfer from Primary Level

The Department of Education and Science states that provision for Traveller pupils at primary level is kept under regular review by the Inspectorate, the Visiting Teacher Service, the National Education Officer for Travellers and the Special Education Section of the Department. The Visiting Teacher Service and Resource Teachers for Travellers generally liaise with post primary school management with regard to transfer of Traveller pupils to post-primary. The Department states that the question of standardised tests and their suitability for Traveller pupils will be considered by the National Education Psychological Service.

A policy of integration of Traveller pupils is in place at post-primary level, with the school receiving additional teaching hours and capitation to support the Traveller pupils. The Junior Certificate Elementary Programme is now available for pupils who may not be in a position to sit the Junior Certificate. The In-career Development Unit of the Department supports in-service programmes for Traveller education.

The Monitoring Committee considers that this is an important issue. The educational needs of Travellers require significant changes as outlined in the Report of the Department of Education and Science Working Group. The Monitoring Committee recommends that at the beginning of the final year in primary schools, arrangements for the transfer of Traveller children to second-level schools should commence. The Committee also suggests that the Visiting Teacher should meet with teenage Travellers themselves, have discussions with Traveller parents over a significant length of time and create links between Travellers and post-primary schools, and between national schools and post-primary schools.

4.2 Curriculum Development

There has been no reported progress on the requirement to commission the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) to develop the Junior Certificate School Programme and the curriculum at Senior Cycle level to cater for the needs of Travellers. The Monitoring Committee considers that mainstreaming equality in school plans and building it into the whole school evaluations are key mechanisms to progress this.

4.3 School Plan for Second Level Schools

The Task Force Report recommends that second-level schools should draw up a School Plan which should include a policy on Traveller education and measures to overcome prejudice. It calls on the Department of Education to facilitate this process by issuing guidelines on the preparation of the School Plan. The formulation, implementation and review of the Plan should be the responsibility of the school principal on behalf of the Board of Management. The Report suggests that the day-to-day implementation of the plan in relation to Travellers should be the responsibility of the resource teacher, where such a post has been allocated. The Monitoring Committee notes that no progress has been reported on the drawing up of a School Plan for second-level schools.

4.4 Pupil Teacher Ratio

The Department of Education and Science reports that it has agreed to approve 1.5 teaching hours per week per Traveller student enrolled in all second-level schools. It explains that this initiative is designed to increase the participation rate of Traveller students in mainstream second-level schools and that it is already evident that this strategy is having a positive impact on Traveller enrolments. The allocation of 1.5 hours equates to a pupil teacher ratio of 14:1 as is the case at primary level.

Traveller representatives recommend that the allocation should be progressed to the 8:1 quota as recommended in the Task Force Report. Withdrawal from mainstream classes should only happen as a last resort and after a range of other interventions have been fully tested with each individual student. There are other ways in which Traveller children could be supported (see FR.89 in Appendix) to ensure they benefit fully and equally from post-primary education.

4.5 Guidelines

The Department of Education and Science has informed the Monitoring Committee that Guidelines on all aspects of Traveller education at post primary level are being drafted and it is expected that these will issue to all second-level schools in the near future.

4.6 Costs to Parents

The Task Force recommended that the financial burden suffered by Traveller parents with children in second-level schools should be reduced by measures which include an appropriate adjustment in Child-Benefit levels, grants for clothing, footwear and books and co-ordination of assistance to families. Child Benefit, which is provided by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, is a universal scheme, i.e. it is available to all families on the same basis. This universal payment to all families regardless of income has been substantially increased since 1995, yet during this time the Child Dependant Allowance, which most Traveller families (along with other families receiving social welfare payments) are dependent upon, has remained static. While the combined Child Dependant Allowance and the Child Benefit increase has exceeded inflation, it has fallen behind the growth in incomes in the population generally. The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness has committed to further substantial increases in Child Benefit to combat child poverty.

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Scheme, referred to earlier, is designed to meet specific school related expenses and substantial improvements to this scheme were announced in Budget 2000. There is also provision for health boards to make an additional single payment to meet an exceptional need to persons getting a social welfare or health board payment and who satisfy a means test. In line with the commitment in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness to improving the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Scheme, the current review (see Chapter 3, Section F, Primary Education, Para 3.3.), being undertaken by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, will examine all aspects of the scheme including the current income limits, the means test, the cost of sending a child to school and the adequacy of the existing rates of payment.

4.7 Special Educational Needs

The Department of Education and Science has informed the Monitoring Committee that an internal working group is currently considering the best way of meeting the needs of students with special educational needs, including Travellers, at second level. The working group comprises senior officials in the Department and is chaired by a Chief Inspector. It expects to have completed its findings in the near future.

4.8 Junior Training Centres

Progress on the phasing out of Junior Education Centres (JECs) has been slow. The Department of Education and Science states that there are presently five Junior Education Centres in place, under the management of the Vocational Education Committees. There are two other Junior Education Centres under primary management. The current enrolment in JECs is approximately 120 young Travellers. The Department does not intend to establish any further Junior Education Centres and the phasing out of existing centres will be kept under review by the Department. It is

considered that the support now available to post-primary schools, additional teaching hours and enhanced capitation, will assist with transition of Traveller pupils from primary education to post-primary schools, rather than to JECs.

5. Third Level Education

5.1 Higher Education Grants Scheme

The Department of Education and Science advises that there has been an increase in funding for greater access to third level for students from disadvantaged sectors, nevertheless, the Monitoring Committee considers that action to positively encourage Traveller participation in third level education has been insufficient and that it is not clear if Travellers are being targeted. Universities and other third level and post second level institutions should be encouraged to take positive action towards assisting Travellers to gain access to such education. Grants available through the Higher Education Grants Scheme should be targeted at Travellers and should be sufficient to encourage Traveller participation in third level education.

5.2 Information on Participation

There is a shortage of information available on Travellers who have gained access to and successfully completed third level courses in order to derive lessons for the future. The Monitoring Committee calls on the Department of Education and Science to address this issue.

5.3 National Trust

No action has been reported on the establishment of a national trust, with Government support and private sector sponsorship, to facilitate and encourage Travellers to avail of third level education, as recommended by the Task Force.

6. Adult Education

6.1 Adult Traveller Education Strategy

The Department of Education and Science states that increasing recognition of the importance of adult education in promoting social inclusion, competitiveness and employment, and in addressing inter-generational poverty is reflected in the appointment for the first time of a Minister of State responsible for adult education in 1997, and in the publication of the White Paper: “Adult Education in an Era of Lifelong Learning” in 2000 which sets out a framework for the development of the Adult Education sector. The structures proposed under the White Paper envisages participation of a wide range of statutory, community and voluntary sector interests in both the National Adult Learning Council and Local Adult Learning Boards, as well as the establishment of a practitioners forum to provide for cross-fertilisation of expertise and provider input into policy development. The Department states that this is being followed by an extensive consultation process leading to the development of a White Paper which will set out a framework for the development of the sector. Provision for significantly increased resources has been made for the sector in the context of the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

6.2 Women’s Education Initiative

The Women’s Education Initiative was established by the Department of Education and Science in order to develop further education provision for educationally disadvantaged women in Ireland. Thirteen projects were funded under the Women’s Education Initiative from 1998 - 2000 in an effort to target resources towards educationally disadvantaged women and identify and develop models of good practice in women’s education.

The National Traveller Women’s Forum was one of the projects selected. The NTWF carried out a range of educational initiatives with Traveller women, including the design and delivery of a leadership and community development training programme for Traveller women, information dissemination and policy work. The Monitoring Committee considers it important that support for this and further educational development work with Traveller women should be secured by the Department of Education and Science to promote the further development of strategies and models of good practice in addressing the on-going educational disadvantage experienced by Traveller women.

6.3 Barriers to Participation

The Task Force concluded that there was a need to tackle the many disincentives and barriers which prevent Travellers from participating in adult education. The Department of Education and Science advises that following publication of the Green Paper on Adult Education, new initiatives were agreed in 1998 arising from the mid-term review of Structural Funds under which a major expansion of places in the Youthreach and Traveller training centres was implemented. A new measure for counselling, guidance and psychological services for participants on these programmes was also put in place. In addition, a childcare measure was implemented for the first time in 1998 for Youthreach, VTOS and Traveller Programmes. The budget for this is £2.3 million annually.

The Monitoring Committee acknowledges these developments but stresses the need for adequate childcare services, appropriate curriculum, materials and courses, incorporation of interculturalism and anti-racism into the training of adult educators, resourcing of Traveller organisations to deliver adult education programmes and data collection systems on access and outcomes for Travellers in the field of adult education to be put in place. In this regard it is important that Traveller interests and organisations be included in the new structures.

6.4 National Certification

National certification has been developed by the National Council for Vocational Awards for the further education sector which provides for accumulation of credits on a modular basis towards the achievement of full awards, and which now provides a continuous progression route from Foundation Level, for young people and adults who left school with no qualifications, through to Level 2 Post Leaving Certificate courses and from there to third level. In addition, the adult literacy service has been expanded significantly and will increase further in the period ahead. The phased development of an adult educational guidance service has also begun.

6.5 Back to Education Initiative

A new Back to Education Initiative will provide increased flexibility for adults to return to education, especially those with less than upper second level education, through the development of part time options under Youthreach, Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS), Post Leaving Certificate courses (PLCs) and Senior Traveller Training Centre programmes.

The development of a national qualifications framework will be progressed through the establishment of a National Qualifications Authority and the establishment of Further and Higher Education and Training Awards Councils, as provided for under the Education and Training (Qualifications) Act, 1999. This will provide a single framework for the accreditation of all non-university vocational education and training at further and higher levels, the development of formal progression pathways, mechanisms for the accumulation of credits towards awards, and for the accreditation of prior and work placed learning.

6.6 Senior Traveller Training Centres

The Senior Traveller Training Centres are targeted specifically to meet the needs of Travellers and, as part of the expansion of adult literacy services, specific arrangements have been made for Traveller groups. The Department of Education and Science advises that further opportunities will arise under the Back to Education Initiative (£1.027bn from 2000-2006) and the Equality Initiative in the Further Education Section set out in the National Development Plan. The need is recognised for both Traveller specific programmes and to increase integration into mainstream programmes. The development of a computerised management system for the further education sector will help to monitor progress in this area. (Senior Traveller Training Centres are dealt with in detail in the Subsection on "Training").

6.7 Progression to Employment

One of the objectives of the Department of Education and Science is to encourage progression to employment or further levels of training to the maximum extent possible. Policy in pursuit of this objective was focused on the implementation of Level 1 certification by the National Council for Vocational Awards (NCVA) in 1999 on a national basis. This now provides for: a continued pathway from Foundation level through to degree level via Foundation, Level 1, Level 2/PLC, Institute of Technology (IOT) courses and university courses; the promotion of access to a range of options within FAS and the education sector as well as progression options within the Traveller Training Centres and re-entry to mainstream education; and opportunities to pursue programmes such as the Leaving Certificate Applied, in Traveller Centres or in school while retaining an allowance. There is an increased focus on the networking of out of school centres with the mainstream system which encourage the centres to act as brokers and mentors to facilitate a return to school. The initiatives under the Guidance and Counselling measure, the bridging measure and the Advocate programme complements this work. Quality assurance in the networks is enhanced through the ongoing training of trainers actions, the networking of centres and the dissemination of good practice and learning from new developments.

6.8 Illiteracy

The Department of Education and Science advises that expenditure on literacy has increased significantly in recent years. A number of literacy programmes specifically for Travellers has been put in place, and these will be expanded further in the period ahead. In addition, the Back to Education Initiative will enable people to progress from literacy to certified learning options on a part time basis.

The adult literacy service provided by the Vocational Education Committees provides for participants to be matched with unpaid volunteer tutors on a one to one basis, and to progress from there to paid group tuition. The service is free and confidential. The Senior Traveller Training Centre programmes place a strong emphasis on the development of literacy, numeracy and communications skills, personal development and life skills, and a range of vocational options.

The Monitoring Committee notes that there is anecdotal evidence that adult illiteracy levels amongst Travellers are extremely high. A special drive to address adult Traveller illiteracy is necessary and should be prioritised; accurate data on the issue needs to be generated to plan such a drive and all the stake holders should be engaged in the process to ensure it is done in an effective and appropriate manner.

6.9 Courses for Traveller Parents

Since the changeover of responsibility of the network of Senior Traveller Training Centres from FÁS to the Department of Education and Science in April 1998, the number of places provided has increased from 550 to 740. In order to encourage parent participation, there is no upper age limit in the centres, and a childcare measure has been provided. The Back to Education Initiative will provide for further expansion on a part-time basis across Youthreach, VTOS, PLC and Senior Traveller Training Centre programmes. The adult literacy service, referred to above, has also expanded, and has provided for the specific Traveller programmes. Vocational Education Committees are being encouraged to implement family literacy programmes also as part of the approach. Referral networks have also been established linking the literacy service with a range of statutory, community and voluntary services in local areas.

7. TRAINING

7.1 Senior Traveller Training Centres

The Department of Education and Science took over full responsibility from the Department of Enterprise and Employment (through FAS) for all 26 Senior Traveller Training Centres (STTCs) in April 1998 as recommended by the Task Force. This was done to counteract the uneven development of the centres throughout the country.

It is important that FÁS continue to accept responsibility for promoting and resourcing the development of the employment and enterprise needs of the Traveller community at regional level. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment confirms that FÁS actively promotes progression for members of the Traveller community and has made the services of an advocate available to Senior Traveller Training Centres (where they exist) to positively promote this. The Department points out that, in any case, the enhanced placement service provides an extensive proactive approach which will greatly benefit members of the Traveller community. The new Board of Management structure agreed for the Senior Traveller Training Centres includes provision for FÁS representation.

The Department of Education and Science advises that a National Co-ordinator has been appointed to co-ordinate the development of the network, organise in-service programmes and disseminate good practice. It also confirms that it is currently in consultation with the Vocation Education Committees (VECs), National Association of Training Centres (NATCs) etc. on a code of practice for STTCs, as recommended by the Task Force.

7.2 Traveller Representation

The network of Training Centres operates through the VECs. The Department of Education and Science has regular meetings with the Irish Vocational Education Association (IVEA), the National Association of Traveller Training Centres on management, organisational and policy issues concerning the delivery of the programmes in these centres. Traveller organisations would like to be represented on the working group dealing with issues of an operational nature. However, the Department of Education and Science does not envisage that national Traveller organisations would be members of this working group dealing with issues of an operational nature, given that any issues of concern may be raised by them at the Advisory Group on Traveller Education (where they are represented). Nevertheless, the Further Education Section of the Department is willing to meet these interests on a regular basis. The Department of Education and Science and FÁS have also worked closely with Pavee Point and the Irish Traveller Movement in a report on the future role of the STTCs. The Department also participated in Pavee Point's INTEGRA project which focused on the development of methodological tools for "Traveller proofing" policies in education and training.

7.3 Boards of Management

The Department of Education and Science advises that the new structure for boards of management for the Senior Traveller Training Centres provides for two representatives from the Traveller Community, or from Traveller Organisations representing the Traveller Community, one of whom may be a trainee. Two others may be co-opted locally from educationalist, community or other interest groups with an active role in Traveller development. In addition, the Boards of Management are charged with the development of a wide range of community linkages, including with Traveller organisations. The Monitoring Committee considers that it is very important that proactive measures are put in place to support and develop Traveller participation and Traveller group representation on the STTCs' management committees. This will be particularly important as these management committees will be subcommittees of the Vocational Education Committees.

7.4 Standards of Training

The Department of Education and Science states that Senior Traveller Training Centres offer a core programme of literacy, numeracy, communications and personal development, although there are variations between centres in the level of emphasis in these areas and in the range and type of vocational options available. Many of the centres offer programmes that include Traveller history and cultural programmes. Inservice training on this has been provided to all centres in 1999 and is being further progressed in 2000. The Monitoring Committee states that it is important that these training programmes are monitored to ensure that they are based on a clear analysis of Travellers' interests and needs and that they are culturally appropriate. The Committee recommends that this should be included as part of the work of the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education (ACTE) (in the absence of the proposed Traveller Education Service).

7.5 Duration of Training

The Department of Education and Science states that the duration of the training programme has been extended to a minimum of two years, and to three years where the Leaving Certificate Applied is being pursued. The number of places on the programme has increased from 550 to 740 to allow for this, and further expansion on a part-time basis will be implemented under the Back to Education Initiative. The Department of Education and Science points out that there is now no upper age limit governing eligibility on the programme, as part of a strategy to encourage parents onto the programme. The Monitoring Committee recommends that the option of three years be available in all cases as recommended in the Task Force Report.

7.6 Progression to Employment

The Department of Education and Science states that one of its objectives is to encourage progression to employment or further levels of training to the maximum extent possible. Opportunities are provided to pursue programmes, such as Leaving Certificate Applied, in Traveller Centres or in school while retaining an allowance. The initiatives under the Guidance and Counselling measure, the bridging measure and the Advocate programme will assist in this area.

7.7 Mixed Training Centres

The Task Force recommended that the training programme offered in Senior Traveller Training Centres must be based on a clear analysis of the interests and needs of the participants and it must be culturally appropriate. The programmes should also be of nationally recognised standards. The Task Force provided a list of needs including education to compensate for earlier educational deprivation, and development of entrepreneurship and of the Traveller economy. It recommended a minimum of three-years training and no upper age limit for participants and called for the development of mechanisms to promote onward progression, the need for increased allowances for trainees, the use of professionally qualified teachers, and the allocation of adequate resources for staff development. Where mixed Traveller Training Centres are in operation, the Task Force suggested that priority be given to the recruitment of Traveller trainees and it advised that centres were not geared for the specific needs of young offenders.

The Department of Education and Science states that priority is given to Travellers in recruitment to the centres. However, if places are available and there are no Travellers to fill them, they are allocated to other eligible early school leavers from the “settled community”, and this can have very positive effects, so long as the cultural ethos of the centres is preserved. When Travellers are absent from an area, a temporary absence is allowed by the centre directors if they inform him/her in advance. This enables a place to be reserved for their return. Priority is being given to meeting the cultural needs of Travellers.

As part of the expansion of the programme to date, the Department advises that increased provision is made in individual centres as the need arises. The maximum possible flexibility is allowed within the constraints of the overall budget. The Department states that it has no plans, however, to refuse entry to the programme to young offenders who are otherwise eligible, in areas where there is no alternative provision for them. Decisions are made locally as to whether a centre is equipped to meet the particular individual’s needs. In making such a decision due account will be taken of the need to have an appropriate balance of participation in centres so that a culturally supportive environment for Travellers is maintained. The Monitoring Committee recommends that more progress is required on this issue and calls on the Department of Education and Science to re-examine the position.

7.8 Allowances to Trainees

The Department of Education and Science states that the rates of allowances to trainees are paid in line with those applicable generally across the FÁS system, and are influenced by national rates of social welfare. It is not open to the Department of Education and Science to increase the rates. The extra £25 bonus payable to those on FÁS programmes who were long-term unemployed prior to starting their programme is also paid where applicable in the Senior Traveller Training Centres. The programme is free and books and materials are provided as needed. A childcare measure has also been introduced. Traveller representatives are not satisfied with progress on the allowances paid to trainees. The Monitoring Committee recommends that cross-departmental responses are required on this issue.

7.9 Certification Standards

All centres are now providing certification under the National Council for Vocational Awards, mostly at Foundation Level, but with some at Level 1. Centres also pursue options at Junior and Leaving Certificate levels, in line with the interests of trainees. NCVA provides for national quality standards, which are assessed locally in line with predefined criteria, and are externally moderated by a panel of NCVA examiners. The Department of Education and Science states that work in this area will be further progressed when the National Qualifications Authority and Further and Higher Education and Training Awards Councils are established on a statutory basis, as provided for under the Education and Training (Qualifications) Act, 1999.

7.10 Staff Competency

The need for staff of Senior Traveller Training Centres to have a proven ability to empathise and work with Travellers is accepted and has been identified as a priority in the in-service needs of staff. The Department of Education and Science advises that a recent survey of Training Centres showed that 34% of staff were qualified teachers, 35% had vocational/trade qualifications with the remainder having youth work, personnel or management skills. The Monitoring Committee considers that the implementation and monitoring of this issue is important.

While the Department accepts the importance of having suitable Traveller role models in the centres, recruitment operates on the basis of selecting the most suitable applicant for the particular post. Within this context, a proactive effort is made by the Department to recruit from the Traveller community, especially where older traditional craft skills are taught, and in the secretarial and childcare areas. The Monitoring Committee suggests that applicants for positions in Training Centres should demonstrate a commitment to equality, intercultural skills and an ability to communicate and work in an appropriate manner with Travellers. It also recommends that training and supports for existing staff to enhance these skills should be provided.

7.11 In Service Training

Inservice provision is being provided with an emphasis on (a) pedagogy with particular focus on personal development, motivation skills and remedial education (b) communication/group facilitation skills/counselling skills (c) administration, planning management and team development skills (d) computer training (e) conflict management and (f) Traveller/inter cultural studies. The Monitoring Committee believes that it is important that Travellers and Traveller organisations are involved in the delivery of this inservice training.

7.12 Condition of Premises

The Monitoring Committee is not satisfied that measures have been put in place to bring facilities and premises of Training Centres up to national standards. The Department of Education and Science points out that since the changeover of responsibility, it has provided an annual non-pay budget of £38,000 in respect of each group of 24 approved trainees to cover non-pay overheads and equipment. This is in addition to the budget for instruction costs, trainee allowances, childcare and counselling, and is deemed to be sufficient to meet current needs. Where refurbishment issues arise, the Department makes every effort to provide a flexible response within the constraints of the overall budget.

7.13 Culturally appropriate

The Department of Education and Science confirms that a culturally appropriate enterprise training and development programme is in place. The NCVA structure also provides for the development of local modules to meet specific needs, in accordance with a published module descriptor format, which can be submitted to the NCVA for approval. The Department states that this issue can be further explored in discussions with Pavee Point, the National Co-ordinator and the Department. Traveller representatives recommend that the involvement of Traveller organisations in the development of this programme would be advisable given both their local and national experiences of developing responses and seeking more appropriate policy developments. The Monitoring Committee notes that the delivery and design of all programmes within training centres should be culturally appropriate to Travellers.

7.14 Director / Management Committees

The Department of Education and Science states that future appointments to the post of Director in the Senior Traveller Training Centre network will be confined to persons qualified as teachers. An understanding of the nature of disadvantage and an empathy and appreciation of Traveller culture are stipulated requirements for the post. An unqualified candidate may only be selected where a qualified one is unavailable.

The Monitoring Committee suggests that applicants for these positions should also demonstrate a commitment to equality, intercultural skills and an ability to communicate and work in an appropriate manner with Travellers and an ability to inculcate this within the staff.

The Department also advises that the broad recommendations with respect to the organisation of management committees contained in the Task Force Report (Section 9 C 7) are being introduced in agreement with the National Association of Training Centres (NATCs) and the Irish Vocational Education Association (IVEA), including specific representation of Travellers and Traveller organisations. The Monitoring Committee believes that it is important that the Management Committees are organised in accordance with this recommendation of the Task Force. Concern has been expressed in a number of areas that as the Management Committees will become subcommittees of the VECs that Traveller group involvement in them will not be in line with the Task Force recommendations.

7.15 Incubator Enterprise Development Units

The Department of Education and Science states that enterprise training is being promoted within the network. The Department states that it does not have funds for the establishment of incubator units, but that it is willing to explore this issue with other agencies, such as FÁS, County Enterprise Boards and Area Partnerships where needs are identified. The structure agreed for Boards of Management of the Centres provides for FÁS representation so that their continued local involvement in the delivery of programmes can be assured. The Monitoring Committee recommends action on this issue.

8. Youth Work

8.1 Background

The provision of youth work and youth services for Travellers is very important having regard to the age structure of Travellers and the serious gaps in the provision and take-up of education. The Task Force recommended that there was a need to promote and support the further employment of Travellers as youth workers.

8.2 Youth Work Service

The Department of Education and Science states that the desirability of having personnel working with Travellers elected as members of Voluntary Youth Councils is seen to best serve the needs and requirements of young Travellers. The VECs are charged with giving direction to ensure that Traveller needs are met on these councils. The proposed appointment of an assessor to provide assessment and a monitoring and evaluation service is seen as a mechanism whereby a more efficient improved service provision will result. A novel scheme to financially grant-aid the voluntary and local bought club schemes was brought in in 1999 and the Department intends to expand on this scheme in 2000.

Traveller groups state that it is important to ensure that Voluntary Youth Councils are voluntary led. Contracts between VECs and Voluntary Youth organisations should contain specific commitments in relation to anti-racist practice, interculturalism and other mechanisms to mainstream equality. The Monitoring Committee recommends that there should be independent external evaluations in collaboration with Traveller organisations to ensure that they comply and that equal outcomes are generated for Travellers. A commitment to in-service training on ethnicity, with the involvement of Traveller organisations should also be a requirement for national organisations as a term of their contract.

Traveller groups point out that there is no Traveller organisation in receipt of core funding through the Youth Services Grant Scheme. Traveller interests should be explicitly named in the Youth Work Act and represented on the National Youth Work Advisory Committee. Traveller organisations are concerned that there are youth and community groups claiming Travellers as a target group / as a part of their mainstream programmes when in reality there is no additional

provision to the community. The Monitoring Committee recommends that an equality mechanism which tracks and monitors Traveller involvement in mainstream youth work provision would help to address this issue and should be developed.

8.3 Youth Work

The Youth Work Act, 1997, provides the necessary statutory basis and recognition of the value of youth work in Ireland. The 1997 Act is under revision and the Bill is due for publication in 2000. Youth work as a vehicle for informal education will be reinforced as a result of the enactment of the proposed amended Act. It will also enable the local VECs to be the replacement body for the originally planned Regional Authorities Boards.

The Monitoring Committee recommends, that restrictions which prevent suitably experienced Travellers accessing youth work jobs, such as third level qualification as the only entry mechanism, should be prohibited. According to Traveller representatives, the only way to ensure a Traveller focus and good practice is to operate within a written Code of Practice which reflects the principles and values of youth work including respect for Traveller identity and a recognition of the special needs of Travellers.

An interim Committee for Traveller Youth Service established in 1998 under a NATC (National Association of Traveller Centres) chairperson is currently drawing up a report to outline gaps in the current provision for Traveller youth work. This report will review existing provision, identify gaps in service and formulate guidelines for policy and standardisation of support services. The report is reviewing national and international youth Traveller best practice and taking Traveller culture into account. Youth Worker qualifications is not a matter for the Department of Education and Science but is the responsibility of the Youth Organisation/Associations employing youth workers.

Traveller representatives point out that the provision of grants for 3 years has not happened in a lot of cases. The Department of Education and Science has advised the Monitoring Committee that while multi-annual budgets have been the norm for the past number of years, the Youth Affairs Section of the Department - like all other Government Departments - has not had the facility to guarantee forward grant-schemes on a 3 year basis. In addition, as Youth Affairs Section receives its revenue from national Lottery funding, grants are paid on incurred expenditure only as required by one of the conditions attached to the National Lottery funding mechanism. Traveller representatives regard it as unacceptable that Departments had signed up to recommendations that they are now saying they cannot deliver on.

8.4 Integrated Approach

An integrated inter-departmental approach between youth work, child care, sports and recreation, home/school links, the Juvenile Liaison Scheme, literacy and other adult education schemes is recommended in the Task Force Report. At present, extensive links exist between the Department of Education and Science, the Department of Health and Children and a number of other Departments and a range of statutory and voluntary bodies in the implementation of services in this area. The Department of Education and Science has informed the Monitoring Committee that at local level, a multi-agency integrated approach is being promoted through the Stay in School, 8-15 Initiative and Home School Community Liaison Schemes, in addition to the VEC's role in co-ordinating youth work activities, and participation in the Area Based Partnerships. Education Co-ordinators funded by the Department have been put in place in each of the 38 Partnerships, allied with a National Education Co-ordinator in ADM. VECs implement a District Approach within Youthreach and have established referral network linking the centres with schools, Juvenile Liaison Services, probation, welfare, health and youth services. The Copping On Programme provides joint in-service training for staff via a Support Service which is funded on a multi-agency basis. This approach is also being promoted within the STTC network, since the changeover of responsibility. The Visiting Teacher Service also plays a critical role in this area.

8.5 Training

Training for youth workers both in-service and pre-service is carried out or arranged by the National Youth Council of Ireland for its member organisations. This training is tailored to suit the demand and requirements of the group seeking the training. An intercultural approach to training is part of the induction and training. The Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science funds the Diploma in Youth and Community Work at Maynooth College, where in-service and training of leaders and youth workers is carried out.

8.6. Acceptance and Support.

The Department of Education and Science has informed the Monitoring Committee that under the terms of the Youth Work Bill and under the proposed Voluntary Youth Council, the VECs will be charged with the task of including the needs and the requirements of young Travellers, thereby assisting Traveller integration into local communities. This local focus on Traveller integration will ensure a community based service supporting young Travellers requirements. This is the position proposed in the new Youth Work Bill. Youth work and informal education have specific programmes and include matters such as equality between the sexes in their training courses. Many programmes are tailored to promote concepts of equality, interculture, etc.

The view of the Monitoring Committee is that young Travellers must be accepted, included and treated as equal citizens in Irish society and youth organisations should be aware of the implications for youth work practice. The Department of Education and Science states that due to the success of the European Youth Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, Intolerance and Anti-Semitism, which was operational for 3 years in Ireland, the campaign has now been superseded by the programme under a youth committee called - Youth Against Racism and Discrimination (YARD). Young Travellers and their representatives have been elected to the committee. The committee formulates a youth educational programme together with back-up material for dissemination to schools, colleges, youth organisations, community groups etc.

Section G

TRAVELLER ECONOMY

1. Introduction

The principal features of the Traveller economy are; nomadism, where mobility allows Travellers access to a larger market; a focus on generating income rather than job creation; self-employment; the family as the basic economic unit; shared workspace and living space; flexibility and the ability to respond to changing market conditions. This is a complex and multifaceted area, which needs particular attention by a number of Government Departments and bodies. The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness states that the recommendations in the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community on economic activities will be progressed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in consultation with representatives of the social partners, inclusive of the national Travellers' organisations. In order to stimulate progress on this issue, the Monitoring Committee has recommended the establishment of a special working group, composed of relevant departments, agencies and Traveller organisations to deal specifically with the Traveller economy.

2. Trading

2.1 Casual Trading

Travellers involved with casual trading have been affected by the introduction of new legislation. Casual trading is governed by the Casual Trading Act, 1995 which devolves licencing functions to local authorities. Under previous legislation one license was sufficient to cover the whole country. Under the 1995 Act, however, a licence is required in respect of each local authority area, and this has increased the costs of trading considerably. In addition markets have been relocated in less accessible parts of towns and some have closed as a result. This is an issue which the Competition Authority should address in the context of reviewing the Casual Trading Act, 1995. The interests of all parties and Traveller organisations should be consulted in the review.

2.2 Transient Trading

Travellers involved in transient trading need work space to allow them to operate within their home space. A sub-committee of the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee published guidelines on the operation of transient sites. The guidelines include advice on matters such as the local authorities obligations to accommodate transient trading groups, assistance to enable such groups to provide their own accommodation and the proper management and maintenance of sites.

3. Recycling

3.1 Waste Management Policy

Traveller organisations point out that there is little understanding of Travellers' contribution to recycling and on how this activity could be developed. This is due in large part because of a lack of understanding of the method of organisation within the Traveller economy and the need for development of different support mechanisms. The Department of the Environment and Local Government has informed the Monitoring Committee that it is planning to publish a policy statement focusing on recycling and waste recovery generally. This policy document will address the factors and practical considerations which are relevant to the achievement of Government policy objectives and targets in this area, and will outline the scope of measures which will be undertaken in the interests of a sustained expansion in recycling performance. The issue of recycling in the Traveller community will be considered in preparing this document.

Regulations were promulgated in 1997 and 1998 which provide for the application of the waste licensing system operated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Waste Management Act, 1996 to a wide range of

waste disposal and recovery activities, in the interests of environmental protection. In recognition of the special circumstances that apply in relation to certain small-scale or low-risk waste activities, the Waste Management (Permit) Regulations, 1998 provide, as an alternative to licensing by the EPA, for the grant of a waste permit by a local authority. While the objective of environmental protection remains, the local authority permit option allows for flexibility to be applied in relation to the particular circumstances of each case and can significantly reduce the administrative/procedural requirements for small-scale recycling activities. The type of activities covered by the permitting system are small-scale low-risk activities and include scrap metal recovery and car/vehicle dismantling. The operation of the permitting system is generally fairly straightforward. Its primary purpose is essentially to prevent the causing of environmental pollution and to ensure the compliance of any emissions with relevant standards.

Following meetings held with relevant representative organisations, the Department of the Environment and Local Government has undertaken to incorporate recommendations in its forthcoming policy statement on waste minimisation and recycling which will take account of the recycling activities of the Traveller community. It is envisaged that these recommendations will assist in the development of a Social Economy model appropriate to supporting the Traveller economy.

The Department is anxious that remaining local authorities complete the strategic waste management process as soon as possible and to this end the Minister is considering powers available to him in order to expedite the process. It points out that Traveller organisations were not involved up to now in the development of the waste management plans which have already been - or are currently in the process of being - adopted. The Department further points out that it was open to Traveller organisations to have an input to the development of the waste management plans as part of the public consultation process which the local authorities were required to undertake. However, the Department will request local authorities to ensure that Traveller organisations are consulted in the future review process of the said waste management plans. In this connection, the Waste Management Act, 1996 requires local authorities to review their respective waste management plans at least every five years.

The Department of the Environment and Local Government would suggest that the relevant Traveller organisations would come together at an early date, in the form of a Focus Group, to facilitate the development of appropriate strategies with a view to more fully participating in the next round of the waste management planning process. In addition, it should be noted that the waste management plans form a broad overview of the measures to be pursued over the next five years. In the opinion of the Department, it is open to Traveller organisations to develop detailed initiatives that might assist local authorities in meeting their targets, and to make direct representations to local authorities in order to have any proposed initiatives implemented.

3.2 Landfill Directive

The Department of Environment and Local Government has informed the Monitoring Committee that the EU Landfill Directive has been adopted. Its requirements had been largely anticipated in the licensing system operated by the EPA under the Waste Management Act, 1996. This licensing system ensures that high environmental standards apply in relation to the operation of landfills. For safety reasons, access to landfills by the general public is generally restricted. However, in many cases, waste collection banks and other civic amenity facilities are provided by local authorities in the environs of landfill and other waste management facilities. There may be scope for Travellers to participate in the recovery of recyclables from such facilities. Authorities are responsible for making arrangements to have these collection banks serviced, and this is usually done under contract.

The Department will be requesting local authorities to explore the possibility of designing civic amenity sites with a view to allowing access by members of the public on a controlled basis for the purpose of salvaging recyclable materials.

4. Employment and Training

4.1 Background

The Monitoring Committee notes that much has changed in the labour market since the publication of the Task Force Report in July, 1995. Unemployment has fallen dramatically since 1993, long-term unemployment has also fallen

considerably. The labour market outlook for the period to 2001 envisages further increases in employment to exceed forecast labour force growth resulting in further declines in unemployment.

The Committee points out, however that in terms of access to the mainstream labour market the participation of Travellers continues to be very low. The difficulties stem from the discrimination Travellers experience at school, in training courses, accessing and/or in the work environment; nomadism and the desire for self-employment, a logical choice given the levels of discrimination; early school-leaving; and a shortage of skills to enable access to the mainstream labour market, in particular employment with prospects.

4.2 Labour Market Programmes

Statistics on the labour market participation by Travellers are not available. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, to monitor the trend of Traveller take up of employment in the labour market. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment informed the Monitoring Committee that FÁS were in the process of introducing a tracking system on employment. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has refined certain labour market programmes. For example, Community Employment has been restructured and the social economy programme will be developed. These initiatives are aimed at facilitating access to the labour market for all and will be of relevance to the two basic issues arising from the Traveller community, referred to above. The restructuring and refinement of labour market programmes takes place in the context of Ireland's Employment Action Plan 2000. The Plan was launched in May 2000. It builds on the success of the 1998 and 1999 Plans which achieved their targets to reduce unemployment to 5% by the end of 2000 and long-term unemployment down to 2% ahead of schedule. The Plan sets out the policies and approaches being adopted and covers specific guidelines set as part of the European Employment Strategy. The guidelines number twenty-two in all and include actions to tackle youth unemployment and preventing long-term unemployment, the transition from passive measures to active measures to help the unemployed, promoting a labour market open to all, facilitating reintegration into the labour market.

FÁS, the Local Employment Service (LES) and the County Enterprise Boards (CEBs) have a role to play in this Plan. Over recent years those organisations have been devising interventions or programmes to help the Traveller community. These are reported in more detail in the progress reports on the individual recommendations (in Appendix I). The agencies are continuing to adjust their activities to take account of the special needs of the Traveller community.

The labour market measures of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, targeted at the long-term unemployed and those most removed from the labour market, actively promote labour force participation by the Traveller community. In particular, FÁS already assists Travellers as a distinct cohort in the labour market, requiring extra support and targeted programmes. Travellers are now named as a special target group for Community Employment and Jobstart and they are given favourable access to those programmes. FÁS has also implemented programmes locally to assist Traveller women. In the area of employment services generally, FÁS and the Local Employment Service are aware of the special needs of Travellers; FÁS has introduced in-service training for both FÁS and LES staff and the LES has developed special services and links with the Traveller community, in some areas by way of a mediator specialising in Traveller needs. Several of the County Enterprise Boards have developed specific measures/programmes aimed at members of the Traveller community.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment points out that the development of the Social Economy Programme should create opportunities for the Traveller community, among others, to develop projects supplying local services. A budget of £10.5 million will be available in 2000. In August, 1999, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, established a unit to ensure progress on the programme as recommended by the P2000 Working Group. The Department states that the development of the Social Economy Programme should assist in stimulating both the supply and demand for new services and to create a 'continuum' of enterprise between the private and public sectors. Arising from the Government decision on the introduction of a dedicated Social Economy Programme the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment set up a National Monitoring Group to oversee and monitor the Programme.

The Monitoring Committee welcomes these developments, but considers that much work remains to be done to realise more long term and equality outcomes for Travellers. In particular the maintenance of a Traveller inclusion focus within any subsequent developments including mainstreaming. To this end, the Committee recommends that Traveller specific

measures are essential in creating new opportunities for Travellers in environments inclusive and reflective of their culture and identity. However, to generate broader opportunities and choices for Travellers requires the incorporation of such a recognition of their identity and culture into mainstream policy and practice.

4.3 Public Service Recruitment

The Task Force Report recommends that the public service should take a lead role in the recruitment of Travellers into the mainstream labour force. In general, the selection of staff in Local Authorities, Health Boards and State-Sponsored Bodies is a matter for the individual authority. While the Minister for Finance has overall responsibility for recruitment policy in the Civil Service, individual Ministers are the appointing authorities in their own Departments.

Insofar as job possibilities in the Civil Service might come up for consideration, the Department of Finance has advised the Monitoring Committee that the following should be borne in mind. The Civil Service is an equal opportunities employer and the Civil Service Commission is statutorily obliged to appoint candidates in order of merit. It is also statutorily obliged to be satisfied, inter alia, that a person it selects for appointment possesses the requisite knowledge and ability to carry out the duties of the position. In relation to subordinate grades (e.g. Services Officer), the appointees are selected by the appropriate Minister, sometimes following an interview process. Such positions are often advertised through FÁS. There is no central involvement in the recruitment of people for such posts. It is a matter for each individual Minister. Similarly in the case of industrial posts.

In the opinion of the Department of Finance, setting targets for Traveller inclusion in general recruitment strategies, as recommended by the Task Force, would pose problems in relation to (a) the fact that there are no targets for any other group, (b) the difficulty in arriving at an acceptable definition of the term “member of the Traveller community” and (c) meeting the targets within a five year period in view of the lack of educational qualifications among members of the Traveller community identified in the Task Force Report.

The Monitoring Committee questions this approach. It points out that there is already a 3% target/quota set for people with disabilities within civil service employment and a definition of “Traveller” is now contained within the new Equal Status Act, 2000. Furthermore, in legal cases taken to date by Travellers the problem raised by the Department has never been an issue. The Monitoring Committee considers that special efforts should be made to recruit Travellers and has sought clarification from the Department of Finance on these issues. In a recent meeting, the Department of Finance has responded favourably to the idea of having a “special” recruitment competition for Travellers to the Civil Service. This idea will be explored further by the Department of Finance and the Civil Service Commission.

4.4 Employment Incentive Schemes

The Task Force reported that very few Travellers gain access to mainstream training provision, which is regarded as the main follow-on to the training opportunities provided by the Community Employment Programme and the other employment and training schemes. Entry requirements are very competitive and Travellers do not have the required qualifications. Also, barriers to access exist where mainstream provision does not provide for the distinct needs of Travellers.

The Task Force Report acknowledges the value of the FÁS Incentive Scheme. It states that the Scheme sets an important precedent in specifically facilitating Traveller access, by naming them as a special category and waiving entry requirements. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment advises that Travellers are now named specifically in Community Employment and Job Start schemes, giving them favourable access linked to their culture and economic conditions. FÁS gives special consideration to Community Employment schemes which have a Traveller/community focus. FÁS also participated in an INTEGRA Project, with the Department of Education and Science and co-ordinated by the Pavee Point Travellers Centre. The project explored the development of tracking and monitoring systems to ascertain the involvement of Travellers within the mainstream education, training and employment systems and identify appropriate responses to their low involvement and early leaving rates. The Monitoring Committee considers that it is important to maintain and develop the practice of naming Travellers as a special category within new employment and training schemes.

4.5 Women's Training Programmes

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment advises that FÁS operates programmes for Traveller women at local level in conjunction with Traveller groups. Traveller representatives have welcomed these developments but point out that access to funding is very dependent on supportive FÁS personnel. They suggest that a more structured and systematic approach would greatly enhance access and delivery.

As Traveller women suffer from a double burden of discrimination both as Travellers and women, the requirement in the Community Employment Programme for participants to be signing on the Live Register has particular implications for many Traveller women who tend to marry at a younger age than settled women. This is of particular importance given the difficulties Traveller women who wish to progress on from training programmes to employment opportunities face as they find themselves caught in the 'income trap': whereby the additional income to the family will be minuscule, if not negative, given the interpretation of rules about additional income adult dependants can earn before affecting primary and secondary benefits. The Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs points out that the 'income trap' associated with the withdrawal of the Qualified Adult Allowance has been greatly ameliorated by the measures introduced in Budget 2000 and implemented from early April 2000.

4.6 Childcare

The absence of proper childcare facilities is an additional barrier to participation by Traveller women in the workforce. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform has responsibility for childcare development. The Department has supported childcare development since 1994 and commissioned Area Development Management (ADM) to manage the funding programmes on a day to day basis on its behalf.

Up until 1997, funding was provided to community groups under the Pilot Childcare for the development of childcare facilities in disadvantaged areas to assist parents, particularly mothers, to avail of education, training and employment opportunities. The facilities provided low cost childcare places to many parents who otherwise would not have been able to afford childcare. The initiative was evaluated in 1997 and the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme was developed in 1998.

The Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme commenced in 1998 with a budget of over £6 million for the two year period up to 1999 providing funding for a range of initiatives from a social inclusion and equal opportunities perspective. The Government highlighted childcare as priority area for investment in the National Development Plan, 2000 to 2006. The plan provides £250 million to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to invest in childcare development over the next seven years.

The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness provides that the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs assist in the development of out-of-school hours childcare services by community groups and £5m has been allocated to the Department for this purpose. Projects funded under the Department's Community Development Support Programmes and other local initiatives subscribing to a self-help, community development ethos in tackling issues of poverty and disadvantage are eligible to apply for funding under the out-of-school hours childcare programme.

The Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs is currently in the process of setting up a working group which will define what out-of-school hours childcare is and how it should be delivered. There is a need to develop best practice guidelines, training programmes, monitoring arrangements etc. in relation to this service. The Working Group will comprise representatives of the four key Departments (Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Education and Science, Health and Children and Social, Community and Family Affairs), representatives of community groups, childcare providers and experts in the field of childcare.

5. Local Initiatives

5.1 Local Development

The Department of Tourism Sport and Recreation has advised the Monitoring Committee that Area Development Management (ADM) has pursued a three pronged strategy to ensure that all Travellers are fully included in local development activities. At the planning stage when Partnerships and Community Groups were being established they were required to prepare action plans which included a focus on Travellers. Subsequently, ADM published a report on Traveller Inclusion, highlighting examples of good practice. Traveller projects have also documented Travellers in the Start Work newsletter and in other published reports. ADM has also asked Pavee Point Traveller Centre to work with Partnerships and Community Groups to facilitate the inclusion of Travellers across local development activities. ADM says that this has resulted in a lot of co-operation on the ground between local Traveller communities and Partnership/Community Groups.

ADM believes that Partnerships and Community Groups have a very strong focus on Travellers. ADM has a wide range of community development, education or enterprise projects run in association with the local Traveller community. Many of these projects have Traveller representatives on their management committees or sub-committees.

The Task Force recommended that the Partnerships should influence private sector purchasing policies. ADM's view is that this is not implementable in any great measure, however, as the Partnerships have very little influence over the purchasing policies of private companies. Partnership Companies provide support and encourage strategies to develop the social economy, including Traveller projects in their area. For the most part these strategies are aimed at providing social economy projects with business training, guidance and some financial assistance to help them develop their business and expand their customer base. ADM points out that ultimately, however, the social economy projects have to sell themselves. The Partnerships have no mechanisms to directly influence private sector purchasing policies.

5.4 County Enterprise Boards

A number of the County Enterprise Boards have initiated specific measures/programmes focusing on job creation and aimed at members of the Traveller Community e.g. by the provision of direct grant aid; running a Business Orientation Programme; pro-actively encouraging their participation in the commercial economy; providing for their training needs on Business Start Programmes and by co-operating with Traveller groups to identify possible job creation options. The County Enterprise Boards also provide direct grant aid for the development of Enterprise Centres to cater for the needs of small start-ups or expanding businesses.

The Monitoring Committee welcomes this provision but it considers that its maintenance and development will require an increasingly pro-active and systematic approach; in particular to identify and develop appropriate supports for the Traveller economy.

Section H

TRAVELLER WOMEN

1. Introduction

Traveller women like women from other minority groups are particularly vulnerable to discrimination. In addition, the inequalities experienced by women generally are also experienced by Traveller women. The Task Force reported that Traveller women continue to experience institutional and individual forms of discrimination, violence and deprivation. The leadership and determination which is shown by many Traveller women, frequently goes unacknowledged, with few opportunities being presented for educational and economic advancement. The Task Force recommends that such discrimination requires urgent responses.

2. Traveller Organisations

The National Travellers Women's Forum is an alliance of Traveller women and Traveller organisations from throughout Ireland which promotes the interests of Traveller women. They also work collectively to challenge the racism and sexism experienced by Traveller women and to promote Traveller women's right to self determination, the attainment of human rights and equality within society. In addition, the NTWF and other Traveller organisations at local and national level play an important role in the provision of training and education for Traveller women.

3. Gender Impact Statement

Gender impact statements have not been included in this Report. The Task Force called for the provision of gender impact statements in relation to all policies affecting Traveller women. In particular, proposals for future initiatives in the areas of health, education, discrimination and accommodation should be monitored in terms of their impact on equality for Traveller women. In the event of statements not being developed, a clear direction should be given to those engaging in the policy making process in the development of such gender impact statements.

A Partnership 2000 Working Group on "Equality Proofing" reported in January 2000. It proposed a longer term vision of a single integrated equality proofing process and extending beyond the civil and public service to cover the private as well as the voluntary and community sector and covering the nine target groups (including gender and Travellers) covered in equality legislation. The Working Group recommended that a "learning phase" be implemented during the period 2000 - 2003 covering three separate proofing strands:

Gender proofing in the context of the Structural Funds and National Development Plan 2000 - 2006; Poverty proofing in the context of NAPS; and Equality proofing initiatives covering the nine target groups (including Travellers).

The Working Group's recommendation has been incorporated in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness.

(More information on "Equality Proofing" is contained in Section M - Equality Proofing).

4. Data on Traveller Women

Specific resources have not been provided to Traveller organisations for the collection and collation of data on Traveller women through research projects. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform points out that the proposed research on gender equality and implementation of the Second Commission on the Status of Women will look at and identify recommendations on Traveller women and make optimum use of a new structure for delivery of equality policies. There is a need for the development of specific research materials focussing on the experience of Traveller women in a range of arenas which identify key concerns and strategies for the advancement of women. This is particularly pertinent in light of the Beijing + 5 process and the development of the Irish Government's Action Plan for the advancement of women.

The Monitoring Committee recommends that Traveller women should be represented on any monitoring mechanisms established to review progress for women to ensure that all equality policies have a direct positive impact on Traveller women.

5. Projects Focusing on Traveller Women

While many of the Traveller projects supported by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs through its Community Development Programme cater for the broad Traveller community, a number of the projects focus particularly on the needs of Traveller women. In acknowledging the particular issues facing Traveller women, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs supports the National Traveller Women's Forum who co-ordinate Traveller Women's Groups nationally. As with all projects funded under the Department's programmes, projects focusing on Traveller women must be community-driven and managed by members of the target group. The Department's support for such groups is based on the group identifying and prioritising their own needs and also identifying the appropriate means to address these needs. This flexibility within the Department's programmes acknowledges the very different needs that may exist in communities, and that may exist for women, and Traveller women particularly, and ensures that the community themselves are in a position to put in place programmes and activities to meet their specific needs.

The Department of Health and Children has advised the Monitoring Committee that it is prepared to co-operate with Traveller women's organisations in identifying the particular health needs of Traveller women. Needs that are identified will be incorporated in the Department's policy on Traveller health. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment states that FÁS provides training programmes for Traveller women at local level through the community Response Programme. These programmes are provided within FÁS mainstream training.

6. Violence

The view of the Monitoring Committee is that any strategies to address the experiences of Traveller women with regard to violence must take into account institutional as well as individual violence to which Traveller women are subjected. State violence perpetrated against Traveller women takes place during forced evictions, removal of trailers and through forced inhabitation of sub standard and dangerous living environments.

As well as, in certain cases, suffering from domestic violence, Traveller women have frequently been subjected to verbal and physical abuse when being refused access to services or being forcibly removed from private sector businesses (bingo halls and cinemas are regularly complained about). The Committee considers that it is important therefore, that the issue of violence against Traveller women is viewed in a wide ranging way which takes into account the multiple forms of violence experienced by them and allows for the development of multiple strategies to address their concerns.

The Department of Health and Children advises that its health strategy proposes to expand the services for women who are victims of domestic violence and to co-ordinate these more effectively with other health services. The Minister for Health and Children is committed to the improvement of services for victims of domestic violence including Traveller women and has agreed to make available capital grants for this purpose. Increased financial support has been made available for counselling and telephone help line services for victims of domestic violence and it is planned to make continued progress with the development of services for such victims. The Monitoring Committee recommends that these developments should include a particular focus on intercultural services for Traveller women.

The Department of Health and Children confirms that Traveller women have access to all of these services. Pavee Point Travellers Centre has recently received representation on the National Steering Committee in order to ensure that the particular experiences of Traveller women are named and addressed at this level.

7. Protection of Children

The Department of Health and Children advises that important new provisions have been implemented in child care services. These include the key provisions of Parts III - VI of the Child Care Act, 1991, which deal with the protection of children in emergencies, care proceedings and the powers and duties of health boards in relation to children in their

care. The remaining sections of the Act will be brought into operation in 2000. The Department states that the question of carrying out research into the needs of particular groupings including Travellers will be considered in the context of the on-going development of the child care services.

8. Childcare Services

A National Co-ordinating Childcare Committee was established by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in December, 1999 to oversee the development of an integrated childcare infrastructure throughout the country over the course of the National Development Plan, 2000 to 2006. It is the view of the Monitoring Committee that Traveller organisations should be represented on the Committee.

Under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme (1998 and 1999), for which the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform has responsibility, funding is being provided to childcare organisations with the aim of improving the quality and quantity of childcare provision in Ireland from an equal opportunity/disadvantaged perspective. Of the 115 organisations in receipt of funding, four organisations are solely involved with Traveller children, and a further two organisations have some involvement with Traveller children.

Section J

TRAVELLERS WITH A DISABILITY

1. Introduction

Travellers with a disability share the concerns of the broader community of people with a disability however, they also stand to benefit from the current political commitment to the rights of people with a disability and the growing demand for new approaches. The Task Force pointed to the lack of adequate and appropriate data on the position and experiences of Travellers with a disability which makes the development of comprehensive and effective strategies to address their concerns difficult to realise.

2. Interdepartmental Task Force Progress Report

The Progress Report (December 1999) of the Interdepartmental Task Force on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities states that substantial progress has been made in implementing the recommendations in the Report of the Commission. It lists some of the areas where progress has been made, as follows:

- the coming into force of the Employment Equality Act on 18 October, 1999 and the establishment of the Equality Authority;
- the publication of the Equal Status Bill, 1999; (now enacted)
- the establishment of the National Disability Authority;
- the signing by the President of the National Disability Authority Act, 1999;
- the publication of the Bill to establish Comhairle (the Comhairle Bill has since been signed into law by the President).
- the facilitation of the establishment of the Irish Council of People with Disabilities together with the provision of generous funding.

The Commission identified groups, such as Travellers, as having particular concerns and needs over and beyond those of the general population with disabilities. The Progress Report states that these groups would be helped by targeted awareness programmes aimed at professionals working in disability fields as well as at the general public. It also states that health and personal support services for vulnerable people, (which includes Travellers) have been reviewed and are the subjects of development planning.

3. Access

The Equal Status Act 2000 requires service providers to make reasonable accommodation (including the provision of special treatment or facilities) for the needs of people with disabilities, unless such reasonable accommodation would give rise to a cost other than a nominal cost. In the public service arena and in particular in the provision of health services, the Department of Health and Children states that there is an on-going programme of making all health services premises accessible as resources permit.

4. Care-Providers

The Task Force Report makes a number of recommendations in respect of care service providers including the development of a programme for care service providers and the use of Traveller advocates. The Department of Health and Children points out that the question of Traveller advocates is comprehended in programmes such as the Primary Health Care for Travellers Project which trains Travellers for participation in the delivery of health services.

The Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs states that residency and full-time care and attention requirements for the Carer's Allowance have been eased to introduce greater flexibility into the scheme, while safeguarding the needs and interests of the care recipients. The residency requirements have been relaxed to allow for each non-resident case to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. An updated information leaflet on the Carer's Allowance scheme will be published shortly.

As part of Budget 2000, a Carer's Benefit, to support people who must leave the workforce to care for someone who is in need of full-time care and attention, was introduced. The scheme involves two elements (i) a weekly income support payment, which is of 15 months duration and based on the PRSI contributions paid by the carer, and (ii) the protection of the carer's employment rights for the duration of the payment. The Carer's Benefit came into effect on 26 October 2000. The new Carer's Benefit information leaflet contains details of the residency requirements. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is currently drawing up Carer's Leave legislation to protect the employment rights of the carer.

A comprehensive information booklet has been issued to all recipients of Carer's Allowance and all information providers in this area.

5. Intercultural Methods

The Task Force Report calls on the various health boards and the Department of Health and Children, as appropriate, to support and resource care service providers to develop in-service training on intercultural work practices in co-operation with Traveller groups. The Monitoring Committee recommends that the experiences of Travellers with a disability, and in particular those who have experience of living in residential care should be listened to and taken into account in the development of much needed intercultural methods of providing care to Travellers with a disability. The Department of Health and Children states that it is considering the possibility of a structured review of the extent of implementation.

6. Research

The Monitoring Committee accepts that further research is needed into the particular experience and needs of Travellers with a disability and it recommends that research on the needs of Travellers with a disability should be carried out in association with Traveller organisations. Travellers with a disability should be supported and resourced to play a key role in the carrying out of such research.

Section K

MONITORING OF PROGRESS

Monitoring Process

The effectiveness of the Monitoring Committee will be reviewed by the Committee itself. The process of monitoring to date has been time-consuming for all involved due mainly to the sizeable number of departmental, community and Traveller organisations involved in a broad spectrum of activity. Many excellent presentations have been submitted to the Monitoring Committee during its first years of operation. The presentations dealt with the development of services to the Traveller community and the development of the Traveller community in providing supports to itself. These presentations coupled with the on the ground experience of those on the Monitoring Committee have contributed significantly to the contents of this Report. It is clear however that much of the Task Force agenda has still to be tackled.

The Monitoring Committee is of the view that in the light of the setting up of a number of Travellers Advisory Committees by relevant Government Departments e.g. Health, Education, Environment, and the recent development of numerous other liaison committees between Departments and Travellers groups e.g. accommodation committees, economic development liaison groups, the most appropriate model for monitoring future developments is through liaison between these groups and the Monitoring Committee. These groups/committees will be asked to submit their annual reports and work programmes to the Monitoring Committee and to arrange for a representative to meet with the Monitoring Committee at least once a year.

This will enable the Monitoring Committee to hear at first hand from both Department officials and Traveller representatives a cogent up to date analysis of present activities and future plans in respect of the implementation of both the Task Force recommendations and other agreed developments. This will lead to a thematic monitoring of developments by the Committee, and the issuing of a yearly report.

One of the difficulties the Monitoring committee will have to face is the overlap in the delivery of services between different Departments and their local delivery agencies i.e. Local Authorities or Health Boards. This overlap may fall outside the ambit of the advisory groups, so it will receive particular attention from the Monitoring Committee again on a thematic basis to ensure that services are delivered in a co-ordinated manner.

The Monitoring Committee will also serve as a forum for consultation on current issues of national importance affecting the Traveller Community as required under its Terms of Reference.

The Monitoring Committee will agree a work programme and working methods for its own committee based on the above.

Section L

SPORT AND OTHER RECREATIONS

1. Introduction

The Task Force Report maintains that participation by Travellers in sport and other recreational activities, as well as being a fundamental right, is another way in which mutual understanding and respect can be developed between Travellers and the settled community.

2. Access / Discrimination

The Task Force Report recommends, in relation to all forms of recreational activity and access to the venues in which these activities take place, that discriminatory practices of a direct and indirect nature, should be prohibited against any group particularly vulnerable to discrimination, including Travellers.

The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform advises that the Equal Status Act, 2000 outlaws both direct and indirect discrimination in the provision of goods and services including the provision of recreational services and access to venues having such activities on nine grounds, including membership of the Traveller Community.

3. Sports

The Task Force welcomed the provisions of the European Sports Charter adopted by Member States of the Council of Europe in 1993 and recommends that in line with that Charter, special emphasis should be placed on encouraging greater involvement by those who are disadvantaged, including members of the Traveller community, in sporting activities at all levels. It also calls on the relevant Department and national sports organisations to draw up a statement of practice in relation to access to and participation in sporting activities by all members of the Traveller community.

Responsibility for sport and recreation was transferred to the new Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation in 1997. The Department has advised the Monitoring Committee that one of its goals as outlined in its Statement of Strategy, 1998-2001, is “to formulate and oversee the implementation of policies for the promotion and development of sport, and to encourage increased participation in sport and recreation, particularly by disadvantaged communities”.

While the Monitoring Committee welcomes this initiative it believes that the particular needs of Travellers can only be effectively addressed when they are specifically reflected in the strategy and it should not be assumed that Travellers needs will be addressed by simply locating them under the disadvantage category.

Grants to two major sports organisations (GAA and IRFU) are now based on initiatives being developed by these organisations to increase and enhance participation in sport by people in areas of social and economic disadvantage. Grants to organisations such as An Ból Chumann have been increased.

The Monitoring Committee recommends that sporting organisations in receipt of funding from the Government who are found to be discriminating against Travellers should have their funding withdrawn completely or suspended until such a time the situation has been rectified. Under the Sports Capital Scheme of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation applicants have to show that their rules and actions do not discriminate on the grounds of sex, religion, ethnic origin etc. Priority is given to projects in disadvantaged areas and applicants have to outline any specific programmes being put in place to increase participation by people from areas of socio-economic disadvantage. The Irish Sports Council has been established on a statutory basis from 1 July, 1999 and is now directly responsible for the administration of the funding schemes for sports organisations and the Vocational Education Committees.

Traveller organisations should be resourced and funded to organise Traveller participation in Sport and Recreational activities at both Local and National level. Sulky (or harness) racing is a very common recreational activity among Travellers and in fact it is gaining in popularity but unfortunately Travellers are experiencing some difficulty in pursuing this recreational activity. The Monitoring Committee recommends that the relevant authorities and Government Departments take steps to support and resource Traveller participation in this activity.

4. Arts and Cultural Facilities.

In relation to Traveller involvement in and the development and administration of cultural policy, including participation in the arts and access to cultural facilities such as museums, theatres etc. the Task Force recommends, that the Arts Council policy on access and opportunity should be implemented and that a Code of Practice for access by Travellers to the Arts should be published similar to the one published in 1985 for people with a disability. It also recommends increased funding to assist and encourage Travellers to develop their artistic and cultural potential and suggests that museums, galleries and other institutions in which artistic work is displayed, should accommodate the work of the Traveller community.

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands has informed the Monitoring Committee that rather than developing individual codes of practice for each specific group, the Arts Council intends to examine the question of whether it may appropriately make explicit its overall policy of inclusion, which is underpinned by principles of equality of opportunity. In doing so, the Arts Council would be adopting a collective approach to support for minority/under-represented groups within the context of its overall policy which aims to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to access the arts.

The Monitoring Committee on implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on the Traveller Community welcomes this commitment, however it considers that it is important that Travellers and Traveller organisations be consulted in any process undertaken to develop an equality code of practice.

Section M

EQUALITY PROOFING

1. Introduction

There have been calls for guidelines to be developed on “Traveller proofing” of policies and practices. It should be noted in this regard that issues relating to poverty in the Traveller community come under the remit of the current poverty proofing guidelines. The enhanced guidelines on poverty proofing, circulated to all Government Departments in 1999, featured a worked example which used the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 as a guide to the practical implementation of poverty proofing.

With regard to the recommendations for a tracking system for Traveller schoolchildren and monitoring of proposals with regard to their impact on equality for Traveller women, it should be noted that a co-ordinated data strategy, with specific reference to Travellers, will be developed under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (Section 3.12.12). Attention should also be paid to the work of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism, including its guidelines on poverty proofing from an anti-racist perspective.

2. Report on Equality Proofing

A Partnership 2000 Working Group on "Equality Proofing" reported in January 2000. It proposed a longer term vision of a single integrated equality proofing process and extending beyond the civil and public service to cover the private as well as the voluntary and community sector and covering the nine target groups (including Travellers) covered in equality legislation. The Working Group recommended and its recommendation has been incorporated in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, that a "learning phase" be implemented during the period 2000 - 2003 covering three separate proofing strands:

Gender proofing in the context of the Structural Funds and National Development Plan 2000 - 2006; Poverty proofing in the context of NAPS; and Equality proofing initiatives covering the nine target groups (including Travellers).

3. Proposed Integrated Proofing Process

The Working Group Report on Equality Proofing states: “Equality proofing is a key strategic component for eliminating inequalities. It builds on and enhances results from specific measures and a legal rights approach by seeking to integrate equality issues into the policy making process. Equality proofing relies on agreed indicators and statistical data to monitor progress in achieving defined equality objectives. Issues relating to equality of participation and equality of outcomes are addressed.

Equality proofing procedures are intended to create an ‘early warning’ system, to alert policy-makers to potential problems arising from the impact of particular laws or policy. Their aim is to replace the reactive approach to problems of inequality that has prevailed to date. They seek to identify the “hidden, unrecognised and unremarked ways in which systems and structures are biased... and to redress the balance.” Effective equality proofing can avoid the adoption of policies and programmes that mirror discriminatory practices within society or even exacerbate existing inequalities.

Equality proofing seeks also to develop more participatory policy-making processes. An important argument invoked in favour of equality proofing, therefore, is its potential to overcome the so-called democratic deficit of traditional forms of governance. The participation of affected groups is intended to lead to greater transparency and openness in the decision-making process. A process of equality proofing leads to greater accountability in the policy process, contributing to the overall objective of ‘Delivering Better Government’.”

**LIST OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS IN NUMERICAL ORDER
AND
DETAILS OF THE POSITION ON PROGRESS IN EACH CASE**

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

<p>The improvement of relationships between the Traveller and the ‘Settled’ communities through the development of mutual understanding and respect requires an adjustment in attitudes towards one another and an acceptance of each other’s culture. In order to achieve this key goal, the Task Force recommends that every opportunity must be taken to increase levels of contact between the Traveller and ‘Settled’ communities at national level and more particularly at local community level. It is the view of the Task Force that improved levels of contact will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — result in a better understanding on the part of the ‘Settled’ population of the general needs of Travellers, their culture and aspirations and also of the contribution which cultural diversity makes to society; — Enable Travellers to understand more about the anxieties of the ‘Settled’ population; — Contribute to the reduction in the present levels of conflict and tension which exist between both communities by helping to eradicate misconceptions, intolerance and hostility. 	AR.1	<p>Traveller organisations play a vital role in developing increased contact between Travellers and members of the settled community. At the national level the Irish Traveller Movement, the National Traveller Women's Forum and Pavee Point are active to ensure that Traveller interests are reflected in the wider community and voluntary sector. The participation of these organisations in the NESF, the NESC and the National Agreement negotiations is vital to ensuring that the concerns of Travellers are brought to the attention of organisations who exclusively or predominantly represent the interests of the settled community.</p> <p>Local Traveller organisations play a similarly valuable role in ensuring contact on an equal level is built up between Travellers and members of the settled community. As structures to engage local organisations in local governance and local development are further developed this role will become increasingly important.</p> <p>The specific committees at local and national level which have emerged from the recommendations of the Task Force report are also an important arena for views emanating from the settled community and Travellers to be debated and responded to. Developing models of good practice for the operation of these committees will make an important contribution towards improving the quality of the contact between Travellers and the settled community.</p> <p>The funding by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform of a 3 year Traveller Communication Programme (see AR.3) is making a significant contribution towards developing a greater awareness of Traveller culture in the broader society. This will help to reduce negative attitudes to Travellers.</p> <p>The responsibility for improving relations between Travellers and the settled community does not fall on Traveller organisations alone. The new equality legislation and institutions will play a role in protecting Travellers from discrimination and ensuring that relevant institutions play a role in ensuring the appropriate inclusion of Travellers in Irish society.</p>
<p>In widening the focus of their activities, Traveller organisations should have access to additional resources.</p>	AR.2	<p>Funding has been provided to support the work of the Irish Traveller Movement, the National Traveller Women’s Forum and Pavee Point. In addition, funding has been provided to support the work of Traveller organisations at local level. The inclusion of Traveller organisations in the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs Community Development Programme has made a significant contribution in this regard.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
The statutory sector has a contribution to make in terms of providing institutional support and resources for the proposed initiatives and also, through its activities, in conveying a more positive attitude to the Traveller community and to issues affecting the well being of Travellers. In particular, the Government should make these issues the focus of a sustained and committed media campaign.	AR.3	The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform are providing £300,000 annually, for a three year communications programme (1999 to 2001) aimed at promoting a greater understanding between Travellers and the settled community. The Programme is being delivered under the title 'Citizen Traveller' and is being managed by the Traveller Communication Committee. This committee is made up of representatives of the Irish Traveller Movement, the National Traveller Women's Forum, Pavee Point and the Parish of the Travelling People. The Committee has employed a person with expertise in public relations to manage the programme and to engage the assistance of professional agencies to develop the various elements of the communication programme. To date the programme has included national radio advertisement campaigns, market research, national attitude survey, media training for Traveller organisations, billboard advertisements, small grants fund, national and regional media workshops, media archive and a Traveller Focus week.
The Task Force recommends that the social partners, in drawing up future National Agreements, should take account of the needs of disadvantaged groups such as Travellers and should involve Traveller organisations where the needs of Travellers are being discussed.	AR.4	The involvement of the National Traveller Organisations through their participation in the Community Platform in the negotiations of the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness ensured that the needs of Travellers are reflected in the programme. The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness makes important commitments in terms of improving the gathering of data in relation to Traveller inclusion in services. The programme also has commitments in relation to Traveller health, accommodation, education and enterprise. The general provisions in the programme in relation to social inclusion and equality should also benefit Travellers.
The Task Force recommends that the Department of Equality and Law Reform, in conjunction with other relevant Departments and Non-Governmental Organisations taking account of previous work in this field, should play a role in exploring and devising a framework for mediation.	AR.5	In 1997, the Department of Equality and Law Reform was joined with the Department of Justice, to become the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Pavee Point, Traveller Centre established a mediation service in 1999 to support relations between Travellers and settled people. It provides a mechanism to respond constructively to situations of conflict between Travellers and the majority population in order to bring about just and peaceful situations. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform has provided support and funding for the mediation service.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
The media should adopt a more proactive approach on issues of concern to and relating to the Traveller community, in consultation, where necessary, with Traveller organisations. This could include the provision of more programming time on television and on radio (both at national and local levels) and more print features on such issues as Traveller culture, lifestyles and achievements.	AR.6	<p>Our national broadcaster, Radio Telefis Éireann advises that the social, cultural and economic challenges presented in the Report of the Task Force highlight subjects which, in one way or another, go to the heart of the social agenda of current affairs in our society. RTE confirms that this year, in the strategic planning of its coverage of public affairs, emphasis has been placed on the themes of exclusion, inequality and deprivation - all of which continue to be marked characteristics of Irish life at a time when the economy is experiencing unprecedented growth. RTÉ's view is that while television and radio programmes cannot correct such social imbalances, they may of course increase awareness of them and analyse their causes.</p> <p>RTÉ accepts Recommendation AR.6 as one in keeping with the statutory obligations outlined in its response to Recommendation AR.8. The particular importance of consulting appropriately with the Traveller community is recognised and it is the intention that future revisions of guidelines for programme makers along with reviews of training course materials will reflect this consideration.</p>
The National Union of Journalists "Guidelines on Race Reporting" if followed more consistently, could make an important contribution to the development of better relations between Travellers and the 'Settled' population. It is recommended that these Guidelines be developed into a Code of Practice to be adopted by the various media institutions.	AR 7.	<p>RTÉ would like to point out that while guidelines such as those adopted by the NUJ are to be welcomed and their adoption as professional values recommended, more than this is required. To make this point is not to find fault with the NUJ guidelines, but rather to emphasise that their existence does not remove the general duty of each part of the media to keep its house in order. Even if all media were to adopt a Code of Practice derived from the NUJ guidelines, it is likely that sections of the media would need to establish and maintain guidelines and standards specific to their particular spheres of work. For instance, in talk radio, there is a need to ensure that free speech and fair comment in public debate are not abused and invoked as pretexts for rabid incitement or the spread of ignorant prejudice: this is a responsibility that challenges broadcasters in a way that does not arise for their colleagues in print.</p> <p>RTÉ would also like to comment on the reference to "the role and responsibility of public broadcasting in the development of interculturalism and anti-racism". It is RTÉ's opinion that all broadcasting and not alone public broadcasting, owes a duty to these public values.</p>

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

<p>The proposed White Paper on Broadcasting Policy offers another important opportunity to develop the media's contribution to better relationships between Travellers and the 'Settled' community. The White Paper should give a firm commitment to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Highlight the role and responsibility of public broadcasting in the development of interculturalism and anti-racism.— Point to the need for programmes which promote respect for cultural diversity, and the rights of minorities including Travellers.— Emphasise the importance of a code of practice and guidelines which encourage broadcasters to avoid sensationalism and negative stereotypical images of Travellers and other minority groups.— Encourage education programmes which challenge intolerance, racism, xenophobia and discrimination and which provide a voice for communities experiencing exclusion such as Travellers.— Broaden the concept of 'Equal Opportunities' to include Travellers.— Encourage and support Traveller groups and other organisations representing communities experiencing exclusion, to have access to the production and delivery of public broadcasting.	AR.8	<p>The view of Radio Telefís Éireann is that a fundamental issue for all media is the question of recognition for the wide range of communities in our society. RTE considers that one thing that public broadcasting must do is to recognise the cultures that form the fabric of Ireland today, and RTÉ's statutory obligations in this respect are given a new emphasis and a more detailed expression in the Broadcasting Bill, 1999 with its references to the duty to "reflect the cultural diversity of the whole island of Ireland" as well as to "cater for the expectations of the community generally as well as members of the community with special or minority interests and which, in every case, respect human dignity" (section 24 (2)). According to RTE, this requirement appears to address the broad aims of this recommendation.</p> <p>The Independent Radio and Television Commission (IRTC) outlines its initiatives which it believes are relevant to these issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) In 1997 the IRTC published a Policy Document on Community Broadcasting. This established a structure whereby community and community of interest groups can establish their own broadcasting services. The radio stations complement existing commercial and public broadcasters and, to date, 5-year licences have been awarded to 13 groups across the country. The stations provide access for community groups and individuals within their areas and in a number of cases this had included Traveller groups. The IRTC states that it is difficult, however, to determine at any one point the number of Travellers, or Traveller groups, working with these stations, as programmes and volunteers can change on a regular basis.(b) The Commission has increased its overall level of monitoring of licensed stations and points out that it will therefore detect more rapidly any issues which emerge with regard to the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act, 1989. In instances where issues have emerged in respect of minority groups, including the Traveller community, the Commission has written to the station in the context of the operator's statutory and contractual obligations. This has been effective in the few cases where action was required.(c) The IRTC now agrees Programme Policy Statements with all contractors and these documents include commitments in relation to areas such as access and programme format and approach.(d) The Commission has developed its own equal opportunities role with regard to women in Broadcasting through the Women on Air project. This is a joint venture between the IRTC, NUI Galway and Connemara Community Radio and has been funded through the NOW programme for four years.
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RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

		<p>(e) In the context of the new Broadcasting Bill, the Commission will have statutory responsibility for developing a comprehensive Programme Code which will address issues such as balanced and fair programme making.</p> <p>(f) The IRTC established a New Adventure in Broadcasting scheme to support the development of new voices and formats in radio. While no specific programmes made by the Traveller community have been funded, the scheme has supported initiatives aimed at addressing disadvantage in an innovative way, using radio. An example of such an initiative is a project run jointly by Tipp FM and NALA to address literacy and numeracy difficulties in Tipperary. According to the IRTC, this project was very successful and demonstrated the potential of radio in addressing disadvantage.</p>
Anti-racist modules have a particular relevance to the professional training of people who will have contact with Travellers in their work situation. They should be an obligatory component of all courses in professional training where this contact is likely. Traveller groups should be involved in the design and delivery of such modules.	AR. 9	
Modules dealing with Traveller issues should be extended, as far as is practicable, to courses other than Social Policy/Social Science, for example, Political Science and Business Studies, which are pursued by many of the policy makers of the future.	AR.10	

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
Guidelines should be developed in relation to the collection and use of academic research relating to Travellers by education institutions. These guidelines could be modelled on the code of ethics for Aboriginal health research in the Australian National Aboriginal Health Strategy.	AR.11	
The Task Force recommends that every opportunity be taken by the IPA to include specific modules on Traveller issues and anti-racism in its courses of professional training for public servants and that Travellers and Traveller support groups should be involved in the design and delivery of such modules.	AR.12	<p>The IPA (Institute of Public Administration) reports that mindful of the recommendations contained in the (Task Force) report and building on its (IPA's) links with the local authorities, in particular, the Institute (through its Housing Unit) organised and delivered (early in 1999) three two-day residential workshops for local authority officials. The workshops concentrated on the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 and its requirements of, and implications for, local authorities. Their content included coverage of the Act itself, the establishment of local consultative committees and the preparation of five-year plans. There was also input on the Travellers' perspective by a speaker from the Irish Traveller Movement.</p> <p>The Institute also supports and facilitates, on an ongoing basis, regional networks of Housing Officers, whose agenda includes all aspects of housing, including issues relating to Travellers.</p> <p>In addition, a National Housing Conference for local authority Housing Officials, held early in 1999, featured coverage of the topic of Traveller accommodation.</p>

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

<p>That the distinct culture and identity of the Traveller community be recognised and taken into account.</p>	BR.1	<p>The Monitoring Committee considers that this recommendation is of crucial importance for finding real and appropriate solutions to the problems faced by the Traveller community. The recommendation presents a challenge to the settled community and especially to policy makers and those responsible for the implementation of the policies, to ensure that the policies pursued are likely to have positive outcomes that are respectful of Traveller culture.</p> <p>Advances that have been made in this area include the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998. Of particular note in this Act is the recognition of the need to provide transient sites, which for the first time acknowledges the nomadic identity of Travellers. The guidelines on the provision of Traveller accommodation, produced by the Department of the Environment and Local Government are also worth noting.</p> <p>The new equality legislation and equality infrastructure will also contribute to the protection of Traveller culture and the development of good practice in relation to the development and implementation of Traveller friendly policies and practice's. The work of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism also plays a role in developing a greater awareness and sensitivity to the position of minority groups including Travellers.</p>
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RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

That the Equal Status legislation would define Travellers in a manner that acknowledges their distinct culture and identity.	CR.1	<p>The Equal Status Act, 2000 came into operation on 25 October 2000.</p> <p>So as to acknowledge the distinct culture and identity of Travellers, an explicit definition of ‘Traveller community’ is contained in the Act. It states:</p> <p>‘Traveller community’ means the community of people who are commonly called Travellers and who are identified (both by themselves and others) as people with a shared history, culture and traditions including, historically, a nomadic way of life on the island of Ireland.</p> <p>The definition is modelled on the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order, 1997. The Employment Equality Act, 1998 was also amended to include the above definition of ‘Traveller community’.</p>
That the Equal Status legislation would define indirect discrimination in a manner that incorporates not only terms and conditions set for the provision of goods, services and facilities but also policies or practices governing or relevant to these.	CR.2.1	<p>Indirect discrimination is prohibited by the Equal Status Act, 2000 (section 3) as an added facet of each of the nine distinct grounds covered by the Bill. Indirect discrimination occurs where a requirement to comply with a condition has a disproportionately adverse effect on a particular category of persons and this requirement cannot be justified as being reasonable in all the circumstances of the case.</p> <p>It will be noted that subsection (1)(c)(ii) of section 3 indicates that indirect discrimination occurs where the person who is being subjected to indirect discrimination, “ is obliged by the provider of a service . . . to comply with <u>a condition (whether in the nature of a requirement, practice or condition)</u> but is unable to do so”.</p>
That the Equal Status legislation would identify a twenty per cent differential between communities in their access to goods, services and facilities as the point beyond which indirect discrimination requires to be investigated. The experience of British Race Relations legislation indicates that this figure would be appropriate.	CR.2.2	<p>The Equal Status Act, 2000 includes indirect discrimination, (see 2.1 above). However, as regards the accessing of goods, services and facilities as between different communities (e.g., Travellers and settled people), the relevant factor which determines if indirect discrimination is occurring is that <u>substantially more people</u> outside the particular ‘community’ (the discriminated against or affected category) than within it, can comply with the particular condition being imposed by the service provider.</p> <p>Traveller organisations state that the identification of “a twenty per cent differential between communities in their access . . .” would help to move the focus of the legislation beyond the individual experiencing inequality and discrimination to a more relevant group dynamic.</p>

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

		<p>However, the Act does not adopt the approach of using a specific numerical differential or threshold, in relation to the accessing of goods, services and facilities by different communities, as the factor that is to indicate that indirect discrimination is occurring.</p> <p>In the context of defining indirect discrimination, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform would not be disposed to accepting what is recommended in CR.2.2, as an alternative to what is now contained in the Act, for the reason that there is a lack of clarity as to what precisely is proposed in CR.2.2 and, furthermore, the concept of such a specified numerical threshold would need to be repeated across the other eight discriminatory grounds.</p> <p>Direct discrimination against a Traveller is covered under the Act. Under other provisions of the Act, the following further options are available to ensure that indirect discrimination against the Traveller community can be tackled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— the Equality Authority can refer matters to the Director of Equality Investigations, even if no person has made a complaint or it is not reasonable to expect him or her to do so (section 23 of the Act).— As explained below, the Equality Authority is now being empowered to carry out, in equal status matters, equality reviews and to prepare and implement equality action plans. <p>Section 69 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 provides for an audit of the level of opportunity and an examination of the factors relevant to the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Equality Authority is empowered to invite service providers, or groups of service providers (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Act), to carry out equality reviews and to prepare and implement an equality action plan. As is the case with employment related reviews, the Authority will have the power to carry out the review itself in the case of a business which has more than 50 employees. The Authority is not empowered to carry out reviews of registered clubs which are, in any event, unlikely to have over 50 employees.</p>
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RECOMMENDATION

NO.

PRESENT POSITION

<p>That the Equal Status legislation would prohibit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - policies and procedures that discriminate against Traveller's culture and identity; - the exclusion of Travellers, just because they are Travellers, from the normal benefit of goods, services and facilities; - the segregation of Travellers in the general provision of goods, services and facilities unless this is for reasons of positive action. 	CR.3.1	<p>The Equal Status Act, 2000 contains the particular provisions sought in this recommendation.</p> <p>As regards a saver for positive action (mentioned in the third indent), the Act caters for this by not prohibiting preferential treatment or the taking of positive measures which are <i>bona fide</i> intended to promote equality of opportunity for Travellers (or other persons or groups suffering disadvantage) [see section 14(b)].</p>
<p>That the Equal Status legislation would specifically name the statutory sector as being bound by its provisions, as this sector is the predominant provider of goods, services and facilities to the Traveller community and experience in Britain has demonstrated that it is necessary to specifically name this sector. Any exemption in this area should be strictly necessary and subject to regular review by the Equality Authority/Commission.</p>	CR.3.2	<p>The provisions of the Equal Status Act, 2000 are equally applicable to the statutory (state) sector as to the public sector and the Minister, during the course of the Oireachtas debates during the course of its enactment, confirmed this. A "service" is defined in section 2 of the Act as a service or facility of any nature which is generally available to the public or a section of the public. This very wide definition applies to public services as well as to those provided by the private sector.</p> <p>The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform is advised that, following the 1993 Supreme Court judgment in "Howard v Commissioners for Public Works" [1993] IRLM 665, it is neither necessary nor desirable to state in legislation that the State is bound thereby.</p>
<p>That the Equal Status legislation would ensure equality of treatment for all citizens in the areas of law enforcement and the judicial process.</p>	CR.3.3	<p>The Equal Status Act, 2000 applies to authorities/bodies in the area of law enforcement. As regards the judicial process, a guarantee of equality before the law is enshrined in the Constitution. Ms Justice Denham, in her judgment in the aforementioned case of Howard v. Commissioners for Public Works, stated: "The concept of equality [in Art. 40.1 of the Constitution] includes the concept that, in the execution of their power, the organs of government shall act with due regard to the concept of equality".</p>
<p>That the Equal Status legislation would ensure protection from victimisation for those making a complaint of discrimination under the legislation, supporting such a complaint, giving evidence in relation to a complaint, or intending to do any of these things.</p>	CR.3.4	<p>The Equal Status Act, 2000 provides protection from "victimisation". One of the nine specified grounds in the Bill on which discrimination is prohibited is the "victimisation ground". Section 3(2)(j) of the Act, in setting out what such discrimination entails, includes the specific protections detailed in CR.3.4.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
That the Equal Status legislation would ensure that Travellers can continue to benefit from affirmative action to prevent discrimination, promote equality, and redress past discrimination.	CR.3.5	<p>Section 14 of the Equal Status Act, 2000 allows, <i>inter alia</i>, for the provision of preferential treatment or the taking of positive measures which are <i>bona fide</i> intended to promote equality of opportunity for disadvantaged persons (including Travellers), or to cater for the special needs of a category of persons in certain circumstances.</p> <p>Since the Equal Status Act, 2000 is a legislative measure aiming, <i>per se</i>, to prohibit discrimination, implementation of CR.3.5 as regards “affirmative action to . . . promote equality, and redress past discrimination” would be considerably beyond the legislative ambit of the measure. Such affirmative actions are, of course, being progressed as a matter of Government policy, as is detailed in this Report by the various Government Departments.</p>
That the Equal Status legislation would ensure protection from victimisation for those who support, work with or resource the Traveller community.	CR.3.6	<p>The Equal Status Act, 2000 provides this protection. Discrimination on grounds of ‘association’, whether with a Traveller or other individual who would be covered by one of the other eight grounds, is prohibited in the Bill [see section 3(1)(b)].</p> <p>As regards concerns expressed by Traveller organisations that the 2000 Act does not include discrimination against organisations, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform accepts that the 1997 Bill did include organisations, as well as individuals, when specifying those against whom discrimination was to be prohibited. However, when the 1997 Bill was referred to the Supreme Court, opposing Counsel criticised the drafting of the section involved as meaningless, a criticism which was upheld in the Department’s subsequent legal advice. In the light of this, the particular section involved, section 3(1), was substantially redrafted in the 2000 Act.</p> <p>Organisations were excluded in section 3 for two reasons. Firstly, the redrafting of the section, which was particularly difficult, was made virtually impossible if organisations were included as well as individuals. Secondly, such a provision as was contained in the 1997 Bill, might be as protective of an all male or racially exclusive organisation as it would be of an organisation representing, for example, Travellers or gays and lesbians. However, under the 2000 Act, it will still be possible for any individual who encounters discrimination as member of, e.g. a Traveller organisation, to bring a claim of discrimination on an individual basis.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
That the Equal Status legislation would provide a legislative basis for the Equality Authority/Commission's Codes of Practice and for Equal Status policy programmes so that these can be taken into account in the deliberations around any complaint.	CR.3.7	<p>Both the Employment Equality Act, 1998 and the Equal Status Act, 2000 contain specific legislative provisions in relation to the functions of the Equality Authority, codes of practice and the Authority's future policy programmes.</p> <p>In accordance with section 40 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998, the Equality Authority has launched, in March 2000, its Strategic Plan for the years 2000 - 2002. This Strategic Plan gives concrete expression to the steps that will be taken to achieve the aims of the Authority and to carry out its statutory remit.</p> <p>Under section 56 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 (as amended by the Equal Status Act, 2000), the Authority is empowered to prepare codes of practice (to be submitted for the approval of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform) in furtherance of the aim of eliminating discrimination and promotion of equality in relation to employment and also in relation to matters to which the Equal Status Act, 2000 applies.</p> <p>As regards such codes of practice being taken into account, subsection (4) of section 56, provides, <i>inter alia</i>, that an approved code of practice shall be admissible in evidence and that any provision of such code may be taken into account in criminal proceedings brought under the equality legislation as well as in matters coming before the Director of Equality Investigations.</p> <p>The position as regards 'Equal Status policy programmes' is set out in the Department's comments on CR.10.1.</p>
That the Equal Status Legislation would specifically identify its intentions to protect cultural identity.	CR.4.1	<p>As indicated in CR.1, the Equal Status Act, 2000 sets out a definition of the 'Traveller community', as follows:</p> <p>'Traveller community' means the community of people who are commonly called Travellers and who are identified (both by themselves and others) as people with a shared history, culture and traditions including, historically, a nomadic way of life on the island of Ireland.</p>
That the Equal Status legislation would ensure that Travellers are protected from indirect discrimination where they are unable to comply with requirements, conditions, policies or practices consistent with the maintenance of their cultural norms.	CR.4.2	<p>The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform did not consider it appropriate to include such a provision in the Equal Status Act, 2000. The Act provides that a condition, requirement or practice which has a disproportionately adverse effect on Travellers (or other protected groups) is indirect discrimination, if it "cannot be justified as being reasonable in all the circumstances of the case" [section 3(1)(c)(iv)]. The test for indirect discrimination is consistent with Part IV of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 and with comparable legislation elsewhere.</p> <p>The introduction of concept of "cultural norms" into the Equal Status Act would create considerable uncertainty, particularly as it would have to be extended to the other groups covered by the Act.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
That the Equal Status legislation would clearly identify that neither direct nor indirect discrimination against Travellers could be justified on the grounds of potential financial disadvantage to the provider.	CR.5.1	<p>The Equal Status Act, 2000 does not allow for any circumstances in which <u>direct discrimination</u> is justified. As indicated above (CR.4.2), a condition, requirement or practice does not constitute <u>indirect discrimination</u> if it is “justified as being reasonable in all the circumstances of the case” [section 3(1)(c)(iv)].</p> <p>The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform would not consider it appropriate, in defining indirect discrimination, to disregard any additional costs which could arise for service providers and would draw attention, in this context, to the Supreme Court’s judgment on the “reasonable accommodation” requirements of the Employment Equality Bill, 1996.</p>
That the Equality Authority/Commission be established based on a re-structured Employment Equality Agency. The Equality Authority/Commission is to be comprised of an Employment Board and a Non-employment Board.	CR.6.1	<p>Part V of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 provides for the establishment of a new infrastructure to underpin the statutory rights being provided under both employment equality and equal status legislation.</p> <p>The new infrastructure comprises two new organisations, the Equality Authority which has replaced the Employment Equality Agency, and the Office of the Director of Equality Investigations, to provide redress of first instance. On 18 October 1999, the whole of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 was brought into operation by a Ministerial Order, signed on that date. In consequence, the Equality Authority and the Office of the Director of Equality Investigations stand formally established and have both commenced operations.</p> <p>The Equality Authority and the Office of the Director of Equality Investigations are initially discharging their statutory functions under the Employment Equality Act, 1998. The Equal Status Act, 2000 provides that the remit of the Authority and the Director will be extended to include equal status matters.</p> <p>The Equality Authority is seeking to pursue an integrated approach across both employment equality and equal status legislation. This will allow a coherence of approach by organisations to equality in relation to their internal relations, human resource function, and to their external relations, customer source function. As such the Equality Authority has not divided itself into two Boards. The Equality Authority has established a legal committee to have oversight of its information, advice and legal representation functions and a finance committee to have oversight of its internal financial management functions.</p>

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

That the Employment Board of the Equality Authority/Commission would include representation from Traveller organisations.	CR.6.2	<p>Section 44 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 sets out the requirements for appointment as a member of the Equality Authority. The persons to be appointed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to the Authority shall include, <i>inter alia</i>, persons who have knowledge of or experience in consumer, social affairs or equality issues related to the experience and circumstances of groups who are disadvantaged by reference to a number of stated criteria which include membership of the Traveller community.</p> <p>The Equality Authority, as appointed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in October 1999, includes a member of the Traveller community.</p>
That the non-Employment Board would include Travellers and Traveller organisations along with representation from the appropriate Government Department with responsibility for co-ordinating services to the Traveller community.	CR.6.3	<p>The Equality Authority does not have distinct non-employment and employment boards. See comments on previous recommendation (CR.6.2) as regards the statutory provision which specifies the requirements for appointment to the Authority. As regards representation on the Authority of the appropriate Government Department, the position is that, neither the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform nor any other Government Department is represented on the present Board of the Authority. Section 44 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998, however allows for the appointment of a representative of an appropriate Government Department on the Board.</p>
That an executive committee would be drawn from both the Employment and Non-Employment Boards to co-ordinate policy and to control resources and administration.	CR.6.4	<p>This recommendation is inoperative, having regard to the fact that the Equality Authority does not have distinct non-employment and employment boards.</p>
That the Equality Authority/Commission would have legal powers and necessary resources to:	CR.7	<p>The Employment Equality Act, 1998 and the Equal Status Act, 2000 provide the Equality Authority with necessary legal powers.</p> <p>Sufficient financial resources and staffing have been provided to enable the equality infrastructure to carry out its functions efficiently.</p> <p>The manner in which both organisations are funded from the Exchequer through the Vote of a Department is in line with what is done in respect of some fifty other semi-State bodies/agencies in the public sector, including the Office of the Ombudsman. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform considers that there is not a sustainable case for seeking some other funding approach.</p>

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

- initiate and pursue investigations into instances and patterns of discrimination;	CR.7.1	<p>This recommendation has been implemented. The Equal Status Act, 2000 in Part III contains the provisions governing the procedures whereby a person discriminated against, on any of the discriminatory grounds, can seek redress. Part III details in particular the role of the Office of the Director of Equality Investigations in receiving, investigating and determining complaints.</p> <p>Furthermore, a 'pattern of discrimination' is covered in the following way. Pursuant to an amendment to the Bill introduced at Dáil Committee Stage, the definition of equality review in section 69 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 is extended so as to include an audit of the level of opportunity and an examination of the factors relevant to the promotion of equality of opportunity in matters covered by the Equal Status Act, 2000. The Equality Authority is empowered to invite service providers, or groups of service providers (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Act, 2000), to carry out equality reviews and to prepare and implement an equality action plan. As is the case with employment related reviews, the Authority will have the power to carry out the review itself in the case of a business which has more than 50 employees. The Authority is not empowered to carry out reviews of registered clubs which are, in any event, unlikely to have over 50 employees.</p> <p>The Equality Authority has established a development section to pursue its development role. This section is responsible for the preparation of equality reviews and action plans. These involve an audit of the equality situation in an organisation, the setting of goals to improve this situation and the identification of actions to realise these goals.</p>
- receive complaints and provide advice and support to those taking a case under the legislation;	CR.7.2	<p>See comments on CR.7.1 as regards the receipt of complaints from persons discriminated against. The Authority is also explicitly empowered to give assistance to persons in taking various proceedings under the Equal Status Act - section 67 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 (as amended by the Equal Status Act, 2000). The Equality Authority has established a legal section to pursue its enforcement functions. This section receives complaints and provides advice and support to those taking a case under the legislation.</p>
- take cases on its own initiative;	CR.7.3	<p>The Equality Authority can as appropriate take cases on its own initiative. Section 23 of the Equal Status Act, 2000 provides that the Equality Authority is empowered to refer matters to the Director of Equality Investigations, for investigation in the circumstances as set out in that section, namely that no person has made a complaint or it is not reasonable to expect them to do so.</p>

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

- develop codes of practice to set standards in relation to Equal Status policy programmes to be implemented in private, voluntary and public sector institutions and organisations;	CR.7.4	The Equality Authority is working on developing codes of practice in relation to recruitment and selection, sexual harassment and harassment, and access to public houses, hotels and restaurants. Section 56 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 (as amended by the Equal Status Act, 2000) deals with codes of practice. The Equality Authority does not have a role in relation to Equal Status policy programmes (7.4, 7.5, 7.6) and there is no requirement on organisations to develop and implement an Equal Status policy programme.
- monitor and evaluate the quality and impact of Equal Status policy programmes put in place by institutions or organisations, to ensure consistency and minimum standards for these Equal Status policy programmes, and to provide support and advice to institutions or organisations designing, implementing or reviewing such programmes;	CR.7.5	This recommendation has been implemented insofar as the Authority having, within its statutory remit, the functions of giving advice and support, whether to individuals or bodies/institutions - see section 39 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 and section 39 of the Equal Status Act, 2000.
- require an institution or organisation to develop and implement an Equal Status policy programme;	CR.7.6	See comments on CR.7.4 as regards codes of practice and see also at CR.10.1 below, in regard to the response of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on the development of an 'Equal Status policy programme'.
- secure affirmative action where discrimination has been identified, to correct this discrimination and to redress its past impact;	CR.7.7	Section 27 of the Equal Status Act, 2000 indicates that the Director, having investigated a complaint and decided in favour of the complainant, can award compensation for the effects of the discrimination and may make an order that a person or persons specified in the order shall take a specified course of action. There is no requirement on organisations to implement positive action under the legislation. Positive action in relation to Travellers is allowed under both pieces of legislation. The Equality Authority is preparing a publication on positive action and the legal parameters which now govern positive action as a means of promoting attention on this area.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

- proof legislation, existing and new, to ensure that it takes account of its impact on Travellers;	CR.7.8	The Equality Authority has not been accorded powers to proof legislation under the equality legislation, so it will not have this role. In line with Partnership 2000 and following a Government decision of 23 July 1998, it is now a requirement that policy Memoranda to the Cabinet from Government Departments which involve significant policy proposals shall indicate clearly the impact of the proposal on groups in poverty or at risk of falling into poverty. One of such groups listed in the Guidelines for the Implementation of Poverty Proofing Procedures is the Traveller community.
- develop an information service on relevant international instruments, and taking into account needs of Travellers and Traveller organisations;	CR.7.9	Under section 39 of the Equal Status Act, 2000 the Equality Authority will have the role of giving information to the public, including Travellers and Traveller organisations. The Authority has not, however, developed an information source on relevant international instruments. The establishment of a Human Rights Commission under the recently enacted Human Rights Commission Act, 2000 is awaited prior to any decision in this regard.
- form consultative groups to assist it in its work;	CR.7.10	Under Section 48 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998, the Equality Authority is empowered to appoint advisory committees on matters relating to its functions. The Authority has established a development section which is responsible for the formation of advisory committees. Two advisory committees have been established – one on the equality agenda for gays, lesbians and bisexuals and one on the equality agenda for older people.
- develop educational projects on equality issues and rights under equality legislation; and	CR.7.11	Section 57 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998, empowers the Authority to undertake or sponsor research or activities relating to the dissemination of information relating to any of its functions. The Equality Authority has established a communication section. A communications strategy has been agreed which is organised around the objectives of <ul style="list-style-type: none">– securing a profile for the Equality Authority and services it offers.– promoting a consciousness of rights and obligations under equality legislation.– generating debate on equality issues. realising a two way communication so as to hear and learn from the interests covered under the legislation.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

- review on a regular basis all equality legislation and any exemptions therein.	CR.7.12	Under Section 39 of the Employment Equality Act, 1998, the Authority is required to keep under review the working of the equality legislation and under Section 54 the Authority is required to submit an annual report to the Minister.
That the Non-Employment Board of the Equality Authority/Commission would establish a distinct Traveller unit which would ensure cohesive action on Traveller issues, which would encompass officers in the following areas; legal, enforcement, information, legislation, positive action and research, and which would have adequate clerical and financial support. The research officer would initiate in-house research, co-ordinate with research commissioned in other sections of the Equality Authority/Commission and make an input into such research.	CR.8.1	<p>The Equality Authority will discharge its functions, in accordance with its statutory remit and within the resource allocation available to it, in respect of the nine specified discriminatory grounds which include membership of the Traveller community. The Authority is committed to an integrated approach where possible to the new equality agenda, bringing all grounds forward simultaneously through the various themes prioritised by the Equality Authority. As such a distinct Traveller unit has not been found to be necessary.</p> <p>As indicated earlier, the Authority's first Strategic Plan for the years 2000 - 2002, launched in March 2000, gives concrete expression to the steps that will be taken to achieve the aims of the Authority and to carry out its statutory remit.</p>
That the staff training programme for all officers of the Equality Authority/Commission would include intercultural methods, anti-discriminatory practices, and an appreciation of the importance of identity and cultural differences.	CR.8.2	In-service training for Equality Authority staff has included and will continue to include intercultural methods, anti-discriminatory practices, and an appreciation of the importance of identity and cultural difference.
That the Non-Employment Board would operate through sub-committees dealing with legislation, positive action, enforcement, information and research to facilitate decision making between Board meetings and to ensure a consistent and co-ordinated approach. The officers assigned to these functions in the Traveller unit would participate in the relevant sub-committees.	CR.8.3	As stated in CR.6.1., the Equality Authority is seeking to pursue an integrated approach across both employment equality and equal status legislation. This will allow a coherence of approach by organisations to equality in relation to their internal relations, human resource function, and to their external relations, customer source function. As such the Equality Authority has not divided itself into two Boards. The Equality Authority has established a legal committee to have oversight of its information, advice and legal representation functions and a finance committee to have oversight of its internal financial management functions.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
That the Equality Authority/Commission would be able to recruit outside the Civil Service.	CR.8.4	Staff in the Equality Authority are drawn from within the Civil Service. Some members have been recruited from outside the Civil Service where particular expertise, not otherwise available, has been sought.
That the Non-Employment Board would put in place a programme to create the conditions for the recruitment of staff from the Traveller community. This programme would include a form of Apprenticeship Scheme as a step towards this goal.	CR.8.5	No Travellers are currently employed by the Equality Authority. A development worker was sought with a particular expertise in relation to Traveller issues. However, no Traveller came through this process. As yet no further initiatives have been possible in this regard.
That the nomadic element of the Traveller way of life would be accommodated in the delivery of information and case support through initiatives such as “free phone” service and regular outreach clinics, and that all relevant materials developed by the Equality Authority/Commission would be in a format and medium appropriate to the Traveller community.	CR.8.6	The Communication section of the Equality Authority has prioritised the issue of accessibility in its work. A lo-call number is available, an inter-active web site is being developed and an outreach clinic is being piloted in Cork. The Equality Authority is also exploring models of community based advocacy as a means of enhancing accessibility. Materials being developed by the Equality Authority already reflect a range of formats. It is hoped that the use of video would be of particular benefit to the Traveller community among others.
That an Equality Court would be established, similar to, but separate from, the Labour Court, to deal with cases of discrimination in the non-employment area.	CR.9.1	As outlined earlier, the equality infrastructure, as statutorily established under the Employment Equality Act, 1998, includes an office of Director of Equality Investigations which will be the main locus for redress of first instance for equality cases arising under both employment equality and equal status legislation. The Office is staffed by equality officers and equality mediation officers. While the title ‘Equality Court’ is not used, it will be seen that the establishment of the Director’s Office fulfils CR.9.1.
That the right to redress throughout the court system would not be precluded by the establishment of an Equality Court.	CR.9.2	Decisions of the Director of Equality Investigations and mediated settlements will be binding on parties and will be enforceable through the Circuit Court. The Equal Status Act, 2000 does not preclude recourse to the Courts for civil remedy.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
That the Free Legal Aid Scheme would be expanded to cover those taking action on the grounds of discrimination in both employment and non-employment areas.	CR.9.3	<p>Legal representation is not required in cases being brought before the Director of Equality Investigations, under the equality legislation.</p> <p>The Equality Authority provides a free confidential advisory service to employers, service providers, individuals, trade unions and the legal profession on the implementation of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 and on the Equal Status Act, 2000. The Equality Authority handles complaints in relation to equality and discrimination. A number of these complaints proceed to investigation. In many instances, complaints can be resolved without involvement of the legal process.</p> <p>Civil legal aid may be provided by the Legal Aid Board, under the Civil Legal Aid Act, 1995, in employment and non-employment cases before a court of law. However, except in the case of refugees' appeals, such aid is not provided before any Tribunals.</p>
That respondents to a case before the Equality Court would be required to show that their action was necessary on grounds other than those prohibited by Equal Status legislation once differential treatment is established.	CR.9.4	<p>What is required by this recommendation is not clear and will be re-examined in more detail by the Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>The issue of "differential treatment" in the context of indirect discrimination is referred to in the Equal Status Act, 2000. Under the provisions in the Equal Status Act, 2000, in relation to the equal status cases, it will be for the Director of Equality Investigations to investigate and to decide if a case of indirect discrimination exists. Where a respondent claims that his/her action "was necessary" on certain grounds, the sequence to be followed is that <u>the complainant</u> will be obliged to establish, <i>prima facie</i>, the existence of the alleged prohibited conduct. Thereafter, if the particular respondent claims that one or other of the exemptions in the Act applies, it will be a matter for <u>that respondent</u> to substantiate to the Director the basis for that claim.</p>

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

That each government department, semi-state body, State agency, local authority, private sector and voluntary sector organisation would adopt, implement and monitor an Equal Status policy appropriate to the nature of its function and, that public and voluntary sector organisations and institutions would be adequately resourced to meet their obligations in this regard.	CR.10.1	This issue will be examined subsequent to the coming into operation of the Equal Status Act, 2000.
That, while an Equal Status policy is the responsibility of management, it would be designed in co-operation with employees and their trade unions, and that the Equal Status Policy would be clearly communicated to all staff within the institution or organisation and to the general public served by the institution or organisation.	CR.10.2	This issue will be examined subsequent to the coming into operation of the Equal Status Act, 2000.
That individual employees would be encouraged to draw the attention of management and their trade union to areas and incidents of suspected discrimination - a staff suggestion scheme with incentives could be developed similar to the present Input Scheme operating in the Civil Service.	CR.10.3	The Equality Authority provides a free confidential advisory service to employers, service providers, individuals, trade unions and the legal profession on the implementation of the Employment Equality Act, 1998 and on the Equal Status Act, 2000. The Equality Authority handles complaints in relation to equality and discrimination. A number of these complaints proceed to investigation. In many instances, complaints can be resolved without involvement of the legal process.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

<p>That an Equal Status policy would include the following commitments as appropriate to the size and nature of the institution or organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a member of senior management to be given responsibility for implementation and monitoring of the Equal Status policy. (In the public sector this could be an extension of the present functions of Equality Officers. However, it is preferable that this role be established outside of the personnel department.);- goods, services and facilities to be provided in a manner that respects and is appropriate to the distinct culture and identity of the Traveller community;- materials to be developed that are appropriate to the Traveller culture and identity, within services and facilities availed of by this community;- communications with the general public to be couched in a language and imagery that reflect the commitments in the Equal Status policy and that is accessible to the Traveller community;- training to be provided for all staff to ensure an understanding of the Equal Status policy;- training to be provided for staff with responsibility for Traveller issues and services to ensure an understanding of the Traveller culture and identity and a knowledge of intercultural and anti-discrimination work methods;- Travellers and appropriate Traveller organisations to participate at the relevant level within the institution in decision-making	CR.10.4	<p>This issue will be examined subsequent to the coming into operation of the Equal Status Act, 2000.</p>
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<p>processes that impact on the Traveller community and on the implementation of the Equal Status policy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- where the institution or organisation is involved in the creation of policy fora or task forces, any Traveller dimension be recognised and Traveller and Traveller organisation representation ensured;- positive action programmes to be developed for Travellers, including programmes for the recruitment of Travellers into the institution or organisation, and creating the conditions for this to happen;- existing policies and procedures, including the Equal Status Policy, to be reviewed on a regular basis and changed wherever the potential for discrimination is discovered or where scope for further or alternative positive action is identified;- annual reports, or other appropriate reporting mechanisms engaged in by the institution or organisation, to include details of equality issues arising during the year, including implementation of work done, complaints of discrimination dealt with and positive action taken.		
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RECOMMENDATION

NO.

PRESENT POSITION

<p>That the Department of Equality and Law Reform, or its successor, in its work of co-ordination in relation to services to Travellers, would promote and support the introduction of an Equal Status policy, based on the above recommendations, within the various public sector institutions that provide services of an essential nature to the Traveller community, as a matter of priority.</p>	<p>CR.11</p>	<p>In its Strategy Statement 1998-2000, it is one of the high-level goals of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform <i>“to bring about a more equal society by outlawing discrimination and facilitating equality of opportunity, especially for certain groups that have experienced disadvantage”</i>. Membership of the Traveller community is one of the specific groups which is mentioned in the Statement in this context.</p> <p>This goal is being pursued through institutional, administrative and legal reforms. The Strategy Statement also indicates that the achievement of the Department’s objectives in this regard necessarily involves partnership with other Government Departments, State bodies, social partners, expert bodies and the voluntary/community sector.</p>
<p>Article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 [ICCPR] obliges the Irish Government to legislate for the prevention of discrimination and provides a framework from which to judge the adequacy of this legislation. . . Article 27 of the Covenant states: <i>“ In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language.”</i>.</p> <p>In October 1992, the Irish Government presented its first Report to the Human Rights Committee in relation to this Covenant. The Committee’s published comments on this Report stated:</p> <p><i>The Committee suggests that the State Party undertake affirmative action aimed at improving the situation of the Traveller community and in particular facilitating and</i></p>	<p>CR.12</p>	<p>Ireland’s Second Report to the United Nations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was submitted in October 1998. Irish non-governmental organisations - including the Irish Traveller Movement - took part in the process of consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs in preparing the Second Report.</p> <p>The Report, when indicating the State’s position as regards compliance with the terms of Article 27, outlines in detail the position in Ireland as regards the Traveller community - see pages 71 to 74 of the Second Report. In July, 2000, Ireland presented its Second Report under the Covenant to the UN Committee on Human Rights in Geneva. The Committee recorded its appreciation of the high quality of the Report from Ireland which included an update of the significant developments in our human rights and anti-discrimination legislation. The Committee had some concerns and progress is being made in the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform in improving the situation in these areas.</p>

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<p><i>enhancing the participation of Traveller in public affairs, including the electoral process</i> [UN CCPR/C/79 Add. 21 United Nations 1992].</p> <p>That the Irish Government, in responding to the first report of the UN Human Rights Committee as it relates to cultural minorities, would take particular cognisance of Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 and that future reports from the Irish Government to the Human Rights Committee on this Covenant would make specific references to the application of Article 27 to the Traveller Community.</p>		
<p>That the Irish Government would ratify the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, and</p>	<p>CR.13.1</p>	<p>Ireland has not ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. However, a major amount of work has been carried out by the legislature to enable Ireland not only to ratify the Convention but to immediately adhere to its provisions. With the bringing into force of the Employment Equality Act and the Equal Status Act the way is now clear for Ireland to ratify the Convention effectively. Ratification and implementation is expected to be completed by the end of 2000.</p>
<p>That in ratifying this Convention the Irish Government should accept the right of individual petition under Article 14.</p>	<p>CR.13.2</p>	<p>This will be a matter for decision, in due course, by the Government when deciding on the terms of ratification, by the State, of the UN Convention. Ireland has, however, accepted the right of individual petition in other parallel international Conventions.</p>

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That the Irish Government, in preparing its report on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and those reports required by other international instruments, would pay due regard to the involvement of Traveller organisations.	CR.14	<p>Successive Irish Governments have attached much importance to the role of the non-Governmental community in the human rights area. As an expression of that, and as a reflection of the growing level of contacts taking place between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the NGO community, the Joint Department of Foreign Affairs/NGO Standing Committee on Human Rights was established comprising representatives of human rights NGOs and experts, as well as officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The purpose of the Committee is to provide a formal framework for a regular exchange of views between the Department of Foreign Affairs and representatives of the NGO community. In addition, an NGO Forum on Human Rights, to which all interested NGOs are invited, takes place on an annual basis.</p> <p>The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform supports the continuation of this policy of involvement of NGOs, which would, of course, include Traveller organisations, in relation to the compilation of future National Reports under international Conventions.</p>
In contributing to reports being made under International Instruments by the Irish Government and in making direct petitions and submissions to the relevant United Nations Committees, Traveller organisations should be assisted appropriately by the Government.	CR.15.1	See comments at CR.14. It is intended that the policy of involvement of the Traveller community will be continued.
<p>The Government, through the appropriate statutory bodies, should in partnership with Traveller organisations, develop appropriate actions in response to the requirements of this declaration*to "<i>encourage conditions for the promotion</i>" of the Traveller identity.</p> <p>*As indicated in the text of the Report, the Declaration mentioned in CR.15.2. from which the words quoted are taken, is a UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, 1992.</p>	CR.15.2	<p>In view of the subsequent 1995 Council of Europe Convention as mentioned hereunder, the 1992 UN Declaration appears to have been overtaken.</p> <p>A Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which is the first legally binding multilateral instrument concerned with the protection of national minorities in general, was signed by Ireland in 1995 and ratified by it in 1999. The Convention seeks to promote the full and effective equality of national minorities by creating appropriate conditions enabling them to preserve and develop their culture and to retain their identity.</p>

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That the Irish Government would press for the specific inclusion of the cultural rights of nomadic groups including Irish Travellers within a proposed new Protocol on Minority Cultural Rights to be drafted for the European Convention on Human Rights and that this would be done in consultation with Traveller organisations.	CR.16	
That the Irish Government would continue to participate in CSCE Human Dimension conferences and similar conferences and would involve Traveller organisations.	CR.17	
The Electoral Act, 1992 makes residence within a constituency a pre-requisite for registration and as such, nomadism can disenfranchise Travellers as the legislation stands. The Department of the Environment should introduce procedures and any necessary amendments to legislation to ensure that this situation does not continue. They should also satisfy the requirements of the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations as referred to in para. 5.2(a) of the Report of the Task Force.	CR.18.	The Electoral Act, 1992, recognises that a person may be ordinarily resident in more than one place and thus have a prima facie claim for registration in respect of more than one premises (in law “premises” does not necessarily imply a structure of any kind). A person may be registered in respect of one place only. The law, however, provides that, in circumstances where a person could be registered in respect of more than one address, the registration authority shall determine the address at which the person shall be registered subject to any expression of choice by the person concerned. These provisions enable Travellers to be registered as electors, even where they have a nomadic lifestyle. Given the experience of members of the Traveller community of accessing their right to vote, clarity on this issue and wide dissemination of this information would be very important. The Department of the Environment and Local Government indicates that it has advised local authorities, in preparing the register of electors, to contact those Sections of the authorities and urban district councils in their areas having responsibility for Traveller accommodation or any other matter concerning Traveller affairs with a view to ensuring that as many as possible of eligible Travellers are included in the register. The memorandum issued by the Department to registration authorities also draws attention to the choice of registration address, where more than one address is relevant

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<p>The Task Force recommends the provision of 3,100 units of additional Traveller accommodation. The investment in Traveller accommodation should therefore be substantially increased to meet the Government target of accommodating all Traveller families in need of accommodation.</p>	<p>DR.1</p>	<p>Under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 each relevant housing authority (i.e. county council, county borough corporation, borough corporation, and Bray and Dundalk urban district councils) were required to prepare and adopt a five-year local Traveller accommodation programme by 31 March 2000. All relevant local authorities have adopted an accommodation programme. It is envisaged that these local programmes will accelerate the provision of accommodation for the Traveller families in need of accommodation. The Department of the Environment and Local Government continues to provide 100% capital funding for the provision of halting sites and group housing schemes for Travellers. Expenditure has been increased from £6.5m in 1996 to £8.2m in 1998. Expenditure in 1999 was £8.9m. The provision for 2000 is £12.0m</p>
<p>The location of Traveller specific accommodation will depend on a number of variables. These will include land availability and technical and planning considerations. Consideration should also be given to the preferences and needs of the prospective Traveller tenants. Equally, it should include good access to services, schools and shops.</p>	<p>DR.2</p>	<p>The Department of the Environment and Local Government has issued detailed guidelines on the design of residential caravan parks for Travellers. These guidelines advise local authorities on the suitability of accommodation to be provided e.g. availability of amenities and services, access to employment opportunities. The guidelines specify that there should be consultation between local authorities and/or their consultants and local Travellers and Traveller organisations, so far as is practicable from the initiation of the proposal through to the implementation stage. Authorities have been asked to take account of the expectations and aspirations of Travellers, subject to due regard to the need to provide sites at reasonable cost. It is the intention to monitor the implementation of the Guidelines.</p>
<p>The design of particular accommodation schemes will vary from locality to locality.</p> <p>However, a number of principles can be identified as usefully informing the final design of all schemes. The accommodation provided should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) acknowledge the distinct needs and identity of Travellers; (ii) cater for the work patterns of Travellers in accordance with the recommendations of Section G on the Traveller Economy and take account of technical and planning considerations; 	<p>DR.3</p>	<p>Guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government on the design of residential caravan parks for Travellers deal comprehensively with these issues. These guidelines deal with matters such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · consultation with Travellers; · identifying suitable locations for sites; · appropriate design of sites/service units/bays; · size & layout; · suitable boundary treatment to achieve a balance between security boundaries and maintaining a pleasant and more open environment; · adequate lighting/public lighting; · privacy; · facilitating caravans and motor vehicles; · provision of childrens' play area, pre school facility, community facilities, caretakers office/store, telephone or an alarm system;

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<p>(iii) take cognizance of the needs and compatibility of extended family groupings, and of the different population structure of the Traveller community with over fifty per cent under the age of fifteen;</p> <p>(iv) contribute to improving relations between Travellers and 'Settled' people;</p> <p>(v) include proper landscaping to ensure the site is not only functional but also pleasant to live on and aesthetically pleasing to look at. This should include not only the site itself but also the outer boundary;</p> <p>(vi) have adequate public lighting for security and safety purposes;</p> <p>(vii) ensure an appropriate balance between personal privacy and communal needs compatible with the requirements of the Fire Officer;</p> <p>(viii) allow for the integration of the family caravan with the accommodation facilities provided for each family as well as adequate parking space for vehicles used by the family;</p> <p>(ix) include facilities for play space, caretaker's office, communal meeting rooms, and public telephone;</p> <p>(x) where possible cater for changing family structures;</p> <p>(xi) be accessible and appropriate for Traveller tenants with a disability.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · flexibility in design; · special needs of families, in particular those Travellers with disabilities; · fire safety. <p>While the guidelines deal specifically with caravan parks, local authorities are advised to apply the principles to other Traveller specific accommodation such as group housing.</p> <p>It is the intention of the Department of the Environment and Local Government to monitor their implementation to ensure that due regard is taken of the Guidelines.</p>
Traveller tenants and Traveller organisations should be involved at an early stage in the design of Traveller accommodation.	DR.4	As stated at DR.2, the guidelines on the design of Traveller halting sites encourage local authorities to engage in consultation with the prospective tenants of a new halting site, or the existing tenants on a site that is to undergo refurbishment. Further work will be undertaken in this area.

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The Traveller Accommodation Agency should stimulate dialogue on the design concepts of Traveller accommodation as exemplified in “The President Robinson Awards for the Design of Travellers Accommodation”. This dialogue should include the Department of the Environment and local authorities, Travellers and Traveller organisations, private sector architects and architectural students.	DR.5	With regard to the proposed “Traveller Accommodation Agency” see DR.22. The guidelines on halting sites issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government deal comprehensively with the design of Traveller accommodation. The guidelines draw attention to the need to ensure that the designers / consultants have access to consultation procedures and mechanisms to take account of the views of Travellers concerned and suggest reference to the booklet “ The President Robinson Awards for the Design of Travellers’ Accommodation “ which involved a consultative process between Travellers and designers.
A network of permanent sites is required across the country. The final parameters of this network should be defined by the Traveller Accommodation Agency based on local authority programmes approved by the Agency.	DR.6.1	The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, requires each of the major local authorities, to prepare, adopt and implement a 5 year local Traveller accommodation programme, by 31 March, 2000. All relevant local authorities have adopted an accommodation programme. The implementation of the local programmes will be monitored by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, in conjunction with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to ensure the plans are adequate to meet needs which have arisen.
The bay should allow for safe fuel storage with electricity, sewerage services and water supply provided.	DR.6.2	The guidelines on residential caravan parks for Travellers provide advice on the design, construction and level of facilities that should be provided on halting sites particularly the items outlined in Recommendations 6.2 – 6.4.
Accommodation provided should include kitchen, toilets, bathroom, washing and drying facilities, and family room.	DR.6.3	See DR. 6.2.
While the size may vary with the requirements of particular areas, it is recommended that the focus should be on moderately sized sites, having regard to the compatibility of families and size of extended family.	DR.6.4	See DR. 6.2.

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<p>(a) A network of transient halting sites is required across the country. These sites should be provided simultaneously with the other types of accommodation facilities as an integral part of a National Programme.</p> <p>The final parameters of this network should be defined by the Traveller Accommodation Agency based on the following:</p> <p>(i) A network of transient sites should be provided in each local authority administrative area.</p> <p>(ii) The specific locations of these sites should include:</p> <p>(a) cities, towns, villages and other centres of population;</p> <p>(b) other areas where there is a tradition of Traveller transient camping.</p> <p>The Agency should be informed by the advice/information from the local authority and should take account of appropriate linkages between the provision of transient and permanent accommodation. These linkages should ensure that visiting families can be accommodated on a transient site within a reasonable distance.</p> <p>(b) Bays on transient sites should provide access to electricity, running water, sewage disposal and refuse collection. A suitable hard surface should be provided. While the size may vary with the requirements of particular areas, it is recommended that the focus should be on small sites.</p>	DR.7	<p>The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 places an obligation on local authorities to provide transient sites as part of a range of accommodation to meet the needs of Travellers. The Department of the Environment and Local Government in consultation with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee has issued Guidelines on the provision of transient sites.</p>

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(c) Guidelines should be developed for transient sites covering design features, management issues and appropriate size by the Traveller Accommodation Agency.		
It is recognised that caravans are not designed for long term living. The Traveller Accommodation Agency should develop a research project to develop a caravan design that continues to allow mobility while improving its capacity for long term occupation as well as increasing its fire safety features.	DR.8	The Department of the Environment and Local Government in consultation with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee is considering this issue.
A specific capital allocation, separate from the general housing construction allocation should continue to be provided annually for the construction of Traveller specific accommodation. This allocation should therefore cover group housing, single housing, permanent sites and transient sites.	DR.9	The Department of the Environment and Local Government now provides a separate capital allocation of 100% funding for the provision of Traveller accommodation. i.e. group housing, halting sites and single instance housing in particular circumstances.
Given the importance of this investment, local authorities should be provided with seventy-five per cent funding from central government to cover the cost of managing and maintaining existing and new Traveller specific accommodation, including costs of a caretaker service where this is provided.	DR.10	In April 1997, the Department of the Environment and Local Government announced details of a new scheme of financial assistance to local authorities for the management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation. The scheme recoups to local authorities: 75% of their expenditure on caretakers salaries; 50% of their expenditure on routine maintenance of halting site bays, up to a maximum expenditure of £500 per bay per year; 50% of their expenditure on skip hire, up to a maximum expenditure of £250 per bay per year.
In addition to direct provision of accommodation by local authorities, the Traveller Accommodation Agency should investigate the possibility of direct provision of accommodation by Travellers themselves or by Traveller organisations. Such schemes could include low interest rate house purchase loans, the provision	DR.11	There are a range of options available to people who need accommodation but cannot afford to provide or pay the full market price for it, details of which are set out in various leaflets produced by the Department of the Environment and Local Government. They include: Local Authority Housing, Voluntary Housing, Improvement Works in lieu of Local Authority Housing, Shared Ownership, Local Authority Loans for House Purchase and Improvement, Low Cost Housing Sites, Mortgage Allowance Scheme, Disabled Persons Grants and Private Rented Housing. A Grant of £3,000 is payable by the Department of the Environment and Local Government on the purchase of a new house built to the required standards by a

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
of houses and/or serviced caravan parks by approved bodies under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, use of Capital Assistance and Rental Subsidy Schemes.		<p>person who has never previously bought or built a house for their own occupation. In addition, Travellers are also entitled to a special grant of £3,000 from their local authority when purchasing or building a new house. The options are open to Travellers who wish to provide their own accommodation.</p> <p>The Traveller Accommodation Unit of the Department of the Environment and Local Government produced a comprehensive booklet on the full range of accommodation options available to Travellers, entitled "Accommodation options for a Traveller". This booklet details the type, amount and eligibility criteria for each category of assistance available. The range of options available to Travellers to provide their own accommodation is under review on an ongoing basis.</p>
In the context of the National Strategy, where each local authority is playing its part, local authority approaches should be flexible and should avoid determining specific numbers of Travellers to be accommodated within particular areas. This does not in any way preclude the need for all areas to be included in the local authority's plan for Traveller specific accommodation.	DR.12	The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, requires each of the major local authorities to adopt a local Traveller accommodation programme for its functional area. All relevant local authorities have adopted an accommodation programme. The programmes are based in part on the statutory assessment of housing needs which was carried out on 31 March, 1999. The location of Traveller accommodation will be subject to consultation with Travellers at local level.
It is recognised that local authorities must be allowed to exercise control over unauthorised Traveller encampments. However, in the absence of adequate provision local authorities should be required to deal sensitively with such cases and use the option of eviction only as a last resort.	DR.13	It is envisaged that the provision of accommodation for Travellers will increase substantially over the period 2000 – 2004, i.e. the period of the first five-year accommodation programmes for Travellers. In the meantime, local authorities will endeavour to provide temporary facilities for Travellers living on the roadside or on unofficial sites. However, the rights of members of the settled community, and indeed of Travellers in halting site and group housing accommodation must be protected against the incidences of illegal encampments. It is expected that the extent of these encampments will decrease with increased provision of accommodation.
Traveller families who are provided with accommodation in the functional area of one local authority cannot expect duplicate provision to be made by other local authorities, save where they avail of transient halting sites, for stays of short duration.	DR.14	It is not the policy of local authorities to provide duplicate permanent accommodation for Travellers. As regards transient sites The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 and guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government provide the framework within which transient sites are to be provided.

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Where private firms are used in a caretaker role, they should operate to clear guidelines and should not be employed in contradictory roles, including evictions.	DR.15	Based on the claims received by the Department of the Environment and Local Government from local authorities for recoupment of expenditure on management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation, the majority of the local authorities use members of their own staff in the role of caretakers, whether they be mobile or resident on the sites. Certain local authorities employ one or more of the Traveller residents on the sites to act in a caretaking role. A small minority of local authorities employ private firms to act as caretakers on the sites. The general issue of management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation is under consideration by the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
Existing temporary sites should be replaced with permanent sites and housing as appropriate or should be adapted as permanent or transient sites.	DR.16	It is envisaged that the existing temporary halting sites will be replaced with permanent facilities or upgraded to provide the same level of facilities as permanent sites over the course of the five-year accommodation programmes.
In view of the absence of open land in the city area, Dublin Corporation, should pursue a policy of identifying and developing a range of infill sites for Traveller specific accommodation.	DR.17	The use of such sites as are available are considered by Dublin Corporation in the context of the social housing options including Traveller accommodation.
Co-ordinated strategies for the accommodation of Travellers over the Greater Dublin area are required between the four local authorities. A Strategic Planning Unit should be established drawing together relevant officials from the four councils chaired by a representative from the Traveller Accommodation Agency to ensure co-ordination and best use of resources. This Unit should also meet on a regular basis with relevant Traveller organisations.	DR.18	Dublin Corporation has joined with the other Dublin authorities in formulating a regional policy for accommodation in Dublin.
The Traveller Accommodation Agency should ensure even progress in the development of Traveller accommodation facilities across the country. This should be done in a manner to ensure that any drift towards Dublin due to lack	DR.19	The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, requires each of the major local authorities to prepare and adopt a local Traveller accommodation programme for their respective functional areas, by 31 March, 2000. Each relevant local authority has adopted an accommodation programme. The Department of the Environment and Local Government in conjunction with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will monitor the implementation of each of these programmes to ensure that each of

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of facilities in other areas would be eliminated.		the authorities is providing for the accommodation needs of Travellers in their functional area.
The Traveller Accommodation Agency should ensure that provision in other local authority areas should include any Traveller families that might now choose to relocate from Dublin. This should be done on the basis of a survey carried out independently by the Agency.	DR.20	See DR. 19. In addition, the statutory assessment of needs, carried out on 31 March, 1999, together with the annual count of Traveller families which is taken in November each year, provides reliable information on the number of Traveller families in each local authority area, and their accommodation needs. In cases where a Traveller family wish to be accommodated in the functional area of another local authority, they are advised and assisted in applying for a place on the accommodation listing of the local authority in whose functional area they wish to reside.
Existing official temporary sites should be upgraded where appropriate, to the standard of permanent halting sites or transient sites, on the basis of consultation. These sites should be phased out as permanent accommodation is provided, with a view to temporary sites not being required after the year 2000.	DR.21	See DR. 16.
<p>An independent statutory body, to be known as the Traveller Accommodation Agency, should be established to draw up, in consultation with local authorities, a National Programme for the provision of Traveller specific accommodation in order to achieve the Government's objective of provision of such accommodation by the year 2000.</p> <p>(a) Structure</p> <p>The Agency to be established by the Minister for the Environment should consist of a Chairperson to be appointed by the Minister for the Environment and nine directors to be drawn from the following three categories with balanced representation:</p>	DR.22	<p>After examination of this proposal, the view of the Government was that the establishment of an agency as proposed by the Task Force Report would introduce a new layer of administration, which would be expensive and run contrary to the policy to devolve powers to local authorities. Such an Agency would rely entirely on local authorities to provide accommodation, with no power to provide accommodation where the local authority failed to do so. Progress in the provision of Traveller Accommodation is generally hampered by local opposition to specific developments. An Agency would be ineffective and have no role in these situations.</p> <p>Following consideration of the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community the Government adopted the National Strategy for Traveller Accommodation in March, 1996. Subsequently, the Traveller Accommodation Unit, headed by a Principal Officer with appropriate support staff, was established in the Department of the Environment and Local Government to oversee the preparation, monitoring, implementation, co-ordination, etc. of the programme for Traveller accommodation, including the preparation of legislation. The Unit also services the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.</p>

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<p>(i) direct appointments of the Minister for the Environment, including elected local representatives;</p> <p>(ii) direct appointments of the Minister for Equality & Law Reform or his/her successor, with a specific expertise on equality issues; and</p> <p>(iii) nominations made by relevant National Traveller Organisations.</p> <p>The right of Travellers to a presence on the Board should be recognised. The Ministers concerned should ensure appropriate balances on the Board in terms of gender and of Travellers/'Settled' people.</p> <p>The Agency's Chairperson and directors should be part-time and appointed for a five year period. The Agency should have a Chief Executive Officer, appointed following public advertisement and sufficient staff as required by the Board of the Agency. The Agency should be designated a prescribed body for the purpose of Section 21 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963 and Article 5 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 1994.</p> <p>(b) Functions</p> <p>The functions of the Agency should be as follows:¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- draw up a National Programme for the provision of Traveller specific accommodation on the basis of programmes		<p>The Department of the Environment and Local Government considers that the package of measures in the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 and the improved financial and administrative framework now being pursued is a more effective way of meeting the accommodation needs of Travellers.</p>
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RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

<p>submitted by the local authorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- monitor, assess, advise on and secure the implementation of the annual building and refurbishment programmes of local authorities for Traveller specific accommodation;- monitor and review local development plans under the Planning Acts to ensure they provide for the provision of Traveller specific accommodation;- develop guidelines for Planning Authorities for the appropriate inclusion of Traveller specific accommodation in development plans;- advise the Minister for the Environment on the information sought and the manner in which it is sought for the Assessment of Housing Needs under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1998;- carry out research as necessary into and advise on matters relating to the provision and refurbishment of accommodation of Travellers including the participation of Travellers in the management of same;- organise and promote, where necessary, appropriate training in intercultural skills and similar issues relevant to work in this area for staff involved in the provision, refurbishment and management of Traveller specific accommodation;- advise the Minister for the Environment on all legislation relevant to Traveller accommodation;- advise Regional Authorities on the individual local authorities' proposals for		
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RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

<p>Traveller accommodation to ensure a co-ordinated and integrated approach in each region;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- liaise as necessary with the other bodies which the Task Force proposes should be established, namely the Traveller Education Service, Traveller Health advisory Committee and the Equality Authority/Commission;- analyse patterns of movement of Travellers within the State. <p>(c) Powers</p> <p>The Agency should have the following powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- where a local authority fails to draw up an annual programme for the provision and refurbishment of Traveller specific accommodation, or where the Agency finds the local authority's annual programme is inadequate the Agency should issue a directive to the local authority to rectify the identified problem;- where the Agency is of the opinion that a local authority fails to meet the annual targets agreed with the Agency without reasonable cause, it should direct the authority to carry out the necessary works within a time specified by the Agency;- where the Agency is of the opinion that a planning authority fails to include appropriate provision for Traveller specific accommodation in its development plan or a revision of the plan, the Agency shall direct the authority to make such provision within a time specified by the Agency;		
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RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the event of a local authority or planning authority failing to carry out a directive by the Agency without reasonable cause, it shall apply to the High Court for an appropriate Court order to compel compliance; - other powers appropriate to statutory bodies such as employing staff, and having a seal. 		
<p>In relation to Statements of Policy on Housing Management, local authorities should ensure;</p> <p>(a) the involvement of Traveller tenants in the development of a participation programme;</p> <p>(b) the statements contain an anti-discrimination commitment to ensure that tenant participation strategies cannot contribute to the exclusion of Travellers, purely because they are Travellers.</p>	DR.23	<p>The Department of the Environment and Local Government announced details of a new scheme of pilot initiatives for the management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation in May, 1997. The scheme provides financial assistance to local authorities to encourage pilot initiatives to improve the way in which Traveller accommodation is managed and maintained, through improved consultation with the Traveller residents on the sites/schemes, and improvements in the planning and design of the accommodation provided. The local Traveller accommodation consultative committee should also have an input into how Traveller accommodation can be managed more efficiently.</p>
<p>Each local authority should establish a Traveller Tenant Accommodation Committee.</p>	DR.24	<p>Guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government advise that flexible site management plans should be drawn up with particular attention paid to the involvement of tenants in the management and maintenance of the site. These guidelines also draw attention to the Guidelines on Best Practice in Housing Management which deal comprehensively with tenant participation strategies.</p>
<p>The provisions of the Department of the Environment Memorandum relating to tenant involvement should be applied to Travellers in Traveller specific accommodation. The Task Force supports the piloting and promotion of tenant participation strategies.</p>	DR.25	<p>The Department of the Environment and Local Government, in conjunction with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, has approved a number of pilot initiatives on the management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation. The outcome of these initiatives is being monitored by the Committee.</p>
<p>Letting agreements with Traveller tenants should show flexibility to ensure they are appropriate to the use of Traveller Specific Accommodation.</p>	DR. 26	<p>Each local authority has letting agreements in place in relation to their rented accommodation. There is a certain degree of flexibility in the letting agreements of Traveller specific accommodation.</p>

RECOMMENDATION

NO.

PRESENT POSITION

<p>It is recommended that the formal duties of the local authority social worker for Travellers be revised at national level by a Committee representing the social workers, local authorities, health boards, Department of the Environment, Department of Health, Travellers and relevant Traveller organisations. The Committee should take account of the need to shift the social workers' role from a rehabilitative focus to one of intercultural respect, and consider and make recommendations in relation to, inter alia, the following issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - job description and selection criteria; - career structure; - in-service training; - management/reporting structure; - liaison with other relevant agencies; - harassment; - case load size. 	<p>DR. 27</p>	<p>The Department of the Environment and Local Government reports that the Qualifications and Particulars of Office for the grade of Social Worker are being revised in consultation with the parties concerned.</p>
<p>To amend Sub-Section (9) of Section (2) of the City and County Management (Amendment) Act 1955, which reads:</p> <p><i>"Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall prevent the manager from dealing forthwith with any situation which he considers is an emergency situation calling for immediate action without regard to those provisions."</i></p> <p>by the insertion of the following words at the end of the Sub-Section:</p> <p><i>"or in the case of the provision of Traveller specific accommodation, where the members fail to agree with the Manager's proposals or with amended proposals within six months of being first presented by the Manager".</i></p>	<p>DR.28</p>	<p>Section 24 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, confirms that the manager will continue to be able to avail of his or her powers to provide accommodation for Travellers in emergency circumstances. It ensures that a manager of a local authority is not prevented from exercising his/her powers in relation to the carrying out of works necessary for the provision of a reasonable standard of accommodation for any person, including Travellers, in an emergency situation, under 2 (9) and (10) of the City and County Management (Amendment) Act, 1955, as amended by section 27 of the Housing Act, 1988.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
<p>To amend Section (27) of the Housing Act 1988, which reads:</p> <p><i>"The City and County Management (Amendment) Act, 1955, is hereby amended by the insertion in Section 2 of the following sub-section after sub-section (9):</i></p> <p><i>"(10) An emergency situation for the purpose of sub-section (9) of this Section shall be deemed to exist where, in the opinion of the manager, the works concerned are urgent and necessary (having regard to personal health, public health and safety considerations) in order to provide a reasonable standard of accommodation for any person".</i></p> <p>by the insertion of the following words at the end of the Section:</p> <p><i>"including Travellers who are parked in unserviced and unofficial locations without access to basic facilities which exist on a serviced site".</i></p>	DR.29	See DR. 28.
<p>That Section 8 of the 1988 Housing Act be amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to have group housing and halting sites, permanent and transient requirements named as being included within the general estimate of requirements carried out by the local authority, including Traveller families likely to move into the functional area of the authority within the time period of the estimate; - to require the local authority to have regard to consultation with and submissions from Travellers and local Traveller organisations in making this estimate. 	DR. 30	Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988 as amended by Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, ensures that an integrated assessment of the accommodation needs of Travellers is carried out across a range of accommodation options including standard and group housing, permanent residential sites for caravans and transient halting sites. In addition, the local Traveller accommodation consultative committee is now given notice by the authority of its intention to carry out the assessment, and the views and advice of the committee are to be sought and taken into account when carrying out the assessment. Under the legislation the committee is given a copy of the results of the assessment.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
That Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1988 be amended to require a local authority to give one month's notice of its intention to carry out a housing assessment to local Traveller organisations and to make this assessment available to these organisations upon completion.	DR.31	See DR. 30.
To facilitate the implementation of Section 10, Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 and Section 69, Roads Act, 1993, priority needs to be given to the implementation of the Task Force's recommendations concerning the network of transient sites. Each of these Sections should be amended to provide that Travellers whose temporary dwelling is removed to storage cannot be deemed to be deliberately homeless.	DR.32	The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 provides the legislative framework within which such sites are to be provided. However, it is generally the practice of local authorities not to remove temporary dwellings to storage.
It is recommended that a statutory requirement be placed on public bodies including Government Departments that lands in their possession which are not clearly identified as being required for their statutory purposes within five years and which are deemed to be suitable by the local authority for the provision of accommodation for Traveller people be made available to the local authority for that purpose.	DR.33	<p>The Department of the Environment and Local Government states that due to the present housing situation in general, it would not be possible to require public bodies to make available, lands which they have in their possession, for the provision of accommodation for Travellers solely. The Revised Programme for Government "Action Programme for the Millennium" contains a commitment that surplus State lands in the larger urban areas will be identified with a view to releasing these for housing development. The Department of the Environment and Local Government indicates that the question of development of such land for Traveller accommodation will be considered in the context of the overall development of such lands for housing.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Science states that land is purchased by its Building Unit solely for the purpose of building schools. If the Department buys land and for whatever reason it is not actually built on, it is generally disposed of on the open market.</p> <p>In some rare cases, because of planning or access difficulties, the land may be in the ownership of the Department for more than 5 years before building of the school and may still be required.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Science points out that if it became widely known that land being acquired by the Department for a school could potentially be used as a halting site, at the very least, vendors would</p>

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
		<p>insist on inserting restrictive clauses in the contracts of sale confining the land to educational usage. In the past, this has lead to severe problems where it became necessary to sell the land. It could also potentially lead to problems for the Department in acquiring land in the first place and increase the cost.</p> <p>The Department of Education & Science would not be in favour of the Department's ownership of land lapsing after 5 years as recommended in the Task Force report.</p>
It is recommended that the necessary legislative changes be put in place to confirm that the term "necessary works of public utility" as used in Article 44.2.6 of Bunreacht na hÉireann, includes the provision of Traveller-specific accommodation.	DR.34	<p>The Department of the Environment and Local Government points out that implementation of this recommendation would require an amendment to the Constitution which would have to be submitted to the people at a referendum.</p> <p>As stated in relation to the recommendation DR 40, land for the provision of Traveller accommodation is compulsorily acquired in only a limited number of cases. It is open to local authorities to negotiate the purchase of any land which comes within the category covered by this recommendation, for use in the provision of housing accommodation under the social housing programme. In this context, it would be a matter for a local authority to decide on the type of accommodation which should be so provided on such land including, where necessary, Traveller-specific accommodation.</p>
It is recommended that the Third Schedule of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963 be amended to include a reference to the provision of Traveller specific accommodation as an objective.	DR.35	Sections 26 and 27 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, provide for the amendment of the Planning Acts to include the provision of accommodation for Travellers as a specific objective in the local authority's development plan. These provisions have been carried through to the Planning and Development Act, 2000.
Planning authorities should review and where necessary, amend their Development Plans immediately in order to allow the provision of Traveller specific accommodation in all land zones.	DR.36	Sections 26 and 27 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 provide for amendment of and modifications to the Planning Acts to require planning authorities to include the provision of Traveller accommodation as an objective in their development plans and the use of particular areas for that purchase. However, it is not considered practical that all zoned areas should provide for Traveller specific accommodation.
It is recommended that Section 39 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963, be amended to provide that the provision of Traveller specific accommodation would not be regarded as a material contravention of the	DR.37	Section 27(2) of the 1998 Act is a temporary provision which provides accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
Development Plan. (This is a temporary measure pending revision of existing plans following enactment of amendment of the Third Schedule as recommended at DR.35 above).		
Where a system of land use zoning is not specified in a Development Plan to cover all land in the administrative area, the written statement of the Plan should clearly indicate that the provision of Traveller Specific Accommodation is permissible in all land whether zoned or unzoned.	DR.38	See DR. 36.
The Minister should issue a general directive under Section 7 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1982 in relation to the inclusion in Development Plans for the provision of Traveller accommodation on the basis of Task Force Recommendations DR.35 and Dr.36 above.	DR.39	See DR. 36.
Legislation should be amended to provide for the acquisition of land for the provision of accommodation for the Traveller community on the same model as set out in the Roads Act, 1993 (Section 47). The legislative procedures set out in the Roads Act, 1993 (Section 47) for the making of a Motorway, Busway and Protected Road Scheme represents the most expeditious procedures for compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes. It is recommended that this model should be applied to the acquisition of land for the provision of Traveller Specific Accommodation by appropriate amending legislation. The procedure envisaged would	DR.40	<p>The Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides for changes to the law in relation to the compulsory acquisition of land, including changes which will lead to a more expeditious procedure in dealing with compulsory purchase orders.</p> <p>The Department of the Environment and Local Government indicates that the compulsory purchase procedure for the acquisition of land for Traveller accommodation is used only in some cases by local authorities.</p> <p>The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 requires relevant housing authorities to prepare, adopt and implement 5-year Traveller accommodation programmes.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
require each local authority to adopt a Traveller Specific Accommodation Scheme at specific times which would set out its programme of accommodation for Travellers for the following appropriate period.		
The provisions of the proposed Freedom of Information Act should apply to requests from Travellers and relevant Traveller organisations to local authorities, seeking relevant information in relation to the provision of Traveller accommodation.	DR.41	The provisions contained in the Freedom of Information Act, 1998 enable Travellers to seek access to documentation relating to the provision of accommodation in their areas.
Legislation should be introduced to control wandering horses as promised in "A Government of Renewal".	DR.42	The Control of Horses Act, 1996 was enacted on 19 December, 1996. The Act, which was signed by the Minister for Agriculture and Food, provides for the control of horses in urban and other areas where horses cause a danger to persons or property or nuisance. The operation of the Act is being monitored by the Department of Agriculture and Food.
Legislation should be enacted to prevent parking of caravans and other temporary dwellings within one mile of Traveller specific accommodation. The local authority should be given powers to keep these areas clear of such parking. This legislation should not apply to existing families on long term unofficial sites, without prejudice to the provisions of Section 10, Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992	DR.43	<p>Under section 32 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 where a temporary dwelling is unlawfully placed in a public place within a one-mile radius of a halting site or any other Traveller accommodation provided, managed or controlled by a local authority or an approved housing body within the functional area of the authority in which the dwelling is placed the local authority concerned may serve a notice on the person concerned requesting him/her to remove the temporary dwelling. This power may be exercised where the local authority in whose functional area the dwelling is located is of the opinion that the temporary dwelling either on its own or as part of a number of such temporary dwellings is causing a nuisance or obstruction of the site or Traveller accommodation, or other dwellings within the vicinity of the site/accommodation or creates a risk to water/sanitary/electrical services associated with the site/accommodation.</p> <p>Where the local authority are of the opinion that the requirements of a notice have not been complied with in all or any respects, the authority may without further notice have the temporary dwelling in question removed to the site specified in the notice or, where applicable, to a distance of not less than one mile from the halting site or accommodation specified in the notice.</p> <p>Where a local authority is for any reason prevented from moving a temporary dwelling to the halting site specified in the notice, or where applicable, to a distance of not less than one mile from the halting site or</p>

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
		accommodation specified in the notice, it may have the dwelling moved to another location for storage.
Local authorities should be provided with powers of immediate access to the High Court to remove those who break into Traveller specific accommodation, or who park adjacent to such facilities, or who come in to use these facilities continually, without the permission of the local authority. One method to achieve this would be specific legislative procedures for short service of an interlocutory application to the High Court in these cases. The provision of a network of transient sites, which is dealt with elsewhere, is an essential element in dealing with this issue. These powers are not intended to be availed of by local authorities to cause Travellers, who are in their functional area, to move to an adjoining area, thus evading their obligations.	DR. 44	See DR. 7 & 43
<p>In the case of existing tenants identified by the local authority as responsible for vandalising a facility or interfering with other tenants or residents of that facility, a speedy and effective response is required. A process incorporating the following elements is proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) warning notice; (b) interview; (c) rehabilitation programme, where appropriate; (d) if (a), (b) and (c) do not produce the desired result, then the ultimate sanction of eviction would be pursued. <p>Persistent antisocial behavior should constitute a breach of the tenancy agreement and, following the procedure outlined above, the ultimate sanction should be eviction. Priority should be given to seeking court orders for this purpose.</p>	DR.45	Sections 34 to 36 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, amend and extend the provisions contained in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1997, i.e. that relate to the control of anti-social behaviour on local authority housing estates, to include halting sites. Any person found to be engaging in anti-social behaviour, e.g. vandalism, intimidation etc., on halting sites may be made subject to a site excluding order which would bar him/her from the site and its environs. Section 35 of the Act provides for the making of a “site excluding order” where the authorised occupier of a caravan on a site owned by the housing authority or an approved housing body applies to the District Court for such an excluding order against a person whom the occupier believes to be engaged in anti-social behaviour. A housing authority or an approved body may also seek such an order, after consultation with the authorised occupier concerned and the local health board, where the authority or body believe that the occupier would be intimidated from seeking an order and that it is in the interest of good estate management.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
Given the difficulty of obtaining primary evidence in these cases, secondary evidence should be admissible.		
Local authorities should develop responses to the specific experience of intimidation against Travellers moving into standard housing. This protection should be reflected in the general tenancy agreement.	DR.46	The provisions contained in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1997, i.e. that relate to the control of anti-social behaviour on local authority housing estates may be applied in instances where Traveller families who have recently moved into standard local authority housing are subjected to intimidation by other local residents. A housing authority may apply to the District Court for an excluding order against the person whom they believe is threatening, intimidating or harassing any other person (including a Traveller tenant) in the estate.
The Traveller Accommodation Agency should review the necessity for an Annual Count and if found to be necessary, should take responsibility for its compilation and publication. Pending this review, the Annual Count should continue to take place	DR.47	The annual count of Traveller families is beneficial in providing details regarding the accommodation position of Travellers and in identifying the number and the accommodation requirements of Travellers on the roadside or in unofficial encampments.
The 1995 Annual Count should be carried out on the basis of a partnership between the local authorities and local Travellers groups	DR.48	The Department of the Environment and Local Government is encouraging local authorities to consult with local Travellers and their organisations before they carry out the annual count.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

Equity has been defined as a fundamental principle of Irish health policy. Increased funding, commensurate with the scale of the issue, should be allocated to tackling the unacceptable health status of the Traveller community and the widespread obstacles to Traveller access to health services.	ER.1	The Department of Health and Children states that there has been a significant increase in funding in this area since 1997. Revenue funding of £100,000 in 1997, £400,000 in 1998 and £900,000 in 1999 and £900,000 in 2000 has been provided to health boards for Traveller health.
The immediate improvement of the accommodation situation of Travellers is a pre-requisite to the general improvement of the health status of Travellers. Health boards should periodically inspect all halting sites so as to report on health and safety matters. The resulting reports should be publicly available.	ER.2	No progress to date in implementing this recommendation. Health boards have no legal authority to enforce any recommendations they might have in relation to health and safety on halting sites and would be reluctant to get involved in any sort of "naming and shaming" exercise vis-a-vis local authorities.
<p>The Task Force notes the Minister for Health's commitment, as stated in the National Health Strategy (1994), to addressing the particular health needs of the Traveller community. It recommends that a Traveller Health Advisory Committee should be appointed by the Minister for Health. Its brief should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- drawing up a national policy for a health strategy to improve the health status of the Traveller community;- ensuring that Traveller health is a priority area within the Department of Health and setting targets against which performance can be measured;- ensuring co-ordination and liaison in the implementation of national strategies of relevance to the health status of Travellers;- ensuring the co-ordination, collection and	ER. 3	A Traveller Health Advisory Committee on the lines recommended by the Task Force was established in the Department of Health and Children in September, 1998 and is currently finalising a policy on Traveller health, which will be published by the Minister for Health and Children shortly.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
<p>collation of data on Travellers' health;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supporting health boards in developing strategies to improve Traveller access to health services; - providing a forum for the discussion of health initiatives for Travellers and for ongoing consultation with Travellers and Traveller organisations on health service delivery to Travellers. <p>The Traveller Health Advisory Committee should be drawn from the various divisions in the Department of Health, representatives of the Traveller community, from Health Boards and national Traveller organisations. It should have a small staff attached to it and be provided with an adequate budget. It should have a direct reporting relationship to the Minister.</p>		
<p>Each health board should establish a Traveller Health Unit. The brief of such a unit would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitoring the delivery of health services to Travellers and setting regional targets against which performance can be measured; - ensuring that Traveller health is given prominence on the agenda of the health board; - ensuring co-ordination and liaison within the health board, and between the health board and other statutory and voluntary bodies, in relation to the health situation of Travellers; - collection of data on Traveller health and utilisation of health services; - ensuring appropriate training of health 	ER.4	<p>A Traveller Health Unit on the lines recommended by the Task Force has been established in six of the health boards and will be set up in the other two boards later.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
<p>service providers in terms of their understanding of and relationship with Travellers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supporting the development of Traveller specific services, either directly by the health board or, indirectly through funding appropriate voluntary organisations. <p>The health board Traveller Health Unit should have a committee drawn from the various sectors in the health board and from local Travellers and Traveller organisations. It should have a small staff attached to it. It should have a reporting relationship to each of the Programme Managers and to the new Directors of Public Health. These units should incorporate existing inter-sectoral structures focusing on Traveller health issues at health board level.</p>		
<p>An improved health record keeping system should be introduced by the Department of Health and the health boards to collect more detailed socio-economic data and make provision for the identification of Travellers. Provision should be made for the identification of Travellers on notification of births, deaths, hospital morbidity and maternal and perinatal statistical collections. A strict code of practice should be designed to govern this. This code should be based on the code of ethics for Aboriginal health research in the Australian National Aboriginal Health Strategy. It should ensure that identification is voluntary and should guarantee confidentiality and sensitivity. The code of practice should be approved by the Data</p>	ER.5	<p>No progress to date. It is one of the issues which will be addressed in the policy on Traveller health to be published by the Minister for Health and Children.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
Protection Commissioner.		
A system of patient held records should be introduced nationwide. These records should provide information on a patient's medical history, in addition to all hospital and general practice consultations, and details of prescribed medicines. This should operate on a voluntary basis. It is envisaged that it would make a particular contribution to improving continuity of care for Travellers who are nomadic.	ER.6	Two health boards have set up pilot projects and steps will be taken as soon as possible to evaluate these projects. A "smart card" for all medical card holders is being developed which is likely to provide a long-term solution.
An improved system of transferring records, both within and between health board regions, should be introduced. The application of information technology systems, such as those used in the field of banking, should be explored to establish data bases of Traveller health records that would ensure this transfer of records between community care, hospital services and pharmacies within and between health board regions. The process should be approved by the Data Protection Commissioner.	ER.7	The proposed "smart card" is likely to meet these requirements.
Given the various difficulties, identified in the research, of communication between Traveller patients and the health service, a system, whereby correspondence from health services is provided through personal communications, should be offered to Traveller patients. Where requested, an appropriate channel should be identified in consultation with the patient. The patient should make the nominated person aware of any change of address.	ER.8	This is one of the elements of the Primary Health Care for Travellers project, which was piloted by Pavee Point and the Eastern Health Board and is now being replicated in several other health board areas.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

Traveller specific services should be designed to complement mainstream services and to improve Traveller access to these. Travellers should have the right to opt out of any Traveller specific service and to choose to use mainstream services. In the implementation and provision of these services, there should be no segregation of Travellers.	ER.9	This recommendation is accepted in principle by the Department of Health and Children. Provision for its formal adoption will be made in the proposed policy on Traveller health to be published by the Department.
<p>Traveller participation in health service delivery at all levels should be supported. This is especially important in the area of primary health care. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer led services (such as Traveller paramedics) such as that piloted in the Eastern Health Board, should be expanded. This expansion should be based on an independent evaluation of the initiative with the participation of Travellers and Traveller organisations. - Support should be provided to encourage and resource Travellers to gain qualifications as health professionals and to take up careers in the health field. 	ER.10	The Department of Health and Children is supporting the replication of the Primary Health Care for Travellers Project, piloted by Pavee Point and the Eastern Health Board, which involves the training of Travellers for the delivery of primary health care services.
Primary health care services for the Traveller community should be delivered on an out-reach basis. It is important to stress that these out-reach initiatives should complement, improve, and encourage access to mainstream provision and not replace such provision. On-site clinics in Traveller specific accommodation facilities should be established and serviced by various members of the Community Care teams, including Public Health Nurses, Dental Nurses,	ER.11	The Department of Health and Children accepts in principle that some services need to be delivered on an outreach basis to facilitate access by the Traveller community and as a means of breaking down barriers to accessing mainstream services. Account will be taken of this in the proposed policy on Traveller health.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
<p>Speech Therapists and Social Workers. Priority should be given to child health, the care of the elderly, and to ante-natal and post-natal services. The facilities provided should be of a high standard and should guarantee confidentiality.</p> <p>Traveller specific services in the primary health care area, requiring equipment that is not easily transportable, should be provided on an outreach basis through the designation of special Traveller clinics at an existing health centre. This approach would be particularly important in areas such as dental care. It would also ensure high standards in Traveller specific services.</p> <p>The practice of designating particular Public Health Nurses to have a Traveller specific brief should be expanded. Recruitment for this brief should be by way of interview to ensure suitability. Training should be provided to successful candidates in intercultural methods.</p>		
<p>In general hospital services, provision should be made for out-reach paediatric and obstetric clinics for Travellers. Special provision should also be made for improved liaison between general hospital and general practitioner services where, for example, after care could be provided increasingly by general practitioners rather than by out-patient clinics.</p>	ER.12	See ER 11
<p>In special hospital services, provision should be made for community psychiatric out-reach services to deal with the issues of mental health in the Traveller community.</p>	ER.13	Outreach services are already an element of community based services for people with mental illness.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
<p>(a) The Department of Health should commission an in-depth analysis by independent experts of issues related to consanguinity in the Irish context, taking account of WHO work in this area.</p> <p>(b) Given that Travellers predominantly marry within their own community, marriage of close relatives is common. Accordingly, a specific genetic counselling service to Travellers is required to address any risks associated with this.</p>	ER.14	There has been no report of progress on the in-depth analysis on consanguinity. The Department of Health and Children advises that a national genetic counselling service is in place which is available to everyone, including Travellers.
The provision of Traveller specific services recommended in the preceding recommendations should be subject to ongoing evaluation. This evaluation should measure the impact of the particular service, assess the continuing need for the particular service and ensure that the service is complementary to mainstream provision and has not resulted in any segregation.	ER.15	The Department of Health and Children accepts the value of evaluation procedures.
A regular conference of service providers and Traveller organisations should be organised by the Department of Health to facilitate the transfer of experiences of Traveller specific services between health boards.	ER.16	The Department of Health and Children points out that some structures already exist which facilitate the exchange of experiences between health boards. This, combined with the Traveller Health Advisory Committee in the Department and the Traveller Health Units in health boards should enable the objectives of this recommendation to be realised. However, the question of regular national conferences on Traveller health, where experiences can be shared and best practice identified, are being considered in the context of the proposed policy on Traveller health..
Traveller support groups have an important contribution to make in the targeting and in the appropriate delivery of health services to the Traveller community. This role can be considerably enhanced through support from the health boards. In particular, health boards should:	ER.17	The Department of Health and Children considers that these objectives can be catered for within the structure of the Traveller Health Units in the health boards. It is a matter for each board to decide on priorities for the allocation of funding available for Traveller health and the Department has requested boards to make such decisions in consultation with the Traveller Health Units.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - make funding available for Traveller support groups to employ community workers; - make resources available to enable Traveller support groups and Senior Traveller Training Centres to include health modules and activities in their training and education initiatives; - provide information to Traveller support groups and Senior Traveller Training Centres on Traveller uptake of services, the local conditions and other factors impacting on Traveller health and on the general health status of Travellers safeguarding confidentiality in respect of such information. 		
The terms of the GMS for General Practitioners should prohibit the refusal to accept people as registered patients solely on the basis that they are Travellers.	ER.18	The terms of the General Medical Services contract permit a choice of doctor by medical card holders and an option for a doctor not to accept a patient.
Where specific practices have a large proportion of Travellers on their lists, an audit and evaluation of drug utilisation by such practices should be conducted with the regional General Practitioner Unit to establish if there is an impact on their drugs bill and to analyse any high prescription rates. If it is found that this has an impact on the drugs costs of such practices, a special allowance should be introduced in the drugs payment scheme.	ER.19	The Department of Health and Children would be very reluctant to make special provisions in the indicative drug target scheme for any specific group such as Travellers. It is a matter for the GP concerned to decide on whether medication is appropriate or not and following through on this recommendation would only diminish this responsibility.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

For the additional out-reach services recommended in Recommendation ER.12, special fees and allowances should be drawn up under the terms of the GMS.	ER.20	The Department of Health and Children points out that this would have major implications for fees paid to G.M.S. doctors and as such is precluded by current public pay policy.
A simplified system of renewing and amending Traveller medical cards, in an expeditious manner that does not require detailed form filling on the part of the Traveller, should be introduced. The validity of medical cards held by Travellers should be extended to a minimum of three years. Simplified procedures should be put in place for General Practitioners to receive payment for Traveller patients who move into their area or who are in temporary residence there.	ER.21	There are already arrangements in place for paying doctors for treating temporary residents. Health boards have a statutory responsibility to ensure validity of medical card eligibility and would be reluctant to implement the arrangement recommended here.
<p>The Health Promotion Unit in the Department of Health, in partnership with relevant Traveller organisations, should draw up a policy for health promotion and education for Travellers. This should be provided in all health board regions and should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- aim to restore Travellers' confidence in their ability to distinguish and to cope with minor illnesses;- prioritise child health, breast feeding, the role of preventative and after-care services and the care of the aged;- be based around personal skills development in order to support Travellers in appropriately meeting the many challenges in their lives and should not merely focus on lifestyle behaviour.	ER.22	Some provisions in relation to Travellers are included in the Department's current health promotion policy and Travellers will be included in the proposed policy on Travellers' health.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
Lifestyle health education should give due recognition to the constraints on Travellers' circumstances, should resource the community to make informed choices and also provide access to the findings of relevant research including that recommended in ER.14 above.		
<p>Health promotion work, with the general public, should inform people of the impact which the living circumstances and discrimination against Travellers have on Traveller health status. This should be done through a number of approaches such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use of materials on these issues in school health education and lifeskills courses; - use of mass media campaigns by the Health Promotion Unit. <p>Travellers and Traveller organisations should be involved in the preparation of materials for this work.</p>	ER.23	The Department of Health and Children considers that this recommendation concerns the broader issue of equality. The Monitoring Committee will re-examine this issue from an equality perspective.
All health professionals should receive training on the circumstances, culture of, and discrimination practised against Travellers, as part of their training. Service providers in frequent contact with Travellers should receive more training in intercultural and anti-discrimination practices. This training should also include a focus on Travellers' perspectives on health and illness. Travellers and Traveller organisations should be resourced to play an active role in this training and education.	ER.24	A certain amount of such training has been carried out by health boards with some relevant staff groups. The full implementation of the recommendation would involve a variety of educational and professional bodies. The Department of Health and Children undertakes to take every suitable opportunity to promote this objective.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

<p>The Department of Social Welfare should address the difficulties that arise in respect of access to the carer's allowance that arise from Traveller families in multiple dwellings.</p>	ER.25	<p>The Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs states that residency and full-time care and attention requirements for the Carer's Allowance have been eased to introduce greater flexibility into the scheme, while safeguarding the needs and interests of the care recipients. The residency requirements have been relaxed to allow for each non-resident case to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. An updated information leaflet on the Carer's Allowance Scheme will be published shortly.</p> <p>As part of Budget 2000, a Carer's Benefit, to support people who must leave the workforce to care for someone who is in need of full-time care and attention, was introduced. The scheme involves two elements (i) a weekly income support payment, which is of 15 months duration and based on the PRSI contributions paid by the Carer, and (ii) the protection of the Carer's employment rights for the duration of the payment. The Carer's Benefit came into effect on 26 October 2000. A new Carer's Benefit information leaflet contains details of the residency requirements. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is currently drawing up Carer's Leave legislation to protect the employment rights of the carer.</p> <p>A comprehensive information booklet has been issued to all recipients of Carer's Allowance and all information providers in this area. (November 2000).</p>
<p>Adequate support facilities, including day care centres for children involved in begging, should be provided by the relevant statutory authorities.</p>	ER.26	<p>It is understood from enquiries to the health boards that the problem of children begging is mainly concentrated in the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) region, primarily in Dublin. The ERHA has informed the Department of Health and Children that in the main the incidence of begging is confined to a small group of children, mainly from the Traveller community. Both the voluntary and statutory agencies involved with these families consider that the solution to the problem requires long term targeted work with the families concerned and that usually the sight of children begging is only one aspect of their family circumstances. In taking the long term approach to the problem, the ERHA funds a number of voluntary agencies who work exclusively with the Traveller community. The Authority also provides financial assistance to the operating costs of residential centres for children from the Traveller community. An after care programme for young members of the Traveller community leaving residential care has been developed as well as a foster care placement programme. The ERHA reports that the Gardai have always been helpful</p>

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

Where the problem of child begging exists, an Outreach Worker should be appointed in major urban areas by the relevant statutory authorities, to work with vulnerable Traveller children and their families, in conjunction with the social work teams already in place. Adequate resources should be provided by the relevant statutory authorities for this purpose.	ER.27	A social work post is funded by the ERHA in Exchange House since 1998. This post has an outreach role.
In order to deter begging by unaccompanied children, Section 14 of the Children's Act 1908, which makes it an offence on the part of parents to cause or procure their children to beg or to be involved in petty theft, should be updated to a level where the penalties are an effective deterrent, including the power to confiscate any monies proven to be procured from such activity.	ER.28	<p>The Children Act, 1908 makes it an offence for any person having the custody, charge or care of a child to allow the child to beg in public. The penalty for conviction is a fine not exceeding £25 and/or up to three months imprisonment. The Children Bill, 1996 proposes to remove the penalty of imprisonment and to increase the fine to a maximum of £250 for a first offence and £500 for a second or subsequent offence. The Bill proposes to reverse the burden of proof, thus making it easier to obtain convictions.</p> <p>The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform states that the Bill has been re-examined and, due to the large number of changes proposed for it, work is now proceeding on the basis that there will be a new Bill.</p>
The relevant provisions of the Child Care Act 1991 should be implemented to assist the relevant statutory authorities in removing children involved in begging to a suitable place.	ER.29	These provisions were brought into effect from 31 st October 1995.
Social Workers in health boards who may have responsibility for Traveller children, should receive in-service training both in understanding the Traveller culture and in developing skills to interculturally assess children's needs and neglect where it exists.	ER.30	See ER.24

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

Traveller mobility means that families may move out of the remit of a particular health board social work team. As Traveller mobility is common, it is recommended that effective formal co-ordination is put in place to trace families with children at risk within health boards and between health boards.	ER.31	It is the practice to inform colleagues in another health board area when a family they have been working with moves to that area.
Health board social workers whose Traveller case moves away, should be obliged to trace the family's whereabouts through the local authority social worker service and then fully inform the appropriate health board social worker in the new area of residence. Similar procedures should also be applied to families who move out of the jurisdiction.	ER.32	See ER. 31.
Where a Traveller family comes to the attention of a health board social work team and subsequently moves away before the case is closed, regardless of its significance, that case should not be deemed closed without notifying the appropriate social worker in the new area where the Traveller family locates.	ER.33	See ER. 31.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

The Visiting Teacher Service has an important role to play in encouraging Traveller parents to ensure that their children participate in the education system, particularly at pre-school, primary and secondary levels. This role should be supported and, where necessary, adequately resourced by the relevant statutory authorities.	FR.1	The Department of Education and Science acknowledges the important role being played by the Visiting Teacher Service. There are currently (2000/2001 school year) 40 Visiting Teachers employed by that Department. The Minister for Education and Science is committed to increasing the number of Visiting Teachers up to the level recommended by the Task Force, i.e. 1 per 100 Traveller families, within the lifetime of the present Government.
The Task Force endorses the recommendations contained in the Department of Education Working Group Report entitled "School Attendance/Truancy Report" (1994). It is, however, important in applying these recommendations to Travellers that they are placed firmly and sensitively in the context of the human rights of the child.	FR.2	The Education (Welfare) Bill has been passed by the Seanad and is being debated in the Dail. The Bill raises the compulsory school leaving age from 15 to 16 or completion of 3 years junior cycle, whichever is the later, and provides for the establishment of an educational welfare service to monitor school attendance and support children at risk to remain at school. The views of the Task Force have been taken into account in drafting it.
As a model of good practice, the Task Force strongly supports the integrated effort being adopted between the visiting teacher, the Gardaí and others at community level in Galway, to encourage school attendance and recommends that this approach be adopted as a model elsewhere.	FR.3	This model is being adopted in other Visiting Teacher areas, e.g. Wicklow, Mayo, Tuam.
Present legislation needs to be reinforced to enable the integrated approach referred to in FR.3 above to have general application. Arrangements should be made by the relevant statutory authorities to have the necessary legislative changes introduced as a matter of urgency.	FR.4	This matter is being examined by the Department of Education and Science's legal advisor.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

Traveller parents should be facilitated to enrol their own children in schools rather than this being done by the visiting teacher. The lack of this initial contact can set the scene for poor future involvement.	FR.5	The Department of Education and Science encourages direct involvement between schools and Traveller parents. In-service courses have been organised involving both school staff and Traveller parents. The Visiting Teacher Service actively encourages and supports Traveller parents to enrol their children in school.
Attention needs to be given to developing a range of ways which would permit ongoing direct contact between teachers and Traveller parents. There can be direct contact when problems arise, but in some instances, these problems can end up being dealt with through the Visiting Teacher. Traveller parents should be particularly targeted so as to encourage their involvement in open days or similar events before problems arise.	FR.6	Resource Teachers for Travellers (RTTs) have been advised and encouraged by the Department of Education and Science and by their respective Visiting Teachers to establish contact with Traveller parents and support them in their home-school links. The Home School Community Liaison co-ordinator is in a supportive role in this respect.
The lack of direct communication is evident in the low level of knowledge that can be displayed by Traveller parents as to what is happening to or being done for their children in school. The method of communication between parent and school must, however, be accessible. The note sent home in the child's school bag is not sufficient for various reasons, including where literacy is a problem or where the terminology is not understood. The visiting teacher should also be informed where problems arise in the education of a Traveller child so as to encourage the parents to communicate with the Teacher. Other appropriate channels through which this communication might be encouraged, could also be explored, where necessary.	FR.7	Department of Education and Science through the VTS and the RTTs liaise with Traveller parents and support them in their home-school links. It is recognised by the Department of Education and Science that local Traveller support organisations can play an important role in this area.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

<p>Levels of literacy and lack of experience or knowledge in some school subjects on the part of Traveller parents can be a source of embarrassment and a barrier to communication with teachers. Access to adult education has an important contribution to make to Traveller parental involvement.</p>	FR.8	<p>The White Paper on Adult Education stresses that parental levels of education, particularly those of mothers, exert a critical influence on their children's participation in education and on their school performance.</p> <p>The Senior Traveller Training Centres provide an integrated general education, vocational training and work experience for those in the 15 plus age group who have left school early with no qualification (i.e. less than 5Ds in the Junior Cycle). There is now no upper age limit governing eligibility on the programme – this is part of a strategy to encourage parents onto the programming because of the influence this can have on their children's participation in schooling.</p> <p>The Department is also encouraging an increased focus on local networking, the development of a strong community base and good contacts with local agencies, including Traveller organisations, insofar as the work of the STTCs and the adult literacy service is concerned.</p> <p>Revised arrangements for boards of management of the Senior Traveller Training Centres have been introduced which stipulate a clear function for the boards in establishing good community linkages. The Structure agreed for the boards includes two representatives from the Traveller community, or from Traveller organisations representing the Traveller community, one of whom may be a trainee. In addition, it provides for the co-option locally of two others from educationalist, voluntary, community or interest groups with an active role in Traveller development.</p> <p>Work in this area will be further progressed in the context of the expansion of the adult literacy service and the implementation of a Back to Education Initiative which will increase part-time provision for adults, particularly those with less than upper second level education. The initiative will also provide scope for expansion of community education.</p>
<p>Homework programmes have an important contribution to make to parental involvement, but can, in some instances, involve a further removal of Traveller parents. There should be some linked follow up with parents of children on these programmes. Where possible, people on these programmes should be from the Traveller community; the supervisors of the programmes should encourage parents to</p>	FR.9	<p>Supervised homework programmes are now in place in some schools. Some have been organised by the VTS and by Traveller support organisations. The Department of Education and Science is considering ways and means to improve this exercise.</p> <p>In December, 1999 the Minister for Education and Science announced his intention to introduce a radically new scheme to target the diverse range of educational disadvantage in primary schools. All schools will be considered for inclusion, but effective targeting on areas of greatest need will be implemented. This approach is intended to be flexible in terms of addressing the identified needs of individual schools, but participation in the scheme will be solely on the basis of published objective</p>

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

become involved; adequate training of those who deliver the programmes should be a prerequisite to ensure sensitivity to Travellers' culture.		<p>criteria. These will draw upon the extensive experience which has been developed through pilot projects. The supports will involve a mixture of additional teachers and resources. Priority will be given to the reduction of infant class sizes. Other supports may involve areas such as out of school activities, classroom resources, administrative assistance and community outreach.</p> <p>Over £25 million will be made available to this initiative in the next three years.</p>
There is a lack of information among Traveller parents on how schools are administered and there is an absence of Traveller parents playing roles within the school. Travellers playing roles within the school as committee members or being employed as childcare assistants and classroom assistants would contribute to addressing this information gap.	FR.10	It is the view of the Department of Education and Science that it is open to Traveller parents to play a role on school committees, to join parent bodies or to become members of Boards of Management. The rules for establishing Boards of Management in primary schools provide that two elected parent representatives must form part of the board. The parents must be parents of children enrolled in the school. In addition, two further representatives from the wider school community must be nominated to sit on the Board of Management by the patron representatives, the two parents representatives and the teacher representatives. It is possible therefore for Traveller parents to serve on Boards of Management either as elected representatives or to be nominated by the original six members of the Board. The VTS will seek to encourage Travellers to engage and consult with the school authorities. The Department welcomes support from the Traveller groups in this matter.
Traveller parents should be encouraged to join Boards of Management and other parent bodies. The National Parents Council should also include Traveller representatives among its membership. In addition, Boards of Management should formulate policies on issues related to Traveller children only after consultation with Traveller interests.	FR.11	It is possible for Traveller parents to serve on Boards of Management either as elected representatives or to be nominated by the original six members of the Board. It is also possible for Traveller parents to serve on school committees. In order to foster development in this matter the Department of Education and Science will work in partnership with the NPC and Traveller organisations. Proposals to Advisory Committee on Traveller Education (ACTE) would be appreciated.
Creative ways of bringing Travellers into the planning and administration of the education system should be explored.	FR.12	Department of Education and Science is supportive of this recommendation. That Department would welcome suggestions on how this matter can be developed.
The use of different books in different schools is a barrier to Traveller mobility. Movement from one area to another requires the purchase of a new set of books. Some form of book exchange system needs to be put in place to reduce the	FR.13	The Department of Education and Science through its grant scheme helps schools to purchase school textbooks for needy pupils. It also offers increased levels of grant assistance to those schools that operate loan/rental schemes. In effect, this allows schools to purchase textbooks, which they loan to pupils during the school year. In addition, the enhanced capitation grant for Travellers is being used to help the transient pupils to acquire books.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

financial burden on the parents of children who change schools.		
It should be recognised that strict enrolment cut-off dates have a particularly negative impact on Traveller children moving from one area to another. This can also result in Traveller children missing out on school when they first move into an area as the family is required to prove its intention to stay before the child is admitted. Whether a child is in a mainstream or a special class, flexibility in enrolment dates for children who are moving from one area to another needs to be introduced and should be resourced and supported by the Department of Education.	FR.14	While most schools enrol pupils on the 1 st September, all schools are obliged to enrol pupils during a school term, providing there is adequate accommodation in the school. Schools cannot refuse to enrol a child on the basis of the social background of that child. The Department of Education and Science has responded very vigorously in situations where Travellers have been refused enrolment.
Visiting teacher support has an important contribution to make in facilitating entry into the new school from the child's perspective and the school's perspective. However, this should be done in a manner that supports direct contact between the Traveller parents and the school teachers.	FR.15	The Visiting Teacher Service actively encourages direct contact between Traveller parents and teacher/schools.
The children of occupational Travellers in other European countries are benefiting from the development of resources to facilitate distance learning. There is a need to explore this in order to find out how Irish Travellers could benefit from this approach. This task could be undertaken by the proposed Traveller Education Service.	FR.16	A pilot project aimed at meeting the needs of occupational Travellers (Circus & Fairground children) has operated successfully since 1997. Support teaching is provided in several locations throughout the country via the Education Centres. Distance learning for Traveller pupils is being explored by the VTS.

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

<p>In order to implement a curriculum along the lines suggested in this report, there is need for a comprehensive Traveller Education Service in the Department of Education as recommended by the INTO, the ITM, and EC Intercultural Education Project, the ATTP now known as the Association of Teachers of Travelling people and in this Report under Traveller Education Service. Such a service would have responsibility not only for monitoring the curriculum but also for ensuring greater integration and coherence between all the key personnel and organisations involved in Traveller education and training such as: the National Education Officer, the Inspectorate, the visiting teachers, the ATTP, Traveller parents, National Traveller organisations, NATC and other relevant bodies.</p>	<p>FR.17</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Science has not acted upon this recommendation. The Department points out, however, that it has established a Departmental co-ordinating committee in 1996 and an Advisory Committee on Traveller Education in 1998.</p> <p>The Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science grant-aids the National Association of Traveller Centres (NATC) so that the organisation can fund and provide a youth programme of informal education for young Travellers.</p>
<p>The Department of Education should commission the design of an intercultural/anti-racist programme (with videos, tapes, materials and games) to be used in national schools and second level schools, at both junior and senior levels in each case. This would require the setting up of a steering committee involving school psychologists, special teachers, Inspectorate and visiting teachers for Travellers, and the involvement of the National Parents Council, teacher unions, representatives from national Traveller organisations and other minority group organisations, on the lines of that used to form the Child Abuse Prevention Programme in 1991. Funding for such an initiative could be shared between the</p>	<p>FR.18</p>	<p>No such programme has been commissioned nor has a steering committee been set up to address it. However, the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) module of the revised curriculum for primary schools specifically addresses such issues as interculturalism and anti-racism and these issues will consequently form part of the curriculum taught at primary level once the revised curriculum is introduced. The Department of Education and Science distributed the revised curriculum to all primary school teachers in September 1999. The various subject areas, including SPHE will be phased in over a three to five year period. The Department states that appropriate in-service training for teachers in all aspects of the revised curriculum, including SPHE, will be provided. The Post-Primary Curriculum further develops student appreciation of this whole area.</p> <p>The White Paper on Adult Education, published in July, 2000, acknowledges the challenge of providing an inter cultural education. The Paper recommends that adult education should be underpinned by three core principles – two of which are equality and interculturalism. Equality of access, participation and outcome for participants is a key priority. Proactive strategies to counteract barriers arising from differences, including differences in ethnicity are recommended. The Paper also recognises the need to frame educational policy and practice in the context of serving a diverse population as opposed to a</p>

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

Department of Equality and Law Reform, the Department of Education and the National Lottery.		<p>uniform one.</p> <p>The establishment of a Working Group will be referred to the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education. The Advisory Committee will take the issue of interculturalism/anti-racism up directly with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.</p>
Resources and materials are needed to implement an intercultural, anti-racist curriculum and these should be developed for all pupils. However, such resources are ineffective in the hands of teachers or trainers who have limited understanding and, in some instances, negative attitudes towards Travellers and other minorities. Staff development programmes are necessary therefore and should include administrators, counsellors and other ancillary members involved in education and training schemes.	FR.19	This matter will be referred to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and will be considered by the In Career Development Unit. Suggestions and proposals will be considered. The National Education Officer for Travellers is taking action in relation to this proposal.
A pilot action programme should be initiated in a number of National Schools to implement such a curriculum and to develop a programme for general use in national schools.	FR.20	The Department of Education and Science considers that the recommendation relating to a pilot action programme for an intercultural, anti-racist curriculum is relevant. The Department will progress this matter further as soon as possible through the Advisory Committee for Traveller Education and the Co-ordinating Committee for Traveller Education.
Changes in text books and teaching materials designed to promote interculturalism and anti-racism should be supported by school organisation and administration procedures and in the drawing up of school plans. There is a need for policies for combating prejudice and anti-Traveller incidents in schools and other education and training institutions.	FR.21	The Department of Education and Science through the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment has issued guidelines for publishers of school textbooks. The issues of interculturalism and anti-racism will be raised with the NCCA.

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The Department of Education should ensure that Regulations for Publishers should contain guidelines in relation to promoting such a curriculum and only books that comply with the Regulations should be recommended for use in schools.	FR.22	It is the view of the Department of Education and Science, based on its meetings with publishers, that there is an awareness of the necessity to ensure that textbooks or teaching materials, which they develop, deal positively with these issues.
An information pack which could be made available to schools, parents' associations and other relevant bodies should be produced in order to increase awareness of interculturalism in the curriculum.	FR.23	The Department of Education and Science through the Visiting Teacher Service is in the process of producing an information pack which includes a section on intercultural education.
<p>Training courses should assist teachers to acquire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a reflective and clearer understanding of their own cultural heritage and social status, how these relate to others and fit with the professional responsibility for the educational and social development of pupils;- a critical knowledge of multicultural society, and an understanding of the causes and effects of prejudice, racism and xenophobia and other negative attitudes which contribute to discrimination;- a positive attitude towards cultural diversity;- pedagogical skills to counteract prejudice, racism and xenophobia to devise teaching strategies and activities which will facilitate academic achievement in the context of cultural diversity;	FR.24	The Department of Education and Science will again bring this matter to the attention of colleges of education. The above principles underpin all courses on Traveller education organised by the In Career Development Unit.

RECOMMENDATION	NO.	PRESENT POSITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - democratic values and attitudes towards minority ethnic groups; - an ability to see and understand the other's point of view; - knowledge of the curricular and teaching implications of cultural diversity; - an awareness of equality and anti-discrimination laws and regulations in the State. 		
In-service training, in order to be effective, should be participative, involving not just lectures, but the presentation of diverse experiences, visits, exposure trips, guest speakers, multimedia materials, combined with inputs, analysis and fresh information.	FR.25	The In-Career Development Unit of the Department of Education and Science supports in-service programmes for Traveller Education. Seminars are organised by the Visiting Teacher Service under the direction of the National Education Officer for Travellers. Inservice education is in line with the recommendation made.
Intercultural education should be included in the training programmes of all student teachers, such as higher diploma courses in all universities, teacher training colleges and regional technical colleges.	FR.26	The Department of Education and Science is examining this issue.
Travellers and Traveller organisations should be resourced to ensure that they can have a significant role in the pre-service and in-service training process.	FR.27	The Department of Education and Science will refer this matter to the Colleges of Education again. In relation to inservice education the Department would welcome proposals on how this can be done.
In order to facilitate a more co-ordinated, structured and comprehensive approach to Traveller education, the Task Force recommends the establishment without delay of a Traveller Education Service under the aegis of the Department of Education.	FR.28	The Department of Education and Science has decided not to set up a Traveller Education Service at this time. However, a Departmental co-ordinating committee was established in 1996 and an Advisory Committee on Traveller Education was established in 1998.

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<p>The TES should comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A Traveller Education Unit in the Department of Education under the direction of an Assistant Secretary with necessary support staff drawn from both general service and departmental grades (such as Inspectors and representatives of the Psychological service). This Unit should also comprise the National Education Officer for Travellers and the National Co-ordinator for Traveller Training Centres. — An Advisory Committee to advise the Traveller Education Unit in its work. This Committee should be appointed by the Minister for Education and include staff and management representatives from the pre-school, primary, second-level, adult education and third level areas, Traveller parents, Traveller organisations, ATTP, NATC and others with relevant expertise or experience in Traveller education. 	FR.29	<p>The Department of Education and Science has not acted upon these recommendations. Services in relation to Traveller Education are delivered in an integrated way by various sections within the Department including the Inspectorate, National Education Psychological Service, National Education Officer for Travellers, Visiting Teacher Service, etc.</p> <p>In addition a Departmental co-ordinating committee was established in 1996 and an Advisory Committee on Traveller Education was established in 1998.</p> <p>The two main grant schemes operated by Youth Affairs – Mainline or National Youth Organisation Schemes and Disadvantaged Scheme projects - fund organisations which play a co-ordinating role with schools, youth clubs, Gardaí, liaison officers, community and health workers etc. in order to best serve the interest of Travellers. Co-ordination of these services ensures that the best available expertise is brought together and available locally for the mutual benefit or development of worthwhile structured training programmes for young Travellers.</p>
<p>The work of the Special Education Section of the Department of Education in relation to pre-school and primary education provision for Travellers should continue but a similar section should be established to deal with second-level education provision for Travellers.</p>	FR.30	<p>A Working Group is currently considering the best way of meeting the needs of students with special educational needs, including Travellers, at second level.</p>
<p>An examination needs to be carried out by the Department of Education with a view to establishing new Departmental structures for dealing with adult and third-level education for Travellers.</p>	FR.31	<p>Since 6 April 1998, responsibility for the Senior Traveller Training Centres has become entirely the responsibility of the Department of Education & Science, and is being funded by the Further Education Section as part of its programmes for early school leavers. The service is now operated through the VECs. The Department has regular meetings with the IVEA and the National Association of Traveller Training Centres (NATC) on management, organisational and policy issues concerning the delivery of</p>

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		<p>the programme. In addition a National Co-ordinator has been appointed to co-ordinate the development of the network, organise an inservice programme and disseminate good practice.</p> <p>The White Paper on Adult Education outlines proposed new structures for Adult Education. The proposals include</p> <p>that a National Adult Learning Council be established as an Executive Agency of the Department of Education and Science;</p> <p>that local Adult Learning Boards be set up to ensure a co-ordinated and integrated approach to the delivery of services at local level. The Local Adult Learning Boards would establish the level of adult education and training needs in their region and would develop an integrated action plan at local level to meet those needs.</p> <p>Section 7 of the RTC/DIT Act includes, under the function of Governing Bodies the following: “In performing its functions, a Governing Body shall have regard to the attainment of equity and equality of opportunity in education”. Any proposals in this context put forward by Institutes receive sympathetic consideration in the Department’s Colleges Section. An Institute of Technology Equality Network is supported.</p>
The National Education Officer for Travellers should report on a regular basis to the TES. The National Education Officer will continue to have an important role to play within the framework set out for the Traveller Education Service. In view of the major changes which the Task Force is recommending in the area of Traveller Education, it is also recommended that the National Education Officer for Travellers, should be supported by two assistants to deal with education services for Traveller children at primary and post-primary levels, respectively.	FR.32	No progress has been made to date on this recommendation. The matter is under review in the Department of Education and Science.

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<p>Within the Department of Education, the primary focus of the Traveller Education Service should be on policy and strategy development in respect of education provision for Travellers and monitoring their implementation to ensure that policy/strategy is accomplished. The delivery of services should be the responsibility of other existing agencies. With a view to achieving a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach to Traveller education, the TES should:</p> <p>(i) Have overall responsibility for the development of Traveller education and co-ordinate the activities of the various sections within the Department of Education dealing with the education needs of Travellers including the Special Education Section at primary level and the proposed new section to deal with second-level education.</p> <p>(ii) Draw up, within one year of its formation, a statement of policy in relation to Traveller education which would include medium term plans for all areas of educational provision for Travellers and the staff involved, including special classes, special schools and the Visiting Teacher Service.</p> <p>(iii) Oversee the implementation of the various recommendations in the Report of the Task Force dealing with education provision for members of the</p>	<p>FR.33</p>	<p>Under present arrangements the Special Education Section of the Department of Education and Science has responsibility for the provision of supports for Traveller pupils at primary level. A Departmental Planning Group is currently considering the delivery of services at post-primary level to pupils with special education needs, including Travellers, and how best to deliver these services.</p> <p>Arising from the recent national agreement, Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, it was agreed that the Department of Education and Science would appoint a high level official to take a lead role in co-ordinating the development of a continuum of supports to facilitate Traveller participation in education at every level of the system.</p> <p>It is not the policy of the Department of Education and Science to establish special schools or special classes for Traveller pupils. The Visiting Teacher service was expanded to 40 in September, 2000. The Minister for Education and Science has given a commitment to expand the service further during the lifetime of this Government, to the level recommended by the Task Force, i.e. 1 post per 100 Traveller families.</p> <p>The Co-ordinating Committee on Traveller Education which was established in the Department in 1996, has responsibility for implementation of the various recommendations in the Traveller Task Force Report dealing with education provision for members of the Traveller community.</p> <p>The Co-ordinating Committee has had consultations with representative of the Traveller Groups. Additionally, the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education which was established in 1998, has representatives from the various Traveller Groups.</p> <p>The National Association of Traveller Centres (NATC) operate a youth programme specially designed and structured for young traveller needs.</p> <p>A circular has been issued to post primary schools on Traveller education and Guidelines for post primary schools are being prepared.</p> <p>The White Paper on Early Childhood Education, which was published in December, 1999 sets out the Department's policy proposals on the quality of early childhood education to be put in place in the future. It is proposed to establish an Early Childhood Education Agency to implement the proposals of the White Paper.</p>
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<p>(iv) Traveller community. Ensure coherence and consistency in the delivery of educational services for Travellers at all levels.</p> <p>(v) Establish a consultation process with all interested groups and particularly with Travellers and relevant Traveller organisations.</p> <p>(vi) Draw up a comprehensive operational strategy for the education of Travellers based on the statement of policy referred to previously. Without neglecting any other aspect of this policy, special urgency should be given in this strategy to resourcing a major increase in the participation rate of Traveller children in mainstream second-level education.</p> <p>(vii) Facilitate and monitor the execution of this strategy, including the establishment of clear targets to ensure that it is executed with maximum efficiency and speed from pre-school to third-level. Review the policy and strategy on an annual basis in the light of experience and of the need to develop further resources for Traveller education.</p> <p>(viii) Ensure the allocation of the resources necessary to implement the policy on Traveller education set out by the Task Force.</p> <p>(ix) Promote a major in-service development programme for teachers at primary and post-primary levels on</p>		<p>An Interdepartmental Committee, drawn from agencies and Departments with significant involvement in the area of early childhood education, will be established to co-ordinate early childhood policy and provision.</p> <p>An Expert Advisory Group will be established, drawn from parents, existing providers, trainers, researchers and academics, staff interests, national early childhood organisations, relevant Government Departments and agencies and other interested parties, to promote understanding, co-operation and effective provision and to avoid overlap and duplication of effort.</p> <p>It is proposed that an Early Years Development Unit will be established in the Department of Education and Science to oversee the development of the early childhood education policy.</p> <p>The XXI points raised in relation to this recommendation will be considered in further detail by the Co-ordinating Committee on Traveller Education (CCTE) and by the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education (A.C.T.E.).</p>
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<p>(x) the scale of the Child Abuse Prevention Programme in 1991, which consisted of one in-service day for every teacher in the country.</p> <p>(xi) Commission the training colleges and University education institutions to design and include Intercultural Education modules in all courses for trainee teachers on a compulsory basis.</p> <p>(xii) Turn into practice the principles in relation to intercultural education, outlined elsewhere in this report, in relation to education provision and promote an intercultural approach and positive learning environment for Travellers at all levels of education and training.</p> <p>(xiii) Promote curriculum development in intercultural education and the development of appropriate intercultural text books and teaching aids, all of which should be inclusive of Traveller culture. The achievement of this recommendation may require the setting up of a steering committee.</p> <p>(xiv) Publish guidelines on second level education for Travellers in accordance with the policy set out by the Task Force.</p> <p>(xv) Review the activities of special schools and seek to apply experiences learnt by them to the mainstream education sector.</p> <p>(xvi) Undertake, as a matter of priority, an in-depth analysis (including a</p>		
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<p>qualitative evaluation of attainment) into the reasons for the failure of the present primary education system for many Traveller children (See FR.50).</p> <p>(xvi) Undertake a liaison function between Visiting Teachers to keep them up to date on educational practices and to ensure that they are adequately resourced.</p> <p>(xvii) Ensure that adequate liaison arrangements and back-up resources exist for those Traveller children whose families are mobile so that such mobility does not interfere with their educational provision</p> <p>(xviii) Ensure that there is transparency and accountability in relation to the expenditure of monies on all aspects of Traveller education.</p> <p>(xix) Develop a comprehensive management structure for all Traveller pre-schools (see FR.46).</p> <p>(xx) Carry out a review of the use by second level schools of standardised intelligence tests for Traveller children prior to or following admission to such schools.</p> <p>(xxi) Monitor the development and size of the Visiting Teacher Service to ensure that it has sufficient resources and draw up guidelines for use by the managers of that Service.</p>		
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<p>It is widely acknowledged that Traveller children who attend pre-schools are better prepared for primary school. The Task Force considers, therefore, that a comprehensive pre-school service should be provided for all Traveller children. This service should be available to each Traveller child for a period of up to two years before entering primary school and should be staffed by personnel qualified for this age group and be supported by local management structures. Prior to this extension taking place, however, an external evaluation of existing pre-school provision should be undertaken to see what improvements in the system are required.</p>	<p>FR.34</p>	<p>In December, 1999 the White Paper on Early Childhood Education was published by the Minister for Education & Science. This sets out the Department's policy proposals on the quality of early childhood education to be put in place in the future. The principal objective of the Government policy in regard to early childhood education is :</p> <p>To support the development and educational achievement of children through high quality early education, with particular focus on the target groups of the disadvantaged and those with special needs. The state will seek to build on existing provision and to use existing regulatory frameworks, where possible.</p> <p>The White Paper acknowledges that Traveller children and their parents who have a positive experience of pre-school provision are better prepared for primary school and are therefore, more likely to obtain maximum benefit from their primary and post-primary schooling. The White Paper seeks to underpin and support the growth of, rather than replace existing provision in the Traveller education area. Traveller parents should be encouraged and empowered to become involved in the management and administration of Traveller pre-schools and, where State-funded mainstream provision is available, Traveller parents should be able to exercise choice between integrated and Traveller specific pre-school education.</p> <p>It is proposed to establish an Early Childhood Education Agency (ECEA), which will be responsible for all aspects of early childhood education for Traveller children, including standards of quality, materials and curriculum, research, development and inspection /evaluation. In carrying out it's role in this area, the Agency will consult with existing providers, parents and Traveller organisations on the range of issues affecting Traveller pre-schools.</p> <p>The Education & Science Research Unit (ESRU) of the Department has now undertaken an evaluation of pre-schools.</p>
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<p>At the present time, there is no standard programme or national policy on pre-school education in Ireland. Such a national policy and programme needs to be developed and co-ordinated by the Department of Education throughout the country. The Department of Education should also provide guidelines on such issues as enrolment procedures, hours of class contact/parent contact, transport, health and safety, ratios, curriculum, procedures for dealing with children at risk, general programmes for early childhood education, children with special needs, parental involvement, minimum requirements for accommodation and in-service training. All of these would form an essential element in the future development of the pre-school education service.</p>	FR.35	<p>The White Paper on Early Childhood Education sets out proposals to build on existing state-funded provision and to use the existing regulatory framework. Where possible, the state will</p> <p>Continue to provide early childhood education for priority groups, children with special needs, Travellers and children who are disadvantaged</p> <p>Establish strategies at national level to ensure an educational/developmental content</p> <p>Develop and publish guidelines in a number of areas develop and publish a “specimen” curriculum which may be used for pre-school children, including children under 3 years of age</p> <p>establish and maintain a framework for the development, recognition and award of qualifications and for the promotion and facilitation of access, transfer and progression throughout the sector</p> <p>where necessary, provide funding and other supports to providers to assist them in developing their services to the required standards</p> <p>inspect/evaluate the provision, with a view to ensuring that standards are enhanced and maintained; in the case of serious breach of educational standards, which remains unaddressed, State funding may be withdrawn</p> <p>review quality standards on a continuing basis in the light of new research and models of good practice.</p>
<p>The Dept. of Education should take over responsibility for pre-school provision for Traveller children. In addition, within the pre-school area, there is need for the development of a co-ordinated inter-departmental and inter-agency approach (including: voluntary and statutory bodies including teachers, social workers, childcare workers, youth workers, community workers, public health nurses, speech therapists and psychologists).</p>	FR.36	<p>The ECEA, which will be set up by the Department of Education and Science, will be responsible for all aspects of Early Childhood Education Agency (ECEA) for Traveller children, including standards of quality, materials and curriculum, research, development and inspection/ evaluation. In carrying out its role in this area, the Agency will consult with existing providers, parents and Traveller organisations on the range of issues affecting Traveller Pre-schools.</p>

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The existing provision of pre-schools for Traveller children should be maintained and expanded in line with demand. The Task Force notes the Government's commitment to develop a system of pre-schools in disadvantaged areas and considers that the range of supports currently provided for Traveller children should be reviewed in this context.	FR.37	In addition to improving existing programmes, the Early Childhood Education Agency will encourage disadvantaged communities and groups to establish their own pre-school programmes. Assistance will be provided by the ECEA in the form of advice, a Visiting Teacher service, materials and support, while inspectors will be available to assist groups to raise standards and quality to the levels required for awarding the QE (Quality in Education) mark. A pro-active role will be undertaken by the ECEA in areas where communities may not be in a position to develop services themselves. As well as the range of supports outlined above, start-up funding will be made available to “kick-start” programmes. Where demographic, geographical or cultural factors prevent the development of conventional strategies, the ECEA will consider such options as distance education service, mobile pre-school and provision of transport for disadvantaged children and parents.
Travellers should be trained and employed in pre-schools as teachers and child care assistants. In section G on the Traveller Economy, the Task Force identifies strategies by which this can be effectively achieved.	FR.38	<p>The White Paper on Early Childhood Education set out a strategy to be developed, which will include the designation of suitable qualifications, establishment of clear routes of progression between qualifications and improved provision of information on all aspects of qualifications, through the framework of the Qualifications (Education & Training) Act 1999. The Act provides for the setting up of the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, which will have three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to establish and maintain a framework for the development, recognition and award of qualifications in the State based on standards of knowledge, skill or competence acquired by learners to establish and promote the maintenance and improvement of the standards of further and higher education and training awards to promote and facilitate access, transfer and progression. <p>The national qualifications framework envisaged will include a qualifications framework for the early childhood education sector. This framework will be designed in consultation with the Early Childhood Education Agency, existing early childhood education providers and organisations involved in the provision of early childhood education courses. It will identify the core competencies required for early childhood education teachers and childcare workers and determine which courses can equip participants with those skills. Clear routes of progression will be established between various courses.</p>

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Child care assistants should be appointed to all pre-schools for Travellers.	FR.39	A review of present pre-school provision is taking place through the Department's Research Unit. The recommendation will be taken into consideration in the context of this review. It is also expected that the establishment of the Early Childhood Education Agency will consider this issue, when in place.
The Department of Education, through the Visiting Teacher Service, should promote the development and maintenance of close links between pre-schools for Travellers and local primary schools to ensure more effective Traveller pupil participation.	FR.40	The Department of Education and Science accepts this recommendation and the VTS is promoting those links. The White Paper on Early Childhood Education also advocates that schools be encouraged and given incentives to make premises available to community based groups and to develop links with them. The Early Childhood Education Agency will encourage funded providers to develop links with other providers in the neighbourhood, and with local schools, to ease the transition to primary school.
Consultation with and involvement of parents, and Traveller organisations should be encouraged and developed.	FR 41	The Early Childhood Education Agency will be responsible for all aspects of early childhood education for Traveller children, including standards of quality, materials and curriculum, research, development and inspection/evaluation. In carrying out its role in this area, the Agency will consult with existing providers, parents and Traveller organisations on the range of issues affecting Traveller pre-schools.
Personnel working in pre-schools should have early education/childcare training and have a child centred approach and training to ensure an understanding of Traveller culture and the specific needs of Traveller children.	FR.42	The Early Childhood Education Agency will facilitate and support providers and childcare staff in acquiring qualifications, through the development and provision of training courses, and through the provision of incentives for training.
School transport has had a major impact on attendance levels at schools for Traveller children. Increased funding needs to be provided by the relevant statutory bodies in the area of school transport and, in particular, grants should be provided to voluntary groups for the purchase of buses.	FR.43	The Department of Education and Science facilitates Traveller children whenever possible, with free transport on existing school transport services. This means that in some instances, free transport is sanctioned for children who would not ordinarily qualify under the terms of the School Transport Scheme, either because they are attending a school other than the nearest, or on distance grounds, (i.e. less than 2 or 3 miles as appropriate). Each case must be treated on its merits, and additional cost involved must also be considered. Special transport arrangements are made in some cases, e.g. by car, where no other facility can be provided, and where this can be achieved within reasonable cost parameters. Bus Éireann, who operates the Scheme on behalf of the Department of Education and Science, is obliged to do so in the most cost-effective manner. The Department of Education and Science also grant-aids transport costs for approved transport services operated solely for Traveller children. Under this arrangement the Department provides 98% grant-aid towards the cost of approved special transport services operated to cater solely for primary school going-age Traveller children. Such services are organised and managed by local voluntary bodies such as St. Vincent De Paul, Traveller Support

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		Groups etc. and cater for Traveller children attending special schools, pre-schools and national schools. Consideration is currently being given to the provision of full running costs of special transport services. A decision is expected in the near future.
The mobile Pre-school Service for Travellers provided by Barnardos is commended. The Traveller Education Service should be requested to examine the need for and feasibility of extending this service.	FR.44	The Early Childhood Education Agency will seek to develop innovative approaches to providing an early education service. Options may include the provision of a distance education service, a mobile pre-school and provision of transport for disadvantaged children and parents.
Where necessary, the attendance of Traveller children at local community play groups and pre-schools should be resourced by the Department of Health where there is no Traveller pre-school in the area concerned.	FR.45	Community play groups and pre-schools are operated by voluntary bodies with financial support from health boards. Access to these facilities is a matter for the local management committees. The Department of Health and Children would support the provision of such services to Traveller children as required. The Visiting Teacher Service supports Traveller parents in accessing community playgroups and preschools. The White Paper on Early Childhood Education outlines the important role of parents in the early education of all children and advocates the right of Traveller parents to be able to exercise choice between integrated and Traveller-specific pre-school education.
At present a variety of management/ administrative arrangements are in place in existing pre-schools. It is recommended that the Department of Education through the Traveller Education Service develop a comprehensive management structure for all Traveller pre-schools.	FR.46	<p>The Early Childhood Education Agency, which will be set up by the Department of Education and Science, will be responsible for all aspects of early childhood education for Traveller children. A review of present pre-school provision is being undertaken by the Education & Science Research Unit of the Department of Education and Science.</p> <p>The White Paper on Early Childhood Education, which was published in December, 1999 sets out the Department's policy proposals on the quality of early childhood education to be put in place in the future. It is proposed to establish an Early Childhood Education Agency to implement the proposals of the White Paper.</p> <p>An Inter-Departmental Committee, drawn from agencies and Departments with significant involvement in the area of early childhood education, will be established to co-ordinate early childhood policy and provision.</p> <p>An Expert Advisory Group will be established, drawn from parents, existing providers, trainers, researchers and academics, staff interests, national early childhood organisations, relevant Government</p>

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		<p>Departments and agencies and other interested parties, to promote understanding, co-operation and effective provision and to avoid overlap and duplication of effort.</p> <p>It is proposed that an Early Years Development Unit will be established in the Department of Education and Science to oversee the development of the early childhood education policy.</p>
The full salaries and PRSI contributions, as appropriate, of teaching staff in pre-schools should be resourced on the same basis as teachers in the primary education sector.	FR.47	The Early Childhood Education Agency which will be set up by the Department of Education and Science will be responsible for all aspects of early childhood education for Traveller children.
Capitation grants should be provided on the same basis as the Department of Education Pre-School Pilot Project to cover accommodation, maintenance costs and rent.	FR.48	The Early Childhood Education Agency which will be set up by the Department will be responsible for all aspects of early childhood education for Traveller children.
The provision of Traveller specific pre-schools should not preclude Traveller parents from choosing to send their children to integrated pre-schools.	FR.49	<p>The Department of Education and Science supports this recommendation through the VTS.</p> <p>The White Paper on Early Childhood Education outlines the important role of parents in the early education of all children and advocates the right of Traveller parents to be able to exercise choice between integrated and Traveller-specific pre-school education.</p>
While it is recognised by the Task Force that problems associated with the underachievement of children who have undertaken primary education are not unique to children from the Traveller community, the problem of poor performance of many Traveller children is of concern especially considering the level of resources invested in the education of such children. Accordingly, while it is the view of the Task Force that many of our recommendations in relation to primary level schooling will assist in addressing the problem of underachievement, the Task Force recommends that an in-depth analysis be carried out (including a qualitative evaluation of	FR.50	This issue has been raised at a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education and further action will be taken.

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attainment) into the reasons for the failure of the present primary education system for many Traveller children. The Task Force further recommends that this survey should be carried out, as a matter of priority, by the proposed Traveller Education Service.		
Agreed procedures should be established, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that Traveller children have equal access to the education provision best suited to their individual needs, taking parents' wishes into account. Every School Plan should include a statement of policy on access and equality of opportunity to Traveller children.	FR.51	Guidelines for primary schools on developing a school plan have been drawn up and have been issued to all primary schools. It advocates that clear school policies need to be formulated on the arrangements for the education of the children of the Traveller community.
Where Traveller children are at present in a particular location, enrolment arrangements in the local school should not be restricted to any particular date.	FR.52	Subject to there being adequate accommodation in the local school, the view of the Department of Education and Science is that the enrolment of Traveller children throughout the school year should not cause difficulty. Any difficulties that arise will be investigated by the Department of Education and Science.
Following enrolment, Traveller children who need them, should have immediate access to all the necessary support services, including resource teachers, (either on a full-time or part-time basis), visiting teacher service, social and psychological services and essential ancillary staff, particularly classroom assistants or child care workers.	FR.53	The access of Traveller children to support services is dependent on the level of resources available and on the criteria outlined by the Department of Education and Science regarding eligibility for those services. The Department of Education and Science welcomes ideas on utilisation of resources .
School authorities and, in particular, principal teachers, should have the authority to demand the provision of all the necessary resources, support services and ancillary staff to cater for the individual needs of Traveller children.	FR.54	The Department of Education and Science points out that substantial resources are being made available to schools in order to meet the needs of Traveller children. However, there is a limit to the resources available and school authorities and Principal teachers are aware of this when making demands.

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Appropriate levels of provision should be available, irrespective of the number of Traveller children enrolled in individual schools.		
Substantial additional resources should be invested in supporting Traveller children at primary level, to ensure a level of attainment and personal development which would enable them to gain truly equal access to second level education.	FR.55	Since the publication of the Task Force report (1995) significant additional teaching resource have been deployed at primary level. A total of 400 Resource Teacher for Travellers (RTTs) are deployed since February 2000. The Department of Education and Science has successfully moved from the "special class" model to the position where the educational needs of Traveller children are met in an integrated way, with the support of an RTT.
As an essential pre-requisite for successful integrated education, realistic grants should be made towards cost of transport, books, uniforms, and material expenses.	FR.56	<p>The enhanced capitation grant in primary and post primary schools has made a significant impact on the provision of text books for Traveller children. It has helped to promote an integrated education for Traveller children. The Department of Education and Science makes funding available to principal teachers to assist with the cost of school textbooks for needy pupils. In relation to school transport, the Department of Education and Science facilitates Traveller children whenever possible, with free transport on existing school transport services. This means that in some instances, free transport is sanctioned for children who would not ordinarily qualify under the terms of the School Transport Scheme, either because they are attending a school other than the nearest, or on distance grounds, (i.e. less than 2 or 3 miles as appropriate). Each case must be treated on its merits, and additional cost involved must also be considered. Special transport arrangements are made in some cases, e.g. by car, where no other facility can be provided, and where this can be achieved within reasonable cost parameters. Bus Éireann, who operate the Scheme on behalf of the Department, are obliged to do so in the most cost-effective manner. The Department also grant-aids transport costs for approved transport services operated solely for Traveller children. Under this arrangement the Department provides 98% grant-aid towards the cost of approved special transport services operated to cater solely for primary school going-age Traveller children. The level of grant aid provided is currently under review. Such services are organised and managed by local voluntary bodies such as St. Vincent De Paul, Traveller Support Groups etc. and cater for Traveller children attending special schools, pre-schools and national schools.</p> <p>The Health Boards administer the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme on behalf of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. The scheme provides additional payments to assist in meeting the extra costs that arise at the start of each school year. The scheme is available to all families, including Traveller families, who are recipients of social welfare and health board payments and</p>

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		<p>who satisfy a means test. The allowance is payable in respect of each qualified child. There is also provision for a Health Board to make an additional single payment to meet an exceptional need to a person getting a social welfare or health board payment.</p> <p>A Working Group has recently commenced a review of the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme as part of this Department's series of Programme Expenditure evaluations. The review will examine all aspects of the scheme including the current income limits, the means test and the cost of sending a child to school and the adequacy of the existing rates in payment. The Report of this Working Group is expected to be finalised by late 2000 and the Working Group have already consulted with the voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>The rates of Allowance under the scheme have been increased by £20 from £43 to £63 for children aged 2 to 11 years and from £58 to £78 for children aged 12 to 22 years from June 2000.</p> <p>The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness includes the following commitment: "In order to address barriers to participation, progress will be made in improving the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance with respect to tapering, rate of allowance and income thresholds...."</p>
The higher rate of capitation grant should be paid in respect of all Traveller children enrolled in national schools regardless of the type of educational provision being made for them.	FR.57	At present schools with a Resource Teacher for Travellers (RTT) receive an enhanced capitation grant. However, when a Traveller pupil is enrolled after 30 September, an enhanced capitation grant may be sought, if the pupil was not enrolled in any other school before 30 September.
In recognising the transient lifestyle of many nomadic Traveller families, the Department of Education should ensure that flexible arrangements are in place to enable schools to receive additional capitation funding in respect of Traveller children who are enrolled after September 30.	FR.58	Flexible arrangements are in place in schools with RTTs.

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On the first appointment of special class or Traveller resource teachers, once off grants should be paid to the schools concerned to cover the purchase of items such as books, equipment and art materials.	FR.59	It is not the policy of the Department of Education and Science to set up special classes. A start-up grant of £500 is payable on the first appointment of a Resource Teacher for Travellers.
In order to address the problems faced by those Traveller children who change schools because of the nomadic way of life of their families, a Traveller book exchange system needs to be put in place and resources also need to be provided to primary schools to enable them to purchase new text books for these children. Every effort should be made to ensure that such children are fully integrated in their new schools as quickly as possible.	FR.60	The Department of Education and Science through its grant scheme helps schools to purchase school textbooks for needy pupils. It also offers increased levels of grant assistance to those schools that operate loan/rental schemes. In effect, this allows schools to purchase textbooks, which they loan to pupils during the school year. In addition, the enhanced capitation grant for Travellers is being used to help the transient pupils to acquire books. This no longer presents problems in schools that get an enhanced capitation grant.
The Department of Education has issued a copy of its document "The Education of Traveller Children in National Schools - Guidelines" to all primary level schools. The Task Force recommends that the Department should now issue a Circular: (i) instructing teachers to implement their provisions in day to day teaching practice; (ii) clearly stating that, as a matter of policy, Boards of Management are obliged to guarantee similar rights of enrolment to Traveller children as those which apply to children of the 'Settled' community.	FR.61	The Department of Education and Science does not understand the requirement for a circular, restating the Guidelines. The Department points out that schools are required to comply with the Rules for National Schools and with the policy on Traveller education as set out in the Guidelines issued in 1994. — Guidelines on school planning were sent out. — The Guidelines on Traveller Education will be reviewed. — Inspectors will be briefed again on Traveller education policy.
The school timetable (both daily arrival and departure times) should be the same for all children including those of Traveller families.	FR.62	The Department of Education and Science agrees with this recommendation.

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The pupil teacher ratio in special schools - except where additional special needs justify a lower ratio - should immediately be set at that applying to special classes.	FR.63	The pupil teacher ratio (PTR) for the appointment of an RTT in mainstream primary schools is 14:1. That is the PTR recommended by the Special Education Review Committee. However, in practice, an RTT can be appointed if a lesser number of Traveller children require support, i.e. 9 or more.
Except in special circumstances, integration of Traveller children at primary level should be mandatory within an intercultural and anti-racist framework. This would enhance participation and educational achievement and would contribute to greater access to second level education.	FR.64	The policy of the Department of Education and Science is that Traveller children be fully integrated in mainstream classes whenever possible. There are 400 Resource Teachers for Travellers (RTT) now deployed in primary schools to support the education of Traveller children. Very few of these operate on the special class basis and the Department is doing everything possible to ensure that "special class" provision is discontinued. This policy is outlined in the "Guidelines" published by the Department of Education and Science in 1994.
It is recommended that a regular review be carried out of Traveller children in special classes to ensure that their educational needs are being met and that they are not retained in such classes if they are ready for integration into mainstream classes. This review should be carried out by the school principal and class teachers in consultation with the parents and the visiting teacher.	FR.65	Special classes are not policy of the Department of Education and Science. However, in certain circumstances where such classes exist, they are subject to ongoing review by the Inspectorate, Visiting Teacher, School Management and Parents.
Where problems in relation to individual Traveller children are identified, initial education provision for those children should take account of reports from pre-schools, psychological assessments, where carried out, and recommendations from the visiting teachers and parents.	FR.66	The Department of Education and Science has agreed to implement this recommendation.

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Only in cases of special educational need which have been identified in consultation with the visiting teachers or parents, should there be a requirement for provision in special classes. Even in such cases, placement should be regarded as temporary and subject to review by the Department of Education Inspectorate on an annual basis. The objective should be to have all Traveller children integrated by sixth standard so as to facilitate their progression to second-level.	FR.67	It is not the policy of the Department of Education and Science to have special classes.
Special classes for Traveller children should be seen as a transitional resource in the process towards integration. Cultural, social, emotional and academic support should be offered to Traveller children on a withdrawal basis where necessary.	FR.68	It is not the policy of the Department of Education and Science to have special classes.
The assessment of a child's attainment level, particularly that relating to language competency, should be based on tests which are clear of cultural bias.	FR.69	The Department of Education and Science agrees with this recommendation and has set up a working party to look at this matter.
Traveller children, on enrolment, should be assigned to the classes which more closely relate to their chronological age irrespective of the short term provision being made for them within the school. Due regard should be taken, however, of the level of attainment and educational disadvantage of the children. While special provision should be made for such children in the circumstances outlined previously, and for the main core subjects (for	FR.70	The Department of Education and Science agrees with this recommendation and had taken action on it.

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example Maths and English), Traveller children should be fully integrated with other children for school activities such as sport.		
Only in exceptional circumstances should Traveller children be retained in primary school after their twelfth/thirteenth year.	FR.71	The Visiting Teacher Service, which is now a nation-wide service is working with both primary and post-primary schools on this issue. The introduction of supports at post-primary level in 1998, to schools that enrol Traveller pupils will also assist with age-appropriate transfer of Traveller pupils.
The pupil/teacher ratio in special classes for Travellers or, for the appointment of Traveller resource teachers, should be reduced from its current level of 15:1 to 10:1.	FR.72	As stated earlier special classes are not acceptable to the Department of Education and Science. The pupil teacher ratio is 14:1 at present. The Department of Education and Science states that it is flexible on this.
Special Additional Assistants who are appointed to work with Travellers in schools, should be designated Traveller resource teachers.	FR.73	The Department of Education and Science agrees and has taken action on this recommendation. Such teachers are now called Resource Teachers for Travellers (RTTs) and there are currently in excess of 400 in place.
All schools should plan a programme of action designed to ensure that Traveller and 'Settled' pupils are integrated.	FR.74	The Department of Education and Science agrees and has made some progress in this area.
The Task Force supports the recommendation of the Special Education Review Committee that: <i>"Schools should adopt an inclusive, intercultural approach to curriculum development so as to ensure that their School Plan, class programmes and teaching materials reflect a positive attitude towards the special customs, traditions and lifestyle of minority groups, including the children of Travellers."</i> The Department of Education, on consultation with the National Council for Curriculum Assessment, should ensure that Travellers and their lifestyle are reflected in an integrated way in all aspects of the primary	FR.75	This issue will be referred by the Department of Education and Science to the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education for consideration. The Advisory Committee will take the issue up with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.

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level curriculum. The way of life and culture of Travellers and other minorities should be reflected in materials in an intercultural way.		
Flexible structures and curriculum options should be explored in the curriculum for all pupils, Travellers should be included as a group with a distinct culture within and integral to Irish society. Resources and materials needed to implement an intercultural, anti-racist curriculum (which include Travellers) should be developed for all children.	FR.76	As with FR75 the issue will be referred to the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education.
The Department of Education should commission the NCCA to ensure that in developing the primary curriculum, Travellers are explicitly targeted. This is particularly important in designing "Education for Life" and equality measures.	FR.77	As with FR75 the issue will be referred to the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education.
Training for all primary level teachers and allied professionals such as speech therapists, psychologists and welfare staff should be informed by and transmit intercultural and anti-racist principles and practice, and should present Travellers as a group with a distinct culture. Teacher Training Colleges should also include modules on Traveller issues in their core curriculum and further training should be provided for those who have responsibility for the education of Travellers.	FR.78	This recommendation was brought to the attention of the colleges of education in 1997 and more recently to the Primary Teacher Training Review Group.

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As earlier recommended in this Report, the Department of Education should provide a comprehensive teacher in-service programme on Traveller education for all teachers. The Task Force supports the recommendation of the Special Education Review Committee that: <i>"to raise the level of awareness among teachers of the attitudes, values, customs and lifestyle of minority groups, including Travellers, both pre-service and in-service teacher training courses should incorporate modules on intercultural education"</i> .	FR.79	The In-Career Development Unit of the Department of Education and Science supports in-service programmes for Traveller Education. Seminars are organised by the Visiting Teacher Service under the direction of the National Education Officer for Travellers. Inservice education is in line with the recommendation made.
Based on teacher vigilance and the concerns of parents, any Traveller children who are experiencing learning difficulties should have access to a psychological service at primary level. A standard psychological test, appropriate to Traveller children, should be designed and used for this purpose.	FR.80	<p>The National Education Psychological Service was established in September, 1999 with responsibility for delivering a nation-wide psychological service to schools and other recognised centres of education. The Agency currently provides an educational psychological service to all second level schools and to more than 700 primary schools. It is planned to expand this service to all primary schools on a phased basis over the next five years.</p> <p>The Report of the Planning Group for a National Educational Psychological Service (September 1998) makes a number of specific references to the Traveller Community. The report states that "the needs of students from the Traveller community in all schools and centres should be given particular attention by a National Educational Psychological Service. The report also refers to the need for "psychologists to have, or develop, special skills and competencies and afford time for on-going supports" with reference to work with students of the Traveller community. The report includes the needs of Travellers in its estimate of the number of psychologists required. The report also states that "psychologists serving students from the Traveller community should have an understanding of their cultural background, traditions and customs as well as a knowledge and an appreciation of their special educational needs". The report refers to the need for the development of appropriate tests and related materials for use with Traveller students.</p> <p>A Management Committee, comprising of officials of the Department of Education and Science, Department of Health and Children and health boards has been established to prepare a plan for approval of the Minister for the development of the national Psychological Service development over the next five</p>

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		<p>years.</p> <p>A National Policy Advisory Board, representative of the partners in education and of the main client group of the National Psychological Service, has been established to advise the Minister for Education and Science on the policy, general principles and planning for an efficient and effective National Psychological Service.</p>
<p>Where required, Traveller children, including children from transient families, should have access to speech therapists.</p>	<p>FR.81</p>	<p>The view of the Department of Health and Children is that the various initiatives, arising from the recommendations of the Task Force or otherwise, being taken to improve access by Travellers to the full range of health services will improve access to speech therapy services.</p>
<p>The Task Force welcomes the sample "Family Record Card" and "School Record Card" contained in the Department of Education document "The Education of Traveller Children in National Schools - Guidelines". A comprehensive school record system needs to be developed in recognition of the nomadic lifestyle of Travellers. This record system should ensure the speedy transfer of information on individual pupil attainment between schools. Whenever a "School Record Card" is issued in respect of a Traveller child, a copy should be given to the child's parents.</p>	<p>FR.82</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Science states that no progress has been made in establishing a comprehensive school record system.</p>
<p>The school record card should be designed to enable the educational progress of children of transient families to be documented. A suitable network should be established to ensure that the transfer of information to schools on the</p>	<p>FR 83</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Science has not acted on this proposal. Schools play their part in relation to it. The Department of Education and Science is not in favour of setting up a data-base.</p>

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enrolment of pupils is carried out. In view of Traveller mobility across the border with Northern Ireland such a network should have a North/South dimension. A data base should be provided to in the proposed Traveller Education Service to facilitate the transfer of information between schools.		
Department of Education currently pay 98% of the running costs of approved special transport systems. Full transport costs including capital costs should be borne by the Department of Education.	FR.84	Consideration is currently being given by the Department of Education and Science to the payment of full running costs of special transport services. A decision in this regard is expected shortly.
Traveller children, who are fully integrated in mainstream schools, do not always have access to an appropriate school transport system. Traveller children, irrespective of whether they are placed in mainstream classes or in special classes, should have access to a school transport system, when necessary.	FR.85	Traveller children can avail of school transport services either by way of Traveller specific provision or on standard school transport services provided through Bus Éireann.
In relation to Primary education provision for Travellers in Special Education Centres (such as detention centres and centres for people with disabilities), the general recommendations in this report would also apply in relation to such issues as access, equipment, teachers training, intercultural education and literacy.	FR.86	Centres for Young Offenders and Special Schools operate at a reduced pupil teacher ratio and are resourced in terms of equipment, teaching training etc. by the Department of Education and Science.
All Travellers should have access to properly resourced homework projects. Where necessary, the Traveller resource teacher should play a role in organising these. The Department of Education should grant aid the provision of teachers for these homework projects.	FR.87	Supervised homework programmes are now in place in some schools. Some have been organised by the VTS and by Traveller support organisations. The Department of Education and Science is considering ways and means to improve this exercise. In December, 1999 the Minister announced his intention to introduce a radically new scheme to target the diverse range of educational disadvantage in primary schools. All schools will be considered for

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		<p>inclusion, but effective targeting on areas of greatest need will be implemented. This approach is intended to be flexible in terms of addressing the identified needs of individual schools, but participation in the scheme will be solely on the basis of published objective criteria. These will draw upon the extensive experience which has been developed through pilot projects. The supports will involve a mixture of additional teachers and resources. Priority will be given to the reduction of infant class sizes. Other supports may involve areas such as out of school activities, classroom resources, administrative assistance and community outreach.</p> <p>Over £25 million will be made available to this initiative in the next three years.</p>
<p>The Task Force considered the Report of the Department of Education Working Group on Post-Primary Education for Traveller Children (1992), and endorses the implementation of the following recommendations from that Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>14.2 There should be continuous evaluation of the provision being made for Traveller children at primary level.</i> • <i>14.3 The Visiting Teacher Service for Traveller children should be extended to the post-primary sector.</i> • <i>14.5 The making of arrangements for the transfer of Traveller children to post-primary schools should be commenced at the beginning of the school year in which they are due to finish their primary education.</i> • <i>14.9 Schools should exercise a particular sensitivity in relation to the use of standardised tests for Traveller children.</i> • <i>14.11 The receiving post-primary school should make a special effort to acknowledge and respect the Travellers' distinctive culture and identity.</i> • <i>14.13 Traveller children should be</i> 	FR.88	<p>Provision for Traveller pupils at primary level is kept under regular review by the Inspectorate, the Visiting Teacher Service, the National Education Officer for Travellers and the Special Education Section of the Department.</p> <p>The Visiting Teacher Service, which currently has 30 posts, covers both primary and post-primary sectors.</p> <p>The Visiting Teacher Service, resource teacher for Travellers generally liaise with post primary school management with regard to transfer of Traveller pupils to post-primary.</p> <p>Education Services, the question of standardised tests and their suitability for Traveller pupils will be considered by the National Education Psychological Service.</p> <p>A policy of integration of Traveller pupils is in place at post-primary level, with the school receiving additional teaching hours and capitation to support the Traveller pupils.</p> <p>The Junior Certificate Elementary Programme is now available for pupils that may not be in a position to sit Junior Cert.</p> <p>The Incareer-Development Unit of the Department supports in-service programmes for Traveller Education.</p> <p>A committee representative of Department of Education and Science officials involved in Traveller Education and Department of Education Northern Ireland, meet on a regular basis to exchange information and experiences in relation to Traveller education. The National Education Officer for</p>

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<p><i>integrated with the remainder of the pupils in so far as this is possible.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>14.25 The question of certification and assessment for pupils who would not attempt or achieve success in the Junior Certificate Examination should be referred to the Assessment Committee of the NCCA.</i> • <i>14.27 Teachers directly involved with Traveller children will require an extensive programme of in-service education. All practicing teachers should be provided with in-service training relating to the general area of Traveller education.</i> • <i>14.28 Co-operation with the United Kingdom on Traveller education should be pursued in certain specified areas.</i> • <i>14.32 A formal system of co-ordination between the different sections of the Department dealing with Travellers should be set up."</i> <p>The Task Force has varying degrees of disagreement with the other recommendations in the 1992 Working Group Report chiefly for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In several recommendations there appears to be an assumption that every Traveller student has remedial needs. The Task Force is aware of the harm which can result from personnel in the education services having low expectations of Traveller children. • Some of the recommendations, and points made in the body of the Report, might result in a segregationist policy towards 		<p>Travellers and members of the Visiting Teacher Service have also established links with their counterparts in Northern Ireland and the U.K.</p> <p>The Department's Co-ordinating Committee on Traveller Education, which was set up in 1996, is representative of all areas of the Department involved in the delivery of Traveller education.</p>

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<p>Travellers. Travellers in general, abhor the experience and the negative results of segregationist policies in former and in some current, primary school provision for Travellers. Care must be taken not to repeat these at second level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some recommendations, especially those relating to the curriculum, fail in some instances to note that the measures proposed should be culturally appropriate or, in other instances, to acknowledge the importance of adopting an intercultural approach. The Task Force has endeavoured to incorporate what it considered valuable in these recommendations in its own recommendations. 		
<p>At the beginning of the final year in primary schools arrangements for the transfer of Traveller children to second level schools should commence. It is recommended that the VTS should meet with the pupils themselves, have discussions with their parents over a significant length of time and create links between Travellers and postprimary schools and between national and post primary schools.</p>	FR 89	<p>The Visiting Teacher Service has always done this.</p>
<p>Through a comprehensive intercultural approach, the school ethos, curriculum and teaching materials should reflect respect for cultural difference, particularly those cultures relevant to the pupils, including Traveller culture, and enable students to appreciate the richness of cultural diversity.</p>	FR 90	<p>The School Planning initiative and the facilitation programme for the Revised Primary Curriculum (RPC) are in place. Other ideas would be welcomed by the Department of Education and Science.</p>

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Second-level schools should draw up a School Plan which should include a policy on Traveller education and measures to overcome prejudice. The Department of Education should facilitate this process by issuing guidelines on the preparation of the School Plan. The formulation, implementation and review of the Plan should be the responsibility of the school principal on behalf of the Board of Management. The day-to-day implementation of the plan in relation to Travellers should be the responsibility of the resource teacher, where such a post has been allocated. (see FR.92 below).	FR 91	Guidelines have been issued by the Department of Education and Science.
As a matter of urgency, the Department of Education should allocate ex-quota resource teachers to second-level schools which enrol Travellers. Where the number of Travellers enrolled in a group of neighbouring schools is sufficient to justify the allocation of a resource teacher, a resource teacher should be shared between those schools. A pupil teacher ratio of 8:1 is suggested.	FR.92	The Department of Education and Science has agreed to approve 1.5 teaching hours per week per Traveller student enrolled in all second-level schools. This initiative is designed to increase the participation rate of Traveller students in mainstream second-level schools and it is already evident that this strategy is having a positive impact on Traveller enrolments. The allocation of 1.5 hours equates to a pupil teacher ration of 14:1 as is the case at primary level.
The resource teacher for Travellers should be responsible for facilitating the full social and educational integration of Traveller pupils into the school system.	FR.93	Guidelines on all aspects of Traveller education at post primary level are being drafted and it is expected that these will issue to all second-level school in the near future.

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The resource teacher for Travellers in liaison with the Visiting Teacher Service should advise the teaching staff on Traveller resource materials relevant to the curriculum and on in-service courses on Traveller education.	FR.94	Guidelines on all aspects of Traveller education at post primary level are being drafted and it is expected that these will issue to all second-level schools in the near future.
All Travellers do not share the same education needs and, while special provisions may be required to meet the varied education needs, access to mainstream provision must be regarded as the norm for Travellers. Traveller pupils must not be segregated.	FR. 95	It is the policy of the Department of Education and Science not to segregate Traveller children.
Traveller children should not be stereotyped as low academic achievers. Only when special education needs have been identified should more information than is normal be transferred from primary to second-level schools in the case of individual Travellers. Schools should exercise particular caution in the use for Traveller children of tests of intellectual functioning which have not been refined to take account of the specific culture of Travellers.	FR. 96	The needs of Traveller pupils, taking into account their cultural background, traditions and customs, the development of appropriate tests and materials for use with Traveller pupils are expected to be considered by the National Psychological Service which was established in September, 1999.
All Travellers should have access to properly resourced homework projects. Where necessary, the Traveller resource teacher should play a role in organising these. The Department of Education should grant aid the provision of teachers for these homework projects.	FR.97	<p>Supervised homework programmes are now in place in some schools. Some have been organised by the Visiting Teacher Service and by Traveller support organisations. The Department of Education and Science is considering ways and means to improve this exercise.</p> <p>In December, 1999 the Minister for Education and Science announced his intention to introduce a radically new scheme to target the diverse range of educational disadvantage in primary schools. All schools will be considered for inclusion, but effective targeting on areas of greatest need will be implemented. This approach is intended to be flexible in terms of addressing the identified needs of individual schools, but participation in the scheme will be solely on the basis of published objective criteria. These will draw upon the extensive experience which has been developed through pilot projects.</p>

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		<p>The supports will involve a mixture of additional teachers and resources. Priority will be given to the reduction of infant class sizes. Other supports may involve areas such as out of school activities, classroom resources, administrative assistance and community outreach.</p> <p>Over £25 million will be made available to this initiative in the next three years.</p>
The Department of Education should publish guidelines on second-level education for Travellers based on the principles set out in this Report.	FR98	Guidelines on all aspects of Traveller education at post primary level are being drafted and it is expected that these will issue to all second-level schools in the near future.
In relation to second-level education provision for Travellers in Special Education Centres, the general recommendations in this section should apply in relation to such issues as access, equipment, teacher training, intercultural education and literacy. Many Traveller children suffer from the same financial difficulties as children from disadvantaged backgrounds, but the degree of disadvantage while not insurmountable, is often greater due to the absence of a school-going network. A general example of possible costs to be faced by families at second level is included at Appendix F (I) of the Task Force's Report.	FR99	Centres for Young Offenders and Special Schools operate at a reduced pupil teacher ratio and are resourced in terms of equipment, teaching training etc. by the Department of Education and Science.
<p>In order to assist in reducing the financial burden imposed on Traveller families at second level, the Task Force recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child benefit levels should reflect and respond to times of particular financial difficulty in school life. • A realistic school clothing and footwear 	FR.100	<p>The Task Force recommended that the financial burden suffered by Traveller parents with children in second-level schools should be reduced by measures which include an appropriate adjustment in Child Benefit (CB) levels, grants for clothing, footwear and books and co-ordination of assistance to families. Child Benefit, which is provided by Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, is a universal scheme i.e. it is available to all families on the same basis. This universal payment to all families regardless of income has been substantially increased since 1995, yet during this time the Child Dependant Allowance (CDA), which most Traveller families (along with other families receiving social welfare payments) are dependent upon, has remained static. While the combined CDA/CB increase has</p>

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<p>grant and school books allowance be provided for Traveller pupils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater communication between School Principals, Community Welfare Officers and voluntary groups should take place in order to co-ordinate help for families with full respect for the privacy of these families.• Families should be fully informed of schooling costs and their rights fully explained to them.		<p>exceeded inflation, it has fallen behind the growth in incomes in the population generally. The PPF has committed to further substantial increases in Child Benefit to combat child poverty.</p> <p>The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Scheme, referred to earlier (see Chapter 3, Section F, Primary Education, Para 3.3 and Second-Level Education, Para 4.6 and FR. 56), is designed to meet specific school related expenses and substantial improvements to this scheme were announced in Budget 2000. There is also provision for Health Boards to make an additional single payment to meet an exceptional need to persons getting a social welfare or health board payment. In line with the commitment in PPF to improving the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Scheme, the current review (see Chapter 3, Section F, Primary Education, Para 3.3 and Second-Level Education, Para 4.6 and FR. 56), being undertaken by the Department, will examine all aspects of the scheme including the current income limits, the means test, the cost of sending a child to school and the adequacy of the existing rates of payment.</p> <p>The rates of Allowance under the scheme have been increased by £20 from £43 to £63 for children aged 2 to 11 years and from £58 to £78 for children aged 12 to 22 years from June 2000. Expenditure on the scheme was £5.6 million in 1990 and £13m has been provided for the scheme in the estimates for the year 2000.</p>
<p>The Department of Education should commission the NCCA to develop the Junior Certificate School Programme to cater for the needs of Travellers. In particular the civic, social, political, environmental education dimension of the Junior Cycle opens up new possibilities which should be availed of in the context of the preparation of young people for their roles as citizens.</p>	<p>FR.101</p>	<p>This issue will be raised with the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education. (see Chapter 3, Section F, Primary Education, Para 3.3 and Second-Level Education, Para 4.6 and FR. 56.)</p>

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<p>The Department of Education should commission the NCCA to develop the curriculum at Senior Cycle level in continuity and progression from the Junior Certificate in ways which are relevant and appropriate for Travellers.</p>	<p>FR.102</p>	<p>This issue will be raised with the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education.</p>
<p>The Task Force recommends that no further Junior Training Centres should be established, and that the existing JTC's, with the exception of those at primary level, should be taken over by the Vocational Education Committees on the basis of the agreement which the CEO's in the areas where these Centres are located have established with the Department of Education, regarding management structures, staffing, capital provision and non-pay and pay provision. (See Appendix F (2) in the Task Force's Report). These VEC's should be given responsibility for the ultimate phasing out of Junior Training Centres at the most appropriate speed. The speed of this transition will be determined by the successful application of the Task Force recommendations in relation to second level education. Capital costs associated with this transition period should be additional to the existing budget of the VEC's. Immediate measures should be taken by the VEC's to ensure improvement in the quality of the curriculum and of teaching where this may be required. The Traveller Education Service of the Department of Education should monitor the policy set out here for Junior Training Centres.</p>	<p>FR.103</p>	<p>There are presently 5 Junior Education Centres in place, under the management of VECs. Since 1995, the Junior Education Centre in Cork closed, and the teachers, who had gained valuable experience and expertise, were re-deployed under the VEC as support teachers for young Travellers in Cork city VEC schools. This has made a significant and positive difference to the participation and retention levels of Travellers in mainstream post primary schools in Cork.</p> <p>The Junior Education Centre in Ballinasloe is also closed and young Travellers are now attending mainstream schools with support in the town. Under primary management, St. Bridget's JEC/PS in Galway is closing in 2000 and arrangements for pupils and staff are at an advanced stage. There are 2 other Junior Education Centres under primary management. The current enrolment in JECs is approximately 120 young Travellers.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Science does not intend to establish any further Junior Education Centres. The phasing out of the centres will be kept under review in Department of Education and Science. It is considered that the support now available to post-primary schools, additional teaching hours and enhanced capitation, will assist with transition of Traveller pupils from primary education to post-primary schools, rather than to JECs.</p>

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This does not exempt other schools from improving their provision for Traveller education. All Travellers must have equality of access to all mainstream second level schools.	FR.104	The introduction of teaching support and enhanced capitation is now available to post-primary schools to assist with provision for Traveller pupils.
The resourcing of the Task Force policy for the improvement of mainstream second level education provision, particularly in relation to visiting teachers, resource teachers and the creation of an intercultural education environment for Traveller education, must be urgently addressed.	FR.105	The Visiting Teacher Service is now available to post-primary schools, as are additional capitation funding and resource teaching hours.
In view of the positive impact which the VTS has had in areas where visiting teachers have been appointed, it is recommended that the number of such teachers should be immediately increased by the Department of Education in line with the ratio of one visiting teacher to every one hundred Traveller families as proposed by the INTO in its Report entitled "Travellers in Education". Based on this ratio and subject to other factors influencing the allocation of visiting teachers being taken into account, such as: distances to be travelled, the number of schools involved, and the size of Traveller families in each area of a teacher's responsibility, it is recommended that the number of visiting teachers be increased to thirty-nine. We note the commitment of the Minister for Education to increase the size of the Visiting Teacher Service to thirty-two and, with due regard to the recommendations on the VTS contained in this Report, request that this be implemented as a matter of urgency.	FR.106	The number of Visiting Teachers was increased from 20 to 30 with effect from September, 1999 and to 40 from September, 2000. This will mean that the VT Service will be available in all areas of the country for the first time. The Minister for Education and Science has given a commitment to expand the service further during the lifetime of this Government, to the level recommended by the Task Force, i.e. 1 post per 100 Traveller families. The role of the Visiting Teacher Service has been expanded in recent years to include Traveller children of post-primary age.

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<p>Traveller families should have to deal with one visiting teacher only whether their children are attending primary or second-level schools. This would enable a bond of trust to develop as the basis for a good constructive working relationship between the visiting teacher and individual families. Accordingly, as proposed in Recommendation 14.3 of the Report of the Department of Education Working Group on Post Primary Education for Traveller Children it is recommended that the Visiting Teacher Service for Traveller pupils should be extended to the post-primary sector. Individual visiting teachers should be responsible for pupils of both primary and post-primary school age in their area and operate in an integrated service embracing both sectors. Qualified primary and second-level teachers should be eligible to apply for positions in the service and a suitable balance between teachers from both sectors should be maintained in recruitment to the VTS.</p>	FR.107	<p>Each Visiting Teacher operates on a county basis and has responsibility for the pupils, primary and post primary, of Traveller families in each area. The post of Visiting Teacher is open to both primary and post-primary qualified teachers, ten of the existing Visiting Teachers are post-primary qualified teachers</p>
<p>As indicated in recommendation FR.106 above, the resources allocated to each VTS area should reflect its geographical size, the total number of Traveller families and the number of schools in that area.</p>	FR.108	<p>The caseloads of the Visiting Teachers is kept under regular review. The Minister for Education and Science has given a commitment to expand the service further during the lifetime of this Government, to the level recommended by the Task Force, i.e. 1 post per 100 Traveller families.</p>

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Due to the isolated nature of the VTS, provision should also be made to enable the teachers concerned to meet, on a more regular basis, with the National Education Officer for Travellers, with VTS management and with the proposed Traveller Education Service in the Department of Education to discuss issues of common concern.	FR.109	The members of the Visiting Teacher Service meet regularly in cluster group meetings, with their management and with the National Education Officer for Travellers. Additionally, inservice is held on a regular basis for the Visiting Teachers.
In situations where large numbers of Traveller families move into a particular area, a visiting teacher, or an additional visiting teacher, should be appointed on a temporary basis without delay to arrange education provision and support for the children.	FR.110	The Visiting Teacher Service has now been expanded to cover all counties.
A number of 'supply' teachers should be appointed in order to provide substitute cover for all recognised absences of existing visiting teachers, such as sick leave and maternity leave. The pilot Supply Panel Project operating in a number of national schools in Ballymun/Finglas, North Mayo and Limerick City provides a useful model of substitute cover	FR.111	The Department of Education & Science makes suitable arrangements by appointing suitable Resource Teachers for Travellers to take the place of a Visiting Teacher who is on leave.
The managers of the Visiting Teacher Service should be given clear guidelines, which should be drawn up by the proposed Traveller Education Service, regarding the question of equal access for visiting teachers, including the responsibility and authority to ensure that such guidelines are being implemented. This should apply at both primary and post-primary levels with a suitable mechanism being put in place to ensure that any problems are resolved with particular reference to difficulties arising in the	FR.112	This recommendation has been implemented by the Department of Education and Science.

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area of cross-sector (primary and second-level) access by visiting teachers.		
The Task Force endorses the role of the Visiting Teacher Service as set out in the Department of Education Guidelines entitled "The Education of Traveller Children in National Schools." The Task Force, however, recommends that the current Visiting Teacher Service should be expanded into an education service which can meet, in a co-ordinated way, all the education needs of Traveller families in any given area. Central to the visiting teachers' role should be ensuring that each school catchment area has an explicit policy and mechanism formulated to ensure that all schools in the catchment make provision for the special educational needs of Travellers, and seek to accommodate them. As recommended in 'Issues of Concern to All Education Sectors' elsewhere in the Task Force's Report, the role of the Visiting Teacher Service should not be seen as a substitute for parental involvement in the education of their children.	FR.113	All schools must now state in the School Plan their proposals for the education of Traveller pupils. The Visiting Teacher Service actively supports and encourages direct contact between Traveller parents and teachers/school.
The visiting teacher in co-operation with the parents should ensure that Traveller children are enrolled in adequate time to commence their second-level education in the school of their choice.	FR.114	The Visiting Teacher Service is making great efforts to ensure that Traveller children transfer at an appropriate age to post-primary schools. The number of Traveller children transferring to mainstream second-level school is showing a steady increase. It is estimated that almost 960 Traveller children are currently enrolled in second-level schools and that over 400 of these are in 1st Year.
In the case of Traveller children who are perceived to be apprehensive about entry to a second-level school, the visiting teacher should ensure that appropriate measures are implemented to facilitate the successful transfer of these children to second level education. This process requires identification of the	FR.115	The Visiting Teacher Service is making great efforts to ensure successful transfer of Traveller pupils to post primary. This includes making schools aware of supports available to assist with the enrolment of Traveller pupils at post-primary level. In October, 1999, a national conference attended by school staff, visiting teachers, Travellers & administrators, "Moving On", focused on transfer of Traveller pupils to post primary.

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inhibiting factors and development of measures to overcome these in consultation with the children concerned, their parents and the relevant teachers in primary and second-level schools.		
The Task Force recommends that appropriate measures be put in place to ensure that teachers in the Visiting Teacher Service do not suffer from 'burnout'.	FR.116	The Department of Education and Science is not quite clear on what is proposed here. The Department states that a small number of Visiting Teachers have availed of job sharing and career breaks. The Visiting Teachers can avail of the Teachers' Welfare Scheme and any supports generally available to teacher who experience work related stress.
In the long-term, it is essential that more Travellers progress through the mainstream system and gain access to third level education in the normal way. In the short term, it is possible for more Travellers to benefit from third level education. Universities and other third level and post second level institutes should be encouraged to take positive action in this regard.	FR.117	The increase in funding for greater access to third level for students from disadvantaged sectors will allow for projects, including those for Travellers to be submitted and considered further.
The Department of Education should encourage Traveller participation in third level education by targeting Travellers through the Higher Education Grants Scheme and by ensuring that grants are adequate to cover the costs involved.	FR.118	
A national trust should be established, with Government support and private sector sponsorship, to facilitate and encourage Travellers to avail of third level education.	FR.119	
The Traveller Education Service should identify where Travellers have gained access to and successfully completed third level courses in	FR.120	

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order to derive lessons for the future.		
The importance of adult education should be reflected in the status attributed to adult education within the whole system and in the allocation of resources. The Traveller Education Service should examine current adult education provision in order to ensure that it addresses inequality issues and has the capacity to address the educational needs of Travellers.	FR.121	<p>Increasing recognition of the importance of adult education in promoting social inclusion, competitiveness and employment, and in addressing inter-generational poverty is reflected in the appointment for the first time of a Minister of State responsible for adult education in 1997, and in publication of the White Paper on Adult Education in July, 2000.</p> <p>Provision for significantly increased resources has been made for the sector in the context of the National Development Plan 2000-2006. Within this framework an Equality Initiative has been provided for, which will build on experience under the Women's Education Initiative, but widen the process to include other marginalised groups, including Travellers. Funding has also been provided for the development of a computerised management system to facilitate the tracking of specific groups within the further education sector and enable progress in this area to be benchmarked and monitored. Work in this area will be further progressed in the context of proposals in the White Paper.</p>
The values and ideals associated with progressive forms of adult education should be cultivated and the richness of the varied provision should be encouraged. There is need for long-term planning and greater co-operation between statutory and voluntary sectors in order to arrive at a more coherent national policy and a statement of practice on adult education. Such a policy should draw on the experience and insights of Traveller organisations involved in the provision of adult education.	FR.122	<p>The structures proposed under the White Paper on Adult Education envisage participation of a wide range of statutory, community and voluntary sector interests in both the National Adult Learning Council and Local Adult Learning Boards, as well as the establishment of a practitioners forum to provide for cross fertilisation of expertise and provider input into policy development.</p> <p>The Senior Traveller Training Centres cater for the needs of Travellers by offering a secure and supportive environment where the Traveller culture is valued and self-esteem is promoted, and a trainee-centred approach encouraged. The centres have played an important role in contributing significantly to the development of local leadership, to consciousness raising among Travellers, to the encouragement of Traveller enterprise, to the provision of resources and information on Traveller issues and to the encouragement of participants to keep their children in school. The Department of Education and Science and FÁS participated with Pavee Point and the Irish Traveller Movement in a review of the future direction of the Senior Traveller Training centres.</p>
There is a need to tackle the many disincentives and barriers which prevent Travellers from participating in adult education. A pro-active approach is needed and adequate information and guidance should be designed for and targeted at Travellers. Entry requirements and	FR.123	<p>The Green Paper on Adult Education stresses the philosophy that the evolution of adult education services should be underpinned by principles of equality, including the "removal of entry criteria which impose barriers for particular groups – particularly women, lone parents, Travellers, those with disabilities, those with literacy needs, ...etc."</p> <p>New initiatives were agreed in 1998 arising from the mid-term review of Structural Funds under which a major expansion of places in the Youthreach and Traveller Training centres was implemented. A new</p>

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<p>structures should be sufficiently flexible to facilitate access and there is a need for resources to cover materials and expenses as well as child care facilities.</p>		<p>measure for counselling, guidance and psychological services for participants on these programmes was also put in place. This provides for an outlay of £728,000 per annum and provides for actions based on a spectrum of priority needs identified locally which include : initial orientation/gateway; vocational information/guidance; advocacy/mentoring on progression etc; front line counselling; an expert counsellor; an educational psychologist; or where necessary referral to a clinical psychologist; and psychiatric help.</p> <p>In addition, a childcare measure was implemented for the first time in 1998 for Youthreach, VTOS and Traveller Programmes. The budget for this is now £2.3m annually.</p> <p>National certification has been developed by the National Council for Vocational Awards for the further education sector which provides for accumulation of credits on a modular basis towards the achievement of full awards, and which now provides a continuous progression route from Foundation Level, for young people and adults who left school with no qualifications, through to Level 2 PLC courses and from there to third level.</p> <p>In addition, the adult literacy service has been expanded significantly (from £0.85m in 1997 to £7.825m at present) and will increase further in the period ahead. The phased development of an adult educational guidance service has also begun.</p> <p>A new Back to Education Initiative will provide increased flexibility for adults to return to education, especially those with less than upper second level education, through the development of part time options under Youthreach, VTOS, PLCs and Senior Traveller Training Centre programmes.</p>
<p>As well as making adult education courses more accessible for Travellers there is also a need to resource courses specifically designed for and targeted at adult Travellers in order to address their education needs. Such resourcing should also be transparent so as to clearly benefit adult Travellers.</p>	<p>FR.124</p>	<p>The Senior Traveller Training Centres are targeted specifically to meet the needs of Travellers and, as part of the expansion of adult literacy services, specific arrangements have been made for Traveller groups. Further opportunities will arise under the Back to Education Initiative (£1.027bn from 2000-2006) and the Equality Initiative in the Further Education Section set out in the National Development Plan. The need is recognised for both Traveller specific programmes and to increase integration into mainstream programmes. The development of a computerised management system for the further education sector will help to monitor progress in this area.</p>

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<p>Accreditation of adult education courses, including prior learning, should be given careful consideration so that established accrediting bodies are involved and progression is possible, but also to ensure that educational credentials do not become another obstacle to Traveller involvement.</p>	<p>FR.125</p>	<p>It is an objective to encourage progression to employment or further levels of training to the maximum extent possible. Policy in pursuit of this objective is focused on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the implementation of Level 1 certification by the NCVA in 1999 on a national basis. This now provides for a continued pathway from Foundation level through to degree level via Foundation, Level 1, Level 2/PLC, Institute of Technology (IOT) courses and university courses. — The promotion of access to a range of options within FÁS and the education sector e.g. Linked Work Experience, Level 1 training, Specific Skills Training, Community Employment where eligible, VTOS, progression options within the Traveller Training Centres and re-entry to mainstream education. — Opportunities to pursue programmes such as the Leaving Certificate Applied, in Traveller Centres or in school while retaining an allowance. — An increased focus on the networking of out of school centres with the mainstream system which encourage the centres to act as brokers and mentors to facilitate a return to school. The initiatives under the Guidance and Counselling measure, the bridging measure and the Advocate programme will complement this work. — Enhance quality assurance in the networks through the ongoing training of trainers actions, the networking of centres and the dissemination of good practice and learning from new developments. <p>The development of a national qualifications framework will be progressed through the establishment of a National Qualifications Authority and the establishment of Further and Higher Education and Training Awards Councils, as provided for under the Education and Training (Qualifications) Act 1999. This will provide a single framework for the accreditation of all non-university vocational education and training at further and higher levels, the development of formal progression pathways, mechanisms for the accumulation of credits towards awards, and for the accreditation of prior and work placed learning.</p>
<p>Illiteracy is still a major issue in the adult Traveller population and a key factor contributing to their social exclusion. The</p>	<p>FR.126</p>	<p>In 1997 an OECD report highlighted the fact that 25% of <u>all</u> Irish adults have literacy problems. Expenditure on literacy has increased significantly in recent years, from a base of £0.85m in 1997 to £7.825m this year. A £73.8m programme has been provided for within the National Development Plan.</p>

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<p>Department of Education and the VEC's should allocate more resources and personnel to tackle this issue in a comprehensive way and to build on the existing initiatives of voluntary organisations. Special literacy programmes for Travellers should be developed by each VEC with full-time organisers to enable Travellers to access existing literacy schemes. Courses should be specifically designed for Travellers and should include one-to-one as well as group tuition as provided under the Adult Literacy and Community Education Scheme.</p>		<p>A number of literacy programmes specifically for Travellers have been put in place, and these will be expanded further in the period ahead. In addition, the Back to Education Initiative will enable people to progress from literacy to certified learning options on a part time basis.</p> <p>The adult literacy service provided by the VECs provides for participants to be matched with unpaid volunteer tutors on a one to one basis, and to progress from there to paid group tuition. The service is free and confidential.</p> <p>The Senior Traveller Training Centre programmes place a strong emphasis on the development of literacy, numeracy and communications skills, personal development and lifeskills, and a range of vocational options.</p>
<p>As indicated in 'Issues of Concern to All Education Sectors' contained in the Task Force's Report, the involvement of Traveller parents in the education of their children is essential for progress. Specific education should be available for Traveller parents to enable them to provide the best support for their children. In this regard, the Task Force endorses the recommendation of the Department of Education Working Group on Post-Primary Education for Traveller Children which states:</p> <p><i>"The Adult Education Section of the Department distributes about £1,000,000 each year to Vocational Education Committees for Adult Literacy and Community Education. Sports Section distributes £225,000 per year to Vocational Education Committees under the Special Projects for the Less Advantaged Grant Scheme. We recommend that, in the local allocation of these funds, VEC's give top priority to the financing of courses/activities</i></p>	FR 127	<p>See also FR. 126. Since the changeover of responsibility of the network of Senior Traveller Training Centres from FÁS to Education in April 1998, the number of places provided has increased from 550 to 740. There is no upper age limit in the centres, and in order to encourage parent participation, childcare measure has been provided. The Back to Education Initiative will provide for further expansion on a part-time basis across Youthreach, VTOS, PLC and STTC programmes.</p> <p>The adult literacy service has also expanded, and has provided for the specific Traveller programmes. VECs are being encouraged to implement family literacy programmes also as part of the approach. Referral networks have also been established linking the literacy service with a range of statutory, community and voluntary services in local areas.</p>

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<p><i>aimed at Traveller parents. The objective of these courses/activities would be to facilitate Traveller parents in appreciating the benefits of education for their children and to encourage them to give full support to their children's attendance at school up to the compulsory school leaving age and beyond".</i></p>		
<p>The Task Force welcomes the commitment in the Green Paper on Education to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a comprehensive integrated youth work service across the country; • target resources for disadvantaged people; • improve mechanisms for grant-aiding; • agree mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating youth work; • identify criteria of excellence. It is important, however, that Traveller youth are given explicit mention in youth service provision and not just assume that the "disadvantaged" category will automatically ensure that the needs of Travellers are adequately and appropriately addressed. This means explicit targeting of resources for appropriate Traveller projects, and appropriate inclusion of Travellers. It also involves clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. 	FR.128	<p>The Task Force welcomes the commitment in the Youth Work Act, 1997 to a policy statement contained in this section and the Youth Section of the Department of Education and Science endorses the sentiments as listed. The desirability of having personnel working with Travellers elected as members of Voluntary Youth Councils is seen to best serve the needs and requirements of young Travellers. The VECs are charged with giving direction to ensure that Traveller needs are met on these Councils. The proposed appointment of an assessor to provide assessment, a monitoring and evaluation service is seen as a mechanism whereby a more efficient improved service provision will result. A local scheme to financially grant-aid the voluntary and local club schemes was brought in in 1999. It is intended to expand on this scheme in 2000. Youth Affairs Section funds the Maynooth Diploma Course to an extent of £30,000 annually. In 1999, an additional £20,000 was given as a once-off payment. A similar course to the Maynooth course is in it's second year of a three year course in the Kilkenny region.</p>
<p>The Department of Education should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that youth work with Travellers is based on an analysis of the needs of Travellers. In order to achieve this the Department should commission a review of existing provision, identify gaps in the service, and formulate guidelines for policy 	FR129	<p>An interim Committee for Traveller Youth Service established in 1998 under a NATC (National Association of Traveller Centres) chairperson is currently drawing up a report to outline gaps in the current provision for Traveller youth work. This report will review existing provision, identify gaps in service and formulate guidelines for policy and standardisation of support services. The report is reviewing national and international youth Traveller best practice and taking Traveller culture into account.</p>

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<p>and standardisation of support services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• promote the development of a clearer understanding of youth work with Travellers based on a set of values and principles which have been identified as pre-requisites for good practice;• ensure that youth work projects should be required to operate from within a written Code of Practice which reflects the principles and values of youth work including respect for Traveller identity and a recognition of the special needs of Travellers. Organisations involved in the delivery of youth services to Travellers should be funded on the basis of their capacity to deliver a good quality service in accordance with the process and values outlined in this section.		<p>Youth Worker qualifications is not a matter for Department of Education and Science. It is the responsibility of the Youth Organisation/Associations employing youth workers.</p>
<p>The Department of Education should consolidate youth work practice by providing grants for a three year period, subject to fulfillment of annual contractual requirements including evidence of satisfactory progress and financial accountability. Funding should be provided to cover salaries of youth workers and programme activities. Under the present system it is very difficult or impossible for voluntary organisations to pay wage increases because insurance premiums and programme funding have to be taken from the same grant allocation.</p>	<p>FR.130</p>	<p>Department of Education and Science states while multi-annual budgets have been the norm for the past number of years, Youth Affairs Section – like all other Government Departments - have not had the facility to guarantee forward grant-schemes on a 3 year basis. In addition, as Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science receives its revenue from National Lottery funding, grants are paid on incurred expenditure only as required by one of the conditions attached to the National Lottery funding mechanism.</p> <p>The White Paper on a Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity and for Developing the Relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary sector was launched by the Government in September, 2000. The White Paper provides for multi-annual funding commitments, in appropriate cases, to be made available by all funding agencies to organisations providing services or undertaking development activities that are agreed to be priorities, with the budget for each specific year to which the agreement applies to be reviewed in the light of the resources available and taking into account the legal position that the Dáil votes public monies on an annual basis.</p> <p>Multi-annual funding will be put in place as soon as possible. The White Paper makes a commitment</p>

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		that relevant voluntary organisations and community groups will be involved in the decision making process at the level of each Department and Agency about which services and activities should be regarded as 'priority' areas and put on a multi-annual funding footing.
The European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, intolerance and anti-Semitism organised by the Council of Europe, the UNESCO International Year of Tolerance, and the EU Year of Racial Harmony make 1995 an opportune year for ensuring that youth work addresses the issue of discrimination, and in particular racism. This opportunity should be grasped to ensure that young Travellers are accepted, included and treated as equal citizens in Irish society and that youth organisations are aware of the implications for youth work practice.	FR.131	<p>Due to the success of the European Youth Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, Intolerance and Anti-Semitism, which was operational for 3 years in Ireland, the campaign has now been superseded by the programme under a youth committee called – Youth Against Racism and Discrimination (YARD). Young Travellers and their representatives have been elected to the committee. The committee formulates a youth educational programme together with back-up material for dissemination to schools, colleges, youth organisations, community groups etc.</p> <p>1997 was designated European Year Against Racism (EYAR) by the European Council of Ministers and member states. In Ireland a National Co-ordinating Committee was established by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to co-ordinate activities during the year. At national level the development of a partnership approach to address racism involving Government Departments, the trade unions and the community/voluntary sector was a key factor in ensuring the effectiveness of the EYAR in Ireland. To continue the work done during the European Year Against Racism, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform established, in July 1998, a National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism. The Committee is a partnership of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), state agencies, social partners and Government Departments. The objective of the Committee is to develop programmes and actions aimed at developing an integrated approach against racism and to advise the Government on matters relating to racism and interculturalism. The Committee will also endeavour to promote a more participative and intercultural society which is inclusive of persons such as refugees, Travellers and minority ethnic groups in Ireland. (more details on this issue are contained in Section C - Discrimination).</p>
There is need to give recognition to the value and contribution of youth work. The Task Force welcomes therefore the commitment in the Government programme "A Government of Renewal" to provide a statutory basis for youth work in Ireland. The primary role of youth work as informal education would thereby be reinforced in this process. However, it is especially important for Travellers that the priority role of youth work as informal	FR.132	<p>The Youth Work Act, 1997, provides the necessary statutory basis and recognition of the value of youth work in Ireland. Youth work as a vehicle for informal education will be reinforced as a result of the enactment of the proposed amended Act.</p> <p>The 1997 Youth Act is under revision and the Bill is due for publication in 2000. This will enable the local VECs to be the replacement body for the originally planned Regional Authorities Boards.</p>

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education is reinforced in this process. The Education Act which is expected to follow the White Paper should link the youth service to the relevant education authorities.		
The Department of Education with the other relevant Departments should ensure that an integrated inter-departmental approach is achieved between youth work, child care, sports and recreation, home/school links, the Juvenile Liaison Scheme, literacy and other adult education schemes. This integrated approach should be reflected in structures at national and local level.	FR.133	<p>The Department of Education has extensive links with the Departments of Health and Children, Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Social, Community and Family Affairs, Enterprise Trade and Employment and a range of statutory and voluntary bodies in the implementation of services in this area.</p> <p>At local level, a multi-agency integrated approach is being promoted through the Stay in School, 8-15 Initiative and Home School Community Liaison Schemes, in addition to the VEC's role in co-ordinating youth work activities, and participation in the Area Based Partnerships. Education Co-ordinators funded by the Department have been put in place in each of the 38 Partnerships, allied with a National Education Co-ordinator in ADM. VECs implement a District Approach within Youthreach and have established referral network linking the centres with schools, Juvenile Liaison Services, probation, welfare, health and youth services. The Copping On Programme provides joint inservice training for staff via a Support Service which is funded on a multi-agency basis. This approach is also being promoted within the STTC network, since the changeover of responsibility.</p> <p>The Visiting Teacher Service also plays a critical role in this area.</p>
An effective and appropriate youth service with Travellers should be based on a social education model containing such values as: respect, co-operation, participation, consultation, responsibility, empowerment and equality. Youth work with Travellers should avoid any connotations of a rescue mission for the deprived or a top down social control approach.	FR134	The list of attributes described in recommendation FR.134 are all accepted by the Department of Education and Science as fundamental components of good youth Traveller training programmes and practiced where Traveller youth services are provided.
Funding should be provided to cover salaries of youth workers and also programme activities.	FR.135	Funding covers salaries and programme costs under the Disadvantaged Scheme operated by Youth Affairs Section. There are approximately 150 disadvantaged schemes. Salary costs are not fully funded by Youth Affairs Section for mainline Youth Organisations as the voluntary youth organisations draw on other sources of funding for their organisations and services.

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<p>(a) It is essential that training for youth workers is provided and adequately resourced. Such training to include pre-service and in-service, would ensure a professional approach whether workers are unpaid volunteers or paid workers.</p> <p>(b) In order to sensitise and develop a better understanding of Travellers' needs and concerns, in-service training programmes should be a requirement of all youth projects and organisations. Such programmes should be designed to assist youth workers and youth organisations to develop an inter-cultural approach and to promote good relations with Travellers.</p>	FR.136	Training for youth workers both in-service and pre-service is carried out or arranged by the National Youth Council of Ireland for its member organisations. This training is tailored to suit the demand and requirements of the group seeking the training. An intercultural approach to training is part of the induction and training. The Youth Affairs Section funds the Diploma in Youth and Community Work at Maynooth College, where in-service and training of leaders and youth workers is carried out.
Special efforts on the basis of positive action should be made to resource Travellers to acquire the training necessary to become youth workers. It should be noted that in Section G on the Traveller Economy, Youth workers are included among the identified posts for public service employment for Travellers.	FR.137	A number of Travellers have successfully completed the Diploma Course in Maynooth College and qualified personnel from the course are now in employment as Traveller youth workers. Traveller Training Centres under the umbrella of NATC provide training for Travellers on an ongoing basis enabling Travellers to train in youth work by attending courses and practical work in their local community.
There is an ongoing danger that young Travellers may be targeted in disadvantaged youth projects but in practice not included or very marginally present in mainstream youth organisations. Therefore, integrated youth projects in receipt of funding for work with young Travellers should specify actions and objectives in their proposed programmes and provide explicit information about results in order to ensure accountability.	FR.138	Specific projects/programmes for young Travellers are rarely listed separately to the submitted programmes by youth organisations.

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<p>The special youth work needs of Travellers should be met by a community based service supported and managed by a local voluntary committee in partnership with the Vocational Education Committees. Such local committees should foster a community youth work approach as recommended in the various reports referred to in this section.</p>	FR.139	<p>Under the terms of the Youth Work Act, 2000 and under the proposed Voluntary Youth Council, the VECs will be charged with the task of including the needs and the requirements of young Travellers, thereby assisting Traveller integration into local communities. This local focus on Traveller integration will ensure a community based service supporting young Travellers requirements.</p>
<p>Young Travellers are not a homogenous group and it is important that the different needs of young men and young women are acknowledged. It is also important that youth work as informal education challenges sex-stereotyping and promotes respect and responsibility between the sexes.</p>	FR.140	<p>Youth work and informal education have specific programmes and include matters such as equality between the sexes in their training courses. Many programmes are tailored to promote concepts of equality, inter-culture etc.</p>
<p>(a) The Department of Education should be assigned responsibility for the full administration of Senior Traveller Training Centres in accordance with the policy for these Centres set out by this Task Force. This recommendation is made on the basis that it will have no negative implications in relation to the funding of the Centres and of training allowances, including the provision of EU funding.</p> <p>(b) It is important that FÁS continue to accept responsibility for promoting and resourcing the development of the employment and enterprise needs of the Traveller community at regional level. This should include the appointment of FÁS representatives to local Traveller</p>	FR.141	<p>— With effect from 6 April, 1998, the network of Senior Traveller Training Centres has become the entire responsibility of the education sector and is being funded by the Further Education Section of the Department of Education and Science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment confirms that FÁS actively promotes progression for members of the Traveller community and has made the services of an Advocate available to Senior Traveller Training Centres (where they exist) to positively promote this. The Department points out that, in any case, the enhanced Placement Service provides an extensive proactive approach which will greatly benefit members of the Traveller community. • The new Board of Management structure agreed for the STTCs includes provision for FÁS representation.

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Training Centre Management Committees. Such representatives should advise the Centres on resources available through FÁS for promoting this development and promote the progression of trainees from Traveller Training Centres to mainline training courses in FÁS Training Centres, whenever this is the desired option of such trainees.		
The Department of Education should appoint a National Co-ordinator to promote the development and monitor the performance of Senior Traveller Training Centres. The person appointed should have a clear commitment to Travellers' development, and knowledge of the development of Traveller Training Centres and proven management and facilitation skills.	FR.142	The Department of Education and Science advises that a National Co-ordinator has been appointed to co-ordinate the development of the network, organise inservice programmes and disseminate good practice.
The National Association of Traveller Training Centres should have the authority to advise the Department of Education and FÁS on the running of Senior Traveller Training Centres. This should include representation on the Advisory Group of the Traveller Education Service.	FR.143	<p>FÁS agrees with and supports this proposal and the Department of Education and Science has put it into practice. The network of Training Centres operates through the VECs, and the Department of Education and Science has regular meetings with the IVEA, the National Association of Traveller Training Centres on management, organisational and policy issues concerning the delivery of the programmes in these centres.</p> <p>It is not envisaged that national Traveller organisations would be members of this working group dealing with issues of an operational nature, given that any issues of concern may be raised by them at the Advisory Group. However, the Further Education Section is willing to meet these interests on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Department and FÁS have also worked closely with Pavee Point and the Irish Traveller Movement in a report on the future role of the STTCs, and in the development of methodological tools for developing "Traveller proofing" policies in education and training.</p>

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The Code of Practice for Senior Traveller Training Centres should be revised in accordance with the policy set out by the Task Force through consultation between the Department of Education, FÁS and NATC.	FR.144	The Department of Education and Science advises that work is ongoing, in consultation with the VECs, NATC etc.
A determined effort should be made to develop full Traveller participation in the Management Committees of Senior Traveller Training Centres.	FR.145	The new structure for boards of management for the STTCs provides for two representatives from the Traveller community, or from Traveller organisations representing the Traveller community, one of whom may be a trainee. Two others may be co-opted locally from educationalist, community or other interest groups with an active role in Traveller development. In addition, the Boards of Management are charged with the development of a wide range of community linkages, including Traveller organisations
The training programme in every Centre must be based on a clear analysis of Travellers' interests and needs and it must be culturally appropriate to them.	FR.146	Centres offer a core programme of literacy, numeracy, communications and personal development, although there are variations between centres in the level of emphasis in these areas, and in the range and type of vocational options available. Many of the centres offer programmes that include Traveller history and cultural programmes. Inservice on this has been provided to all centres in 1999 and is being further progressed this year.
A minimum of three years' training should be available to Travellers in Senior Training Centres and teaching resources should be increased appropriately.	FR.147	The duration of the programme has been extended to a minimum of two years, and to three years where the Leaving Certificate Applied is being pursued. The number of places on the programme has increased from 550 to 740 to allow for this, and further expansion on a part-time basis will be implemented under the Back to Education Initiative.
There should not be an upper age limit on Travellers attending Traveller Training Centres. Older Travellers should be encouraged and facilitated to attend.	FR.148	The Department of Education and Science points out that there is now no upper age limit governing eligibility on the programme, as part of a strategy to encourage parents onto the programme.
Mechanisms should be developed to promote progression of trainees from Senior Traveller Training Centres into a range of mainstream and other options.	FR.149	<p>It is an objective of the Department of Education and Science to encourage progression to employment or further levels of training to the maximum extent possible. Policy in pursuit of this objective is focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the implementation of Level 1 certification by the NCVA nationally in 1999. This now provides a continued pathway from Foundation level through to degree level via Foundation, Level 1, Level 2/PLC, IOT courses and university courses. the promotion of access to a range of options within FAS and the Education sector e.g. Linked Work

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		<p>Experience, Level 1 training, Specific Skills Training, Community Employment where eligible, VTOS, progression options within Traveller Training Centres and re-entry to mainstream education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to pursue programmes such as Leaving Certificate Applied, in Traveller Centres or in school while retaining an allowance. • The establishment of the National Qualifications Authority to implement a national framework of levels of qualification, and formal pathways of progression to higher levels of education and training. • An increased focus on the networking of out of school centres with the mainstream system which encourages the centres to act as brokers and mentors to facilitate a return to school. The initiatives under the Guidance and Counselling measure, the bridging measure and the Advocate programme will complement this work. <p>Enhanced quality assurance in the networks through the ongoing training of trainers actions, the networking of centres, and the dissemination of good practice and learning from new developments.</p> <p>As part of the Equality measure, funding is being provided under the National Development Plan to develop a computerised management system for the further education sector which will help to track the progress of specific groups within the system. This will provide important data to develop benchmarks and monitor progress</p>
<p>Where mixed Traveller Training Centres are in operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority should be given to the recruitment of Traveller trainees which should be ensured through range of flexibility's including: (i) holding places for Travellers who are temporarily absent from an area; (ii) varying the maximum enrolment numbers. • Priority should be given to cultural needs of Traveller trainees. • It should be recognised that these Centres are not geared to the specific needs of young offenders. 	FR150	<p>Priority is given to Travellers in recruitment to the centres. However, if places are available and there are no Travellers to fill them, they are allocated to other eligible early school leavers from the "settled community", and this can have very positive effects, so long as the cultural ethos of the centres is preserved.</p> <p>When Travellers are absent from an area, a temporary absence is allowed by the Centre Directors if they inform him/her in advance. This enables a place to be reserved for their return. Priority is being given to meeting the cultural needs of travellers</p> <p>As part of the expansion of the programme to date, increased provision has been made in individual centres as the need arose. The maximum possible flexibility is allowed within the constraints of the overall budget.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Science has no plans to refuse entry to the programme to young offenders who are otherwise eligible, in areas where there is no alternative provision for them. Decisions are made locally as to whether a centre is equipped to meet the particular individual's needs. In making such a decision due account will be taken of the need to have an appropriate balance of participation in</p>

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		centres so that a culturally supportive environment for Travellers is maintained.
Allowances for Trainees in Traveller Training Centres need to be increased to reflect the true costs of participation and to provide adequate incentives over and above Social Welfare entitlements.	FR151	<p>The Department of Education and Science states that an allowance ranging from £31.60 per week is paid to trainees of 15-16 years of age and £77.50 per week for 18 year olds and over. The rates of allowances are paid in line with those applicable generally across the FÁS system, and are influenced by national rates of social welfare. It is not open to the Department of Education and Science to increase the rates. The extra £25 bonus payable to those on FÁS programmes who were long term unemployed prior to starting their programme is also paid where applicable in the STTCs.</p> <p>The programme is free and books and materials are provided as needed. A childcare measure has also been introduced.</p>
An appropriate training methodology for Senior Traveller Training Centres should be developed.	FR.152	<p>The National Co-ordinator is provided with an annual staff development budget for the network. In addition, the Department provides funds to enable staff with no formal pedagogical training to participate on an inservice basis in nationally certified certificate and diploma programmes in adult and community education and vocational education and training provided in the universities in Galway, Maynooth, DCU and Limerick. These programmes have a strong emphasis on teaching methodologies for adults.</p> <p>This outlay is supplemented by other initiatives such as the Copping On Programme, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training, the development of front line guidance skills under Youthstart, inservice provided by the NCVA etc.</p>
Training programmes offered in Traveller Centres should be to nationally recognised standards which should be externally monitored by an approved certification agency.	FR.153	All centres are now providing certification under the National Council for Vocational Awards, mostly at Foundation Level, but with some at Level 1. Centres also pursue options at Junior and Leaving Certificate levels, in line with the interests of trainees. NCVA provides for national quality standards, which are assessed locally in line with pre-defined criteria, and are externally moderated by a panel of NCVA examiners. Work in this area will be further progressed when the National Qualifications Authority and Further and Higher Education and Training Awards Councils are established on a statutory basis, as provided for under the Education and Training (Qualifications) Act 1999.
All teaching staff in Traveller Centres should have a proven ability to empathise and work with Travellers and have recognised professional qualifications.	FR.154	The Department of Education and Science states that the need for staff of Senior Traveller Training Centres to have a proven ability to empathise and work with Travellers is accepted and has been identified as a priority in the inservice needs of staff. The Department advises that a survey of Training Centres showed that 34% of staff were qualified teachers, 35% had vocational/trade qualifications with the remainder having youth work, personnel or management skills.

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Resources should be available to all Centres for ongoing staff development.	FR.155	Inservice provision is being provided with an emphasis on (a) pedagogy with particular focus on personal development, motivation skills and remedial education (b) communication/group facilitation skills/counselling skills (c) administration, planning management and team development skills (d) computer training (e) conflict management and (f) Traveller/inter cultural studies. See 152 also.
There should be a determined pro-active effort to train and recruit Traveller teachers to the staff of Training Centres.	FR.156	While the Department of Education and Science accepts the importance of having suitable Traveller role models in the centres, recruitment operates on the basis of selecting the most suitable applicant for the particular post. Within this context, a pro-active effort is made to recruit from the Traveller community, especially where older traditional craft skills are taught, and in the secretarial and childcare areas.
Measures should be put in place without delay to bring all Traveller Training Centre premises up to mainstream national standards and to make available an adequate level of other resources, such as teaching equipment, in all these centres.	FR.157	Since the changeover of responsibility, the Department of Education and Science has provided an annual non-pay budget of £38,000 per group of 24 to cover non-pay overheads and equipment. This is in addition to the budget for instruction costs, trainee allowances, childcare and counselling, and is deemed to be sufficient to meet current needs. Where refurbishment issues arise, the Department makes every effort to provide a flexible response within the constraints of the overall budget.
A culturally appropriate enterprise training and development programme should be developed for Senior Traveller Training Centres.	FR.158	The Department of Education and Science confirms that this is the case. The NCVA structure also provides for the development of local modules to meet specific needs, in accordance with a published module descriptor format, which can be submitted to the NCVA for approval. This issue can be further explored in discussions with Pavee Point, the National Co-ordinator and the Department.
All members of staff in the Senior Training Centres should receive in-service training in an understanding of Traveller culture and its implications for their work, if they have not already received such training.	FR.159	In 1999 the National Co-ordinator provided inservice training for all staff on Traveller culture. This process is being further progressed this year.
Traveller Training Centre Directors should have at least a third level qualification, or equivalent, and should have competency in education management.	FR.160	<p>Future appointments to the post of Director in the STTC network will be confined to persons qualified as teachers. An understanding of the nature of disadvantage and an empathy and appreciation of Traveller culture are stipulated requirements for the post.</p> <p>An unqualified candidate may only be selected where a qualified one is unavailable. The Department of Education and Science provides funds for staff with no formal pedagogical training to enable existing staff to participate on an inservice basis in national certificate and diploma programmes in the university colleges in Galway, Maynooth, Limerick and DCU in the fields of adult and community education and vocational education and training. This is supplemented by the inservice training programme for the network.</p>

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The conditions of pay and employment of staff in Senior Traveller Training Centres should be reviewed immediately so as to provide permanent pensionable employment and a pay structure and other conditions of employment which are on parity with staff in other mainstream training and education centres under FÁS and the Departments of Health and Education.	FR.161	Pay and conditions for staff are matters which fall to be processed within the normal industrial relations machinery and in the context of public pay policy. Agreement on the conversion of qualified teaching staff to permanent pensionable positions was implemented in 1998, and a pay and conditions deal for Directors along similar lines was finalised by the Department of Education and Science at the end of 1999 in consultation with the IVEA and TUI.
Incubator enterprise development units should be provided adjacent to Training Centres, where appropriate.	FR.162	Enterprise training is being promoted within the network. The Department of Education and Science does not have funds for the establishment of incubator units, but is willing to explore this issue with other agencies, such as FÁS, County Enterprise Boards and Area Partnerships where needs are identified. The structure agreed for Boards of Management of the Centres provides for FÁS representation so that their continued local involvement in the delivery of programmes can be assured.
The name of Senior Traveller Training Centres should be changed to Traveller Development Centres	FR.163	The Department of Education and Science states that there are no plans at present to change the name of Senior Traveller Training Centres.
Management Committees should be organised in the Senior Traveller Training Centres in accordance with the policy set out in the Task Force's Report.	FR.164	The Department of Education and Science confirms that the broad recommendations contained in Section 9 C 7 of the Task Force report are being introduced in agreement with NATC and the IVEA, including specific representation of Travellers and Traveller organisations.

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<p>In order to monitor the progress of Traveller participation in the education system, the Task Force recommends that a detailed examination should be carried out of the systems at present in place in the Department of Education at all education levels, for the collection and collation of statistics on Traveller participation rates. It is particularly essential that this review be carried out at pre-school, primary and second levels of the education system and take cognisance of the gender make up of Traveller pupils. This examination should be undertaken by an expert statistician who should recommend changes which need to be put in place in the statistical collection system in the Department of Education so as to ensure that detailed statistics on Travellers participation rates are available at all education levels and are updated on an annual basis.</p>	FR.165	<p>The Department of Education and Science collects annual data on the number of Traveller children in primary school (gender specific) and have plans to collect data on the number of Travellers (by gender) in second level schools from September 1999.</p> <p>The Department is planning to extend the range of data gathered, as part of the development of a comprehensive database which will provide critical information on all pupils, including Traveller pupils, to support the development and implementation of policy.</p> <p>A total of £4.5million is being provided to develop this database over the next three years. This includes £500,000 which is being provided in the current year. The IT Unit of the Department is currently preparing a development plan for the database project and it is intended to implement the first phase in a pilot group of schools during the coming school year. It is anticipated that the project will use the latest internet-based technologies to facilitate convenient transfer of data to the Department from schools.</p>
<p>When the Report of the expert statistician is available, the necessary resources should be allocated by the Department of Education to ensure that any changes which are required in relation to statistical collection arrangements are implemented.</p>	FR.166	<p>See FR.165.</p>
<p>The Task Force notes that Vocational Education Committees continue to be excluded from the ambit of the Ombudsman Act 1980 and recommends that the second schedule of that Act be amended to remove the exemptions to Vocational Education Committees.</p>	FR.167	<p>The Department of Finance has confirmed that proposals to amend the Ombudsman Act, 1980 were approved by the Government in January 1999 and a Scheme of a Bill has been drafted. The Scheme provides, inter alia, that a large number of public bodies which are at present outside the remit of the Ombudsman, including Vocational Education Committees are to brought within his remit.</p>

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Local authorities, in being authorised to licence traders, should provide casual trading space based on a full assessment of requirements and impact on existing consumer services.	GR.1	Casual trading is now governed by the Casual Trading Act, 1995 the primary purpose of which is to devolve the licensing function to local authorities. The Act empowers authorities to make bye-laws to regulate and control casual trading. The bye-laws provide, inter alia, for the maximum area that may be occupied by any one trader in a casual trading area. The making of bye-laws are subject to public notification procedures to afford affected parties an opportunity to provide views on what is proposed.
Where Transient Trading groups require living accommodation, local authorities should allow them to park on transient sites where available for an agreed period.	GR.2	"Guidelines for Accommodating Transient Traveller families" published in June 2000 by the Department of Environment and Local Government include advice on matters such as the local authorities obligations to accommodate Transient Trading groups, assistance to enable such groups to provide their own accommodation and the proper management and maintenance of sites.
Larger groups, beyond the capacity of a transient site, should be required to secure adequate space to accommodate their own needs, and deemed to have adequate resources. It is envisaged that the local authority would advise on orderly movement and parking.	GR.3	See GR 2
Transient Traders should be required to maintain contact with local authorities so that orderly movement and parking can be achieved through co-operation.	GR.4	See GR 2
Travellers should be identified as one target group in the licensing of casual trading given their tradition in this area and given the appropriateness of this activity to the way in which their economy is organised. Licences and pitches should be available in a manner accessible to Travellers.	GR.5	The Tánaiste has requested the Competition Authority to undertake a review of the Casual Trading Act, 1995, and the concerns of Travellers will be taken into account when the review is being undertaken.
The design and construction of Traveller specific accommodation should include limited storage/workspace. Such space is seen as the first step in the development of trading	GR.6	Guidelines on 'Residential Caravan Parks for Travellers' which issued from the Department of the Environment and Local Government advises local authorities to consider how best to accommodate reasonable economic activity of Travellers. The Guidelines state that where there is demand for on site facilities and where the local authority is satisfied that it may be reasonable and practicable to do so, a

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activity under planned conditions. Where the trading activity develops to the level that the storage space provided is inadequate and therefore unacceptable in a residential environment, the Traveller should be required to relocate the activity to an appropriate location.		separate storage area for a reasonable amount of scrap may be provided. Alternatively given the scale of activity it may be more appropriate to support economic activity off the site e.g. through a local community enterprise scheme.
A range of strategies should be developed by the Department of Enterprise and Employment to support Travellers and others in Market Trading. These strategies should be based on the proposals in the EU White Paper in relation to supporting the social economy.	GR.7	Arising from the recent Government Decision on the Introduction of a dedicated Social Economy Programme, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has set up a National Monitoring Group to oversee and monitor the Programme. The Department advises that much work remains to be done to explore the potential of these developments.
Waste management policy and legislation in Ireland should recognise and encourage Traveller recycling activities and the distinct manner in which they are organised.	GR.8	<p>The Department of the Environment and Local Government states that it is intended later this year to publish a policy statement focusing on recycling and waste recovery generally. This policy document will address the factors and practical considerations which are relevant to the achievement of Government policy objectives and targets in this area, and will outline the scope of measures which will be undertaken in the interests of a sustained expansion in recycling performance. The issue of recycling in the Traveller community will be considered in preparing this document.</p> <p>Regulations were promulgated in 1997 and 1998 which provide for the application of the waste licensing system operated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Waste Management Act, 1996 to a wide range of waste disposal and recovery activities, in the interests of environmental protection. In recognition of the special circumstances that apply in relation to certain small-scale or low-risk waste activities, the Waste Management (Permit) Regulations, 1998 provide, as an alternative to licensing by the EPA, for the grant of a waste permit by a local authority. While the objective of environmental protection remains, the local authority permit option allows for flexibility to be applied in relation to the particular circumstances of each case and can significantly reduce the administrative/ procedural requirements for small-scale recycling activities. Activities that may be subject to local authority permit include the recovery of scrap metals and the dismantling or recovery of vehicles.</p>

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<p>With the implementation of the packaging directive and the Department of the Environment's "Recycling for Ireland" strategy there will be a broad new range of opportunities for recycling in Ireland. These should be promoted within the social economy sector with a range of strategies put in place to secure their viability in line with the proposals in the EU White Paper on "Growth, Competitiveness, Employment". These would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tax exemptions; - public/private partnerships; - part work and part income support models; - public expenditure associated with EU environment programmes. <p>Travellers should be one priority target group for these strategies.</p>	GR.9	See GR.7 and first para. of GR. 8
<p>The Department of the Environment, with the participation of relevant Traveller organisations, should design and develop strategies to support social economy recycling initiatives targeted on the Traveller community.</p>	GR.10	<p>Local authorities are currently in the process of making regional and local waste management plans. These waste management plans will involve targets and objectives aimed at securing an improved national waste recovery and recycling performance. Extensive provision is made in this planning process for public consultation and participation, during which any member of the public or representative group may contribute.</p>
<p>Should a general consultative process be deemed necessary prior to implementation of EU Directives relevant to recycling, relevant Traveller organisations should be included.</p>	GR.11	<p>Relevant Traveller organisations will be involved in any general consultative process regarding proposed EU legislation on recycling.</p>
<p>The implementation of the landfill Directive will require an upgrading of Irish landfill sites and their management structures and procedures. This should be used as an opportunity to develop site designs and procedures that will allow safe access to</p>	GR.12	<p>The EU Landfill Directive has been adopted. Its requirements have been largely anticipated in the licensing system operated by the EPA under the Waste Management Act, 1996. This licensing system ensures that high environmental standards apply in relation to the operation of landfills. For safety reasons, access to landfills by the general public is generally restricted. However, in many cases, waste collection banks and other civic amenity facilities are provided by local authorities in the environs of landfill and other waste management facilities. Authorities are responsible for making arrangements to have these</p>

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recyclable materials. The development of baling stations should allow similar access to recyclable materials. This is the approach that is outlined in the "Recycling for Ireland" strategy. This process should not disadvantage Travellers currently involved in recycling.		collection banks serviced, and this is usually done under contract. The scope for involvement by Travellers in the provision or servicing of, or access to, these facilities should be explored with the relevant local authorities.
The approach adopted under Recommendation GR.4 above for storage of trading materials should also apply in relation to recycling.	GR.13	As outlined above, Regulations have been introduced providing for controls on waste recovery activities, including the storage and processing of waste for recycling purposes. These Regulations apply to all persons and concerns involved in the relevant recovery activities.
There is an existing grant scheme to encourage the development of recycling projects. In the light of the "Recycling for Ireland" strategy launched by the Government in 1994 this scheme should be reviewed to take account of the distinct approach of the Traveller community to recycling.	GR.14	<p>A European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grants scheme is operated by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, under which assistance is given towards capital expenditure on waste recycling infrastructure. Availability of grants under this scheme was publicly advertised in 1996 and 1997, and it was open to any person or concern to put forward proposals for funding.</p> <p>Successful applicants were required to comply with a range of requirements attaching to the scheme. The Department advises that all funds under the past grant schemes have been allocated. However, a new grant scheme, targeted principally at assisting in the achievement of the recycling targets and objectives incorporated in the emerging regional waste management plans, is expected to be announced shortly.</p>
Door to door collections of household waste could make an important contribution to the diversion of waste from landfill sites. This area has potential for further development and expansion. Travellers already play a role in this area. Recycling credits schemes as proposed in the "Recycling for Ireland" strategy should include an incentive for Traveller recycling in this area.	GR.15	Waste Management plans being developed by local authorities generally provide for a significant expansion of present household collection systems for recyclables. The Department of the Environment and Local Government advises that there are no plans at present to introduce a 'recycling credits' scheme.
The local authority should investigate and take advantage of opportunities for the involvement of Travellers and recycling organisations in	GR.16	See GR.15

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the arrangement of junk collection schemes in order to maximise the amount of material recycled.		
The Department of the Environment should support Travellers and Traveller organisations in researching and introducing appropriate and safe technologies for the processing of copper wire waste.	GR.17	The Department of the Environment and Local Government states that it does not currently provide support for research into recycling technologies.
The "Recycling for Ireland" strategy states that <i>"waste management plans of local authorities and the business sector should aim at harnessing and engaging the contribution of community and residents' associations"</i> . It is important that Travellers and Traveller organisations be consulted in the development of these plans and that regard is taken of Traveller recycling activities.	GR.18	See GR. 10

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Where Traveller families keep horses, they should be required to secure adequate grazing areas for their animals. In the urban areas, there can be no requirement on local authorities to provide for this, due to lack of space. In other areas, local authorities have been able to assist in the provision of grazing facilities. This should continue and where possible, be expanded with the support of the relevant Department.	GR.19	The Guidelines on Residential Caravan Parks for Travellers issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government advise local authorities that where they are satisfied that it may be reasonable and practicable to do so, to provide a grazing area for horses and ponies with tethering poles and water troughs.
Within the training and work schemes provided for Travellers, there should be support in developing their skills at breeding and caring for horses in order to create employment for young Travellers and to ensure the continuation of a tradition that is culturally important to them. This should be explored within FÁS and VECs.	GR.20	<p>FÁS reports that following the enactment of the Control of Horses Act 1996, exploratory/ feasibility work has taken place involving FÁS and community groups, including Traveller representatives. Courses have been successfully run in Sligo and Dublin. FÁS acknowledges that further work needs to be done to meet the objectives. FÁS points out that while this is primarily a matter for the Department of Education and Science, FÁS bridging courses are available for Travellers - taking them from Traveller Training Centres to Community Employment.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment advises that in order to progress this recommendation it may be necessary to devise an interdepartmental approach to include the Department of Agriculture and Food, the Department of Environment and Local Government, FÁS and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.</p> <p>The Monitoring Committee recommends that a working group consisting of relevant Departments, FAS, the social partners and the Traveller organisations should be established to examine the economic development issues of Travellers.</p>
The Department of Education and of Enterprise and Employment, in conjunction with the relevant third level institutions, should develop special access measures for Traveller entry into third level education and into mainstream training. These measures should include preparation courses, adequate grants, and special tutorial assistance.	GR.21	The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment advises that both FÁS and LES are working with Traveller groups to overcome difficulties in relation to training and education needs. FÁS and the National Co-ordinator for STTC have regular contact to promote progress. This remains a complex and multi faceted issue involving more than one Department, namely Department of Education and Science, Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

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<p>The Department of Enterprise and Employment, in conjunction with FÁS and Traveller organisations involved in enterprise development, should develop a new funding strategy to support community enterprise, whose primary market is local supply, within communities such as the Traveller community which experience social exclusion. This funding strategy should be of a long term nature and should take account of special needs in relation to access to start-up capital and premises, and in relation to training requirements.</p>	GR.22	See GR 7 above.
<p>The local partnership companies in the designated areas of disadvantage should be supported and encouraged to develop programmes of private sector purchasing from local community enterprise, including Traveller community enterprise.</p>	GR.23	<p>The Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation. states that ADM consider that this is not implementable in any great measure as the Partnerships have very little influence over the purchasing policies of private companies. Partnership Companies do provide support and encourage strategies to develop the Social Economy, including Traveller Projects in their area. For the most part these strategies are aimed at providing social economy projects with business training, guidance and some financial assistance to help them develop their business and expand their customer base. Ultimately , however, the social economy projects have to sell themselves. The Partnerships have no mechanisms to directly influence private sector purchasing policies.</p>
<p>The public service should take a lead role in the recruitment of Travellers into the mainstream labour force. This role should be played in three ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - setting targets for Traveller inclusion in general recruitment strategies. These would include a rolling programme for recruitment to identified posts over the next five years and a target of 100 for the employment in non-identified posts during the same period; - the nomination of existing posts as 	GR.24	<p>The Department of Finance points out that, in general, the Minister for Finance has no statutory function in relation to the selection of staff in Local Authorities, Health Boards and State-Sponsored Bodies. Even within the Civil Service, while the Minister for Finance has overall responsibility for recruitment policy, individual Ministers are the appointing authorities in their own Departments. If the Government were to propose specific measures affecting the recruitment of Travellers in the public sector, this would be a matter for the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in the first instance, given that he has responsibility, inter alia, for promoting and implementing equality of treatment for persons experiencing disadvantage or discrimination. In relation to the employment of people with disabilities in the public sector, each member of the Government is responsible for such employment, in the areas for which they have direct statutory control and/or functional responsibilities.</p> <p>Recommendation GR 24 focusses on posts in health, education, training and local authorities. Insofar as</p>

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<p>identified positions with specific Traveller sensitive selection criteria, particularly in education, health and local authority recruitment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the development of new posts as identified positions, particularly in education, training, health and local authorities;- the Department of Finance should have overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of these targets. It should review them after five years in consultation with the Equality Authority/Commission and relevant Traveller organisations. The Department of Finance should also prepare an annual report on the achievement of recruitment targets in respect of Travellers.		<p>job possibilities in the Civil Service might come up for consideration, the Department of Finance suggests that the following should be borne in mind.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Civil Service is an equal opportunities employer. Any person who meets the eligibility criteria may compete in open competitions held by the Civil Service Commissioners for appointment in the Civil Service. The eligibility criteria may specify particular educational qualifications and/or experience as requirements. In addition recruitment to most general service grades is restricted to Irish nationals. Posts are advertised in the national press. <p>In relation to subordinate grades (eg Services Officer), the appointees are selected by the appropriate Minister, sometimes following an interview process. Such positions are often advertised through FÁS. There is no central involvement in the recruitment of people for such posts. It is a matter for each individual Minister.</p> <p>Industrial posts (eg in the Office of Public Works) are usually advertised through FÁS or occasionally in the national press. There is no central involvement in the recruitment of people for such posts. It is a matter for Office of Public Works; the appointing authority for OPW is, in fact, the Minister for Finance.</p> <p>There are no statistics on whether or not members of the Traveller community have competed in or been successful at recruitment competitions or whether they have sought or been appointed to subordinate or industrial positions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Setting targets for Traveller inclusion in general recruitment strategies would pose problems in relation to (a) the fact that there are no targets for any other group, (b) the difficulty in arriving at an acceptable definition of the term "member of the Traveller community" and (c) meeting the targets within a five year period in view of the lack of educational qualifications among members of the Traveller community identified in the Report. <p>(a) There are no specific targets for the recruitment of people with disabilities. While there is an overall quota target of 3% for the employment of people with disabilities, this is not achieved solely by recruitment, but also by the retention in employment of staff who become disabled after recruitment. The Civil Service Commission are statutorily obliged to appoint candidates in order of merit.</p>
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		<p>(b) The regulations governing competitions run by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) are legally binding. Therefore, if members of the Traveller community were to be targeted in recruitment competitions, the definition "member of the Traveller community" would have to be clear, objectively verifiable and enforceable. For example, the definition would have to be clear on whether or not it included settled Travellers and if so, for how many generations. In the case of competitions which include a special element for candidates with a disability, in order to qualify for the special panel, a candidate must be able to show that s/he is registered with, or entitled to be registered with, the National Rehabilitation Board (NRB) as having a disability. It has been the experience of the CSC that not everyone who applies under this heading is found to qualify as disabled.</p> <p>(c) Before considering the setting of any targets, it would be advisable to ascertain the level of interest in civil service employment among members of the traveller community and the level of educational qualifications (and/or relevant experience as appropriate) held by those who were interested.</p> <p>3. The CSC is statutorily obliged to be satisfied, inter alia, that a person it selects for appointment possesses the requisite knowledge and ability to carry out the duties of the position. A good level of literacy would be a basic requirement for all posts advertised by the CSC. In its Introduction, the Report lists a high level of illiteracy and extremely low rates of participation in education, particularly at second level, as two of the serious difficulties faced by Travellers. The option of lowering standards is not one which could be recommended. In addition to causing practical problems in terms of the performance of the work, appointees who were Travellers would be likely to be further marginalised as being in some way "sub-standard" appointees. The CSC does not make special concessions in relation to standard for candidates with a disability. Most competitions do not distinguish between candidates with and candidates without a disability. However, in some competitions for Clerical Officer and Executive Officer, the competitions include a special element for candidates with a disability. In such competitions, all candidates undergo the same tests and selection procedures and must meet the same minimum standard, regardless of whether or not they have a disability. It is only candidates who have at least reached the minimum standard and who have indicated that they qualify for the disabled element of the competition who are then considered for a separate panel of those candidates who are best qualified for appointment. They are, of course, considered in the context of the standard competition also and may appear on both panels.</p>
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		<p>4. There could be some practical difficulties to be addressed also, such as the best method of notifying the Traveller community of employment opportunities and the practical implications arising from employing people from a nomadic background.</p> <p>A representative of the Department of Finance has recently attended a meeting of the Monitoring Committee and has agreed to examine the feasibility of holding special recruitment competitions to the civil service for Travellers. The Monitoring Committee will be reviewing progress on this issue.</p>
The Department of Enterprise and Employment, in conjunction with FÁS and Traveller organisations with experience in this field, should develop a Traveller apprenticeship scheme within the broader apprenticeship model. The Traveller apprenticeship should be designed around the skills, knowledge and attitude required for particular identified positions.	GR.25	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment states that the National Apprenticeship Advisory Committee is examining how Travellers and other marginalised groups can avail of apprenticeships. In the meantime, bridging courses are available through FÁS.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment will also investigate the possibility of Traveller representation on the National Apprenticeship Advisory Committee in relation to apprenticeships appropriate to the Traveller community.</p>
The Department of Education, in conjunction with relevant funding agencies and Traveller organisations, should develop the special additional funding supports required to promote and support the further employment of Travellers as youth workers.	GR.26	The Department of Education and Science states that youth workers from the Traveller community are in employment in youth organisations and in youth projects under available current funding. The Department envisages that the number of Travellers in employment as youth workers will increase as enrolment of Travellers attending existing courses and colleges increase. Additional degree, diploma and certificate courses suitable for training and future employment as youth workers are also being organised by universities, DIT, regional and other colleges and, accordingly, a more extensive range of training options will be available in the short term. In keeping with the provision of additional general educational opportunities for Travellers, the Department expects that Traveller places will increase on training courses for future youth trainers and leaders.
The proposed Equality Authority/Commission should have a role in reviewing, evaluating and making recommendations in relation to these and future affirmative action measures to promote greater access for Travellers to the mainstream labour force. This role should be played in conjunction with the relevant	GR.27	

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government departments and Traveller organisations.		
The FÁS Employment Incentive Scheme sets an important precedent in specifically facilitating Traveller access, by naming them as a special category and waiving entry requirements. The same flexibility in relation to Travellers in the structure of and regulations governing other schemes, in particular the Community Employment Programme, should be implemented to enhance access for Travellers and Traveller organisations.	GR.28	The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment confirms that Traveller groups are now named as a target group in the Social Economy.
In view of the difficulty of access to mainstream training, education and employment, the life span of all schemes for Travellers should be extended to a three year programme to facilitate skills development, planning and progression into mainstream provision.	GR.29	FÁS gives special consideration to Community Employment schemes which have a Traveller/community focus. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has advised that it will investigate the expansion of this consideration beyond Community Employment.
To encourage greater participation the level of allowances should be increased to cover the full costs associated with participation and to ensure an appropriate increase in comparison with social welfare payments.	GR.30	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment advises that a new £25 bonus was recently introduced for the long term unemployed taking up FÁS training and that Travellers would benefit from the change. FÁS recently introduced Customised Training which will provide greater flexibility in funding training to meet special needs. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment considers that this will greatly benefit Travellers.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment confirms that it will monitor the costs of participation for Travellers and access to any new developments which are introduced.</p>
The number of programmes and places available through the Women's Training Programme for Traveller women and Traveller groups, sponsored by FÁS through the External Training budget, should be increased.	GR.31	<p>FÁS operates programmes for Traveller women at local level in conjunction with Traveller groups.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment advises that it will investigate the possibility of a more positive and systematic support of training for Traveller women with FÁS.</p>

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Traveller groups should have access to schemes on a multi-annual basis, with guaranteed funding for core staff and facilities.	GR.32	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment states that this proposal is being examined favourably and projects are being projected on a year by year basis.</p> <p>It should be noted that while Government Departments do, as part of their estimates process, prepare multi-annual estimates, allocations of funds to each Department are made on an annual basis only.</p>
Partnerships between funding agencies and Traveller groups should be developed at national level so that Traveller groups have an input into policy and procedures relating to training and employment schemes.	GR.33	<p>FÁS and Pavee Point hold regular and scheduled meetings to monitor and review policy and practice. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment confirms that it is investigating the issue with FÁS particularly in relation to the dissemination of the outcomes of the Integra Project. The possibility of building on the learning arising from the Integra project will also be raised with FÁS.</p> <p>See FR. 145 and GR. 21 also.</p>
Pilot programmes for Travellers using YOUTHREACH and the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme should be designed and implemented in partnership with Traveller organisations. This would facilitate greater Traveller participation on these programmes.	GR.34	<p>Approximately 140 Travellers participate in Youthreach. No figures are available for VTOS. A range of initiatives are being introduced based on the plans for the Back to Education initiative through part-time Youthreach, VTOS and PLCs, these will be available to Travellers as well as other disadvantaged participants.</p>
In-service training, focusing on anti-discriminatory practices and Travellers' culture, should be made available for people providing training and employment scheme opportunities for Travellers.	GR.35	<p>FÁS includes training modules devised by Pavee Point in all FAS staff induction training and in in-service on a phased basis.</p> <p>The view of the Department of Education and Science is that the need for staff of Senior Traveller Training Centres to have a proven ability to empathise and work with Travellers is accepted and has been identified as a priority in the inservice needs of staff.</p> <p>A recent survey of Training Centres showed that 34% of staff were qualified teachers, 35% had vocational/trade qualifications with the remainder having youthwork, personnel or management skills. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment will clarify with FÁS the current state of play in relation to this recommendation with a view to developing this work as the Equality infrastructure comes on stream.</p>

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A number of strategies including links with the private sector should be developed to ensure progression for Travellers on schemes both into the mainstream labour force and within the Traveller economy.	GR.36	<p>FÁS participates in an Integra Project, exploring strategies and systems linking to mainstream workforce and Traveller economy.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment advises that it will explore with FÁS the further development of links with the private sector for Travellers on schemes both into the mainstream labour force and within the Traveller economy.</p> <p>See FR. 149 also.</p>
Within the Local Development Programme for non-designated areas, particular attention should be given to the inclusion of Travellers.	GR.37	<p>The Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation states that Area Development Management (ADM) has pursued a three pronged strategy to ensure that all Travellers are fully included in local development activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) At the planning stage when Partnerships and Community Groups were being established they were required to prepare action plans which included a focus on Travellers 2) Subsequently, ADM published a report on Traveller Inclusion, highlighting examples of good practice. ADM has also documented Traveller projects in the Start Work newsletter and in other published reports. 3) ADM also contacted Pavee Point, the national Travellers Organisation, to work with Partnership and Community Groups to facilitate the inclusion of Travellers across local development activities. ADM says that this has resulted in a lot of co-operation on the ground between local Traveller communities and Partnership/Community Groups. <p>ADM believes that Partnerships and Community Groups have a very strong focus on Travellers. They have a wide range of community development, education or enterprise projects run in association with the local Traveller community. Many have Traveller Representatives on their management committees or sub-committees.</p> <p>ADM is of the view therefore that recommendations Nos GR. 37, GR. 38 and GR. 39 have been implemented.</p>
In drawing up the Local Action Plan, Travellers and Traveller groups should be consulted.	GR.38	ADM state that this recommendation has been implemented (See GR.37).

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Local Development Partnership Companies should be supported and encouraged to develop strategies in support of the social economy in their area. This would include local purchasing strategies.	GR.39	ADM state that this recommendation has been implemented (See GR.37).
County Enterprise Boards are focussed on job creation. Supports appropriate to a range of different forms of economic activity, including that of the Traveller Economy with its income focus rather than a job creation focus, should be developed.	GR.40	The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment advises that in considering the needs of marginal groups, a number of the County Enterprise Boards have initiated specific measures/programmes aimed at members of the Traveller Community e.g. by the provision of direct grant aid; running a Business Orientation Programme; proactively encouraging their participation in the commercial economy; providing for their training needs on Business Start Programmes and by co-operating with Traveller groups to identify possible job creation options.
The Boards should provide resources for job creation in the social economy particularly in the area of local services. This should also include funding strategies of a long-term nature for service enterprises located within disadvantaged communities and serving primarily a local market.	GR.41	The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment confirms that the County Enterprise Boards provide direct grant aid for the development of Enterprise Centres to cater for the needs of small start-ups or expanding businesses.

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<p>In implementing each of the recommendations addressed in this report the gender dimension should be examined in order to ascertain how policies and practices in each area contribute to or block progress for Traveller women. Proposals for future initiatives in each area must be monitored in terms of their impact on equality for Traveller women. Each must outline its objectives, targets and likely outcomes for Traveller women.</p>	<p>HR.1</p>	<p>The Department of Health and Children affirms that its policy on Traveller health will specifically address the problems of Traveller women.</p>
<p>The Government should make resources available for the collection and collation of data on Traveller women through specific research projects. In these projects Traveller women and Traveller women's groups should be subjects rather than objects of the research. The research should build on local profiles and accounts already produced and on other research underway so that any study complements rather than repeats, and addresses gaps not heretofore the subject of detailed scrutiny.</p>	<p>HR.2</p>	<p>Resources should be made available to Pavee Point, the National Traveller Women's Forum and local groups wishing to undertake research on the position of Traveller women in a range of areas.</p>
<p>In line with the recommendations of the Second Commission on the Status of Women, Government policies on this matter and EU Directives, progress for Traveller women is recognised as a priority in the move towards equality for all women. It is also recognised as essential if progress is to be made for all Travellers. This necessitates a particular focus on Traveller women by any body set up as a consequence of the Task Force Report and in all Government Departments concerned with its</p>	<p>HR.3</p>	<p>The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform monitors the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Commission on the Status of Women. Recommendation 5.7.4 of the Second Commission Report refers specifically to Traveller women. Details of progress on implementation of the Commission's recommendations in respect of Traveller women, as outlined in its third report, are as follows:</p> <p>(i) A joint Eastern Health Board/Pavee Point initiative, entitled "Primary Health Care for Travellers Project", commenced in October, 1994, provides a model for the involvement of Traveller women in the delivery of health services. This was followed up by a project funded by the EU NOW Programme which delivered accredited training to 15 Traveller women whereby they qualified to do a variety of jobs in the primary health care area. The particular value of Traveller participation in the delivery of services is the achievement of an improved relationship between the Traveller community and the</p>

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implementation. It also requires a particular focus on Traveller women in procedures and legislation adopted towards the implementation of the Report of the Second Commission on the Status of Women.		<p>health services. These women are trained to work in such areas as health promotion, family planning advice, women's refuges etc. The EHB/Pavee Point model is currently being replicated in four areas and the Report states that it seems likely that it will be the standard model in the future for the involvement of Travellers in the delivery of services.</p> <p>(ii) A national genetic counselling service is in place which is available to Travellers. In addition, there are some genetic counselling projects targeted at Travellers under way.</p> <p>(iii) The Eastern Health Board mobile clinic which has been servicing Traveller halting sites in the Dublin area since 1988 is mainly targeted at immunisation programmes for children. The health promotion work carried out by the trained Traveller women includes the health care of children.</p> <p>(iv) Opportunities for Traveller women to access adult education and training programmes are mainly offered by Pavee Point in Dublin, the Irish Traveller Movement and its constituent member organisations, the National Traveller Women's Forum and Senior Training Centres for Travellers. The Senior Training Centres for Travellers have been the responsibility of the Department of Education and Science since April, 1998. Significant funding from the European Social Fund supports all of these programmes.</p> <p>In addition, the Department of Education and Science allocated £600,000 in 1998 and 1999, with the support of the European Social Fund, to voluntary women's groups. The objective is to enable women to plan and pursue lifelong education opportunities and to acquire access to mainstream programmes. One of the organisations selected to benefit from this scheme is the National Traveller Women's Forum, for the promotion of Traveller women's education.</p>
The special needs of different groups of Traveller women should be looked at separately acknowledging that not all Traveller women are the same e.g. the specific situation of young Traveller women.	HR.4	

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<p>(i) Particular issues which affect the human rights of Traveller women must be urgently addressed. Institutionalised violence towards Traveller women requires detailed examination and responses. Culturally appropriate ways to support Traveller women who experience violence within their community, and to respond to the issue of male violence, need to be worked on with Traveller women. Such work should take into account the responses already being made by voluntary groups, refuges and Women's Aid. The Department of Health should provide resources for pilot projects in this area.</p> <p>(ii) There should be no discrimination or exclusion of Traveller women wishing to access these services.</p> <p>(iii) Resources should be made available by the Department of Health to expand and improve existing facilities in these areas. This should ensure provision for family units of different sizes.</p> <p>(iv) Those working in this area should have access to training in order to ensure their understanding of Travellers and their way of life.</p> <p>(v) The child care needs of Traveller women should be researched and addressed.</p>	HR.5	<p>The Department of Health and Children states that its Health Strategy proposes to expand the services for women who are victims of domestic violence and to co-ordinate these more effectively with other health services. The Minister for Health and Children is committed to the improvement of services for victims of domestic violence including Traveller women and has agreed to make available capital grants totalling £1m. for this purpose. In addition, increased financial support has been made available for counselling and telephone help line services for victims of domestic violence. It is planned to make continued progress with the development of services for the victims of domestic violence. Traveller women have access to all of these services. Important new provisions have recently been implemented in child care services. These include the key provisions of Parts III - VI of the Child Care Act, 1991, which deal with the protection of children in emergencies, care proceedings and the powers and duties of health boards in relation to children in their care. The remaining sections of the Act will be brought into operation next year. The question of carrying out research into the needs of particular groupings including Travellers will be considered in the context of the on-going development of the child care services.</p>
<p>Traveller women's economic roles in their community should be acknowledged and resourced so that any economic progress for Travellers is supportive of, rather than at the expense of, Traveller women.</p>	HR.6	<p>See HR.3.</p>

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<p>(i) Targeted responses to Traveller women's needs in a variety of areas such as health, education, training and personal development are required as a pre-requisite towards progress and equality. These should be designed and delivered in partnership with Traveller women's organisations. They should be flexible and capable of integrating local work already underway and building on the knowledge of existing groups.</p> <p>(ii) Ongoing targeted initiatives for Traveller women, as outlined above, should be built into mainstream programmes of FÁS and other State agencies. Staff on such programmes should be selected and managed by Traveller women's organisations.</p>	HR.7	<p>(i) The Department of Health and Children states that it is prepared to co-operate with Traveller women's organisations in identifying the particular health needs of Traveller women. The findings will be incorporated in the Department's policy on Traveller health.</p> <p>While many of the Traveller projects supported by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs through its Community Development Programme cater for the broad Traveller community, a number of the projects focus particularly on the needs of Traveller women. In acknowledging the particular issues facing Traveller women, the Department supports the National Traveller Women's Forum who co-ordinate Traveller Women's Groups nationally. As with all projects funded under the Department's programmes, projects focusing on Traveller women must be community-driven and managed by members of the target group. The Department's support for such groups is based on the group identifying and prioritising their own needs and also identifying the appropriate means to address these needs. This flexibility within the Department's programmes acknowledges the very different needs that may exist in communities, and that may exist for women, and Traveller women particularly, and ensures that the community themselves are in a position to put in place programmes and activities to meet their specific needs.</p> <p>(ii) FÁS confirms that it provides training programmes for Traveller women at local level through the Community Response Programme. These programmes are provided within FÁS mainstream training.</p>
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<p>The relevant Government Departments and State Agencies should make resources available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to ensure that the premises of Traveller groups in their area are accessible to people with a disability;- to develop a programme for care service providers, Traveller groups or organisations of people with a disability, to train and employ personnel as Traveller advocates. These advocates would play a role in ensuring that the buildings and resources of Traveller groups are accessible, ensuring that the policies and practices of care service providers are sensitive and appropriate to cultural difference, and are supportive of Travellers with a disability, enabling them to express their double identity with confidence. It is envisaged that funding this work would be the responsibility of the Department of Health, and local health boards as appropriate;- to further research the particular experience and needs of Travellers with a disability.	JR.1	<p>The Department of Health and Children states that there is an on-going programme of making all health services premises accessible as resources permit. The question of Traveller advocates is comprehended in programmes such as the Primary Health Care for Travellers Project which trains Travellers for participation in the delivery of health services</p> <p>See ER.10 also.</p>
<p>Those responsible for the provision of care services to people with a disability should be required by the various health boards and the Department of Health, as appropriate, to develop appropriate responses to the particular needs of Travellers with a disability including initiatives to reduce their isolation, and programmes to assist those who wish to affirm their Traveller</p>	JR.2	<p>See JR.1</p>

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identity and to challenge any discrimination experienced.		
The various health boards and the Department of Health, as appropriate, should support and resource care service providers to develop in-service training on intercultural work practices in co-operation with Traveller groups.	JR.3	As pointed out in the response to Recommendation No. ER 24, the Department of Health and Children considers that the implementation of this recommendation is complex having regard to the number of different disciplines in the health services. Some health boards and health professionals are implementing it, however. The Department of Health and Children is considering the possibility of a structured review of the extent of implementation.
<p>(a) The Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities should make specific reference in its work and reporting to the distinct needs of Travellers with a disability.</p> <p>(b) In the implementation of the National Health Strategy, the Health Development Sectors should provide resources and opportunities for Travellers and Traveller groups and, within this, specific mention should be made of the needs of Travellers with a disability.</p>	JR. 4	The proposed policy of the Department of Health and Children on Traveller health will take account of the needs of Travellers with a disability.

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<p>In order to oversee the implementation and monitoring of this Report, the Task Force recommends that the following arrangements be put in place by the Minister for Equality and Law Reform or his successor:</p> <p>(a) The Minister for Equality and Law Reform as part of his/her responsibility for co-ordinating Government policy in relation to Traveller issues should monitor and co-ordinate the implementation of the recommendations contained in this Report.</p> <p>(b) A Traveller Unit with adequate resources should be established within the Department of Equality and Law Reform to assist the Minister in regard to (a).</p> <p>(c) An annual progress report should be published on the implementation of the Task Force's Report and a formal mechanism should be established for discussion of that progress report with all relevant interests.</p>	<p>KR.1</p>	<p>(a) In June 1998, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform established a Committee to Monitor and Co-ordinate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Task Force. The Committee is representative of Traveller interests, each of the four pillars of Partnership 2000 and relevant Government Departments. The Terms of Reference of the Monitoring Committee are outlined in this Report.</p> <p>(b) The Committee is chaired by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and secretarial and back-up services are provided to the Committee by a section within the Equal Status Division of that Department.</p> <p>(c) The Terms of Reference require the Monitoring Committee to draw up and submit to Government from time to time a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations including proposals for acceleration or prioritisation of implementation of recommendations. This report is the first progress report of the Committee. The Monitoring Committee is also obliged to re-examine the recommendations where necessary in the light of changes in Government policy and practice and of legislative, demographic, social and economic change.</p>
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<p>In relation to all forms of recreational activity and access to the venues in which these activities take place, the Task Force recommends that discriminatory practices of a direct and indirect nature, should be prohibited against any group particularly vulnerable to discrimination, including Travellers. The Task Force notes, in particular, that legislative proposals in this regard are being drawn up by the Minister for Equality and Law Reform.</p>	<p>LR.1</p>	<p>The Equal Status Act, 2000 outlaws both direct and indirect discrimination in the provision of goods and services including the provision of recreational services and access to venues having such activities on nine grounds, including membership of the Traveller community.</p> <p>1) At the planning stage when Partnerships and Community Groups were being established they were required to prepare action plans which included a focus on Travellers.</p> <p>2) Subsequently, ADM published a report on Traveller Inclusion, highlighting examples of good practice. ADM has also documented Traveller projects in the Start Work newsletter and in other published reports .</p> <p>3). ADM also contacted Pavee Point, the national Travellers Organisation, to work with Partnerships and Community Groups to facilitate the inclusion of Travellers across local development activities. This has resulted in a lot of co-operation on the ground between local Traveller communities and Partnership/Community Groups.</p> <p>ADM believes that Partnerships and Community Groups have a very strong focus on Travellers. They have a wide range of community development, education or enterprise projects run in association with the local Traveller community. Many have Traveller Representatives on their management committees or sub-committees. ADM is of the view that the main recommendations in Section 6.3 of the Task Force have been implemented.</p> <p>There is one point which ADM would like to make and that relates to the recommendation at Paragraph GR 23 suggesting that the Partnerships should influence private sector purchasing policies. ADM considers that this is not implementable in any great measure as the Partnerships have very little influence over the purchasing policies of private companies. Partnership Companies provide support and encourage strategies to develop the Social Economy, including Traveller Projects in their area. For the most part these strategies are aimed at providing social economy projects with business training, guidance and some financial assistance to help them develop their business and expand their customer base. Ultimately, however, the social economy projects have to sell themselves. The Partnerships have no mechanisms to directly influence private sector purchasing policies.</p>
<p>The Department of Education should draw up a statement of practice in relation to access to and participation in sporting activities by all members of the Traveller community.</p>	<p>LR.3</p>	

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There should be an increased commitment on the part of the Department of Education and Vocational Education Committees in relation to the provision of funding, including funds from the National Lottery, to enable Traveller groups to participate in sporting activities.	LR.4	
Present arrangements operated by the Department of Education for the allocation of grant-in-aid approvals in respect of sports facilities should include a reference to Travellers' right of access to such facilities.	LR.5	
National sports organisations should issue statements of practice to their members on the same lines as recommended at Recommendation LR.3 above.	LR.6	
In making grant allocations, sporting organisations including VEC sports committees, should assist less well known sports pursued by Travellers, such as road bowling and trotting, to ensure greater standards of safety in appropriate locations.	LR.7	

RECOMMENDATION**NO.****PRESENT POSITION**

<p>The Task Force recommends, in relation to Traveller involvement in and the development of an administration of cultural policy, including participation in the arts and access to cultural facilities such as museums, theatres etc. that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The statements of the Arts Council and in the White Paper on Cultural Policy "Access and Opportunity" quoted in the main Report should act as fundamental principles to be implemented, developed and built upon as necessary in relation to the Arts;- The Arts Council should publish a Code of Practice for access by Travellers to the Arts along the lines of that published in 1985 for people with a disability;- Increased funding should be provided, at national and local levels, by the relevant statutory agencies, including the Arts Council, in order to assist and encourage Travellers to develop their artistic and cultural potential and to participate fully in the cultural and artistic life of the State particularly at community level;- Museums, galleries and other institutions in which artistic work is displayed, should accommodate the work of the Traveller community.	LR.8	<p>The Arts Council advises that rather than developing individual codes of practice for each specific group, the Council intends to examine the question of whether it may appropriately make explicit its overall policy of inclusion, which is underpinned by principles of equality of opportunity. In doing so, the Arts Council would be adopting a collective approach to support for minority/under-represented groups within the context of its overall policy which aims to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to access the arts.</p>
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**STATISTICS
AND
INFORMATION ON FUNDING**

1. ACCOMMODATION

1. Accommodation Provided/Refurbished

The latest annual count of Traveller families carried out by local authorities show that there were overall increases in the number of families accommodated in standard housing, group housing and halting sites. The results also show an increase in the number of Traveller families on the roadside. The following table sets out in detail the accommodation provided and refurbished by local authorities in the years 1996-1999.

Table A - New Traveller specific accommodation

	1996	1997	1998	1999	'96-'99
1. New Halting Sites					
Permanent Bays	71	39	23	4	137
Transient Bays	-	2	-	-	2
Emergency/Temporary Bays	-	22	4	-	26
Totals	71	63	27	4	165
2. New Group Housing Schemes					
No. of Units	24	31	6	26	87
Overall Totals	95	94	33	30	252

Table B - Refurbished accommodation

	1996	1997	1998	1999	'96-'99
3. Refurbished Halting Sites					
Permanent Bays	91	61	-	20	172
Transient Bays	-	10	-	-	10
Emergency/Temporary Bays	-	12	63	14	89
Totals	91	83	63	34	271
4. Refurbished Group Housing Schemes					
No. of Units	4	29	26	15	74
Overall Totals	95	112	89	49	345

Table C - New standard local authority housing

	1996	1997	1998	1999	'96-'99
5. Standard Housing					
No. of Units	111	76	83	73	343

All accommodation

	1996	1997	1998	1999	'96-'99
Totals (Table A+B+C)	301	282	205	152	940

According to the annual count of Traveller families which was carried out by local authorities at the end of November each year the number of families identified as being on the roadside, which includes those living in private yards/gardens etc. is as follows:

1996	1997	1998	1999
1040	1127	1148	1207

The following figures which were also taken from the count provide details of families in both housing and halting sites in the period 1996-1999.

	1996	1997	1998	1999
6. Housing Provided by L.A. or with L.A. Assistance				
Dublin Local Authorities:	299	235	335	356
Other Local Authorities:	1836	2025	2032	2127
Total:	2135	2260	2367	2483
7(a) Permanent Halting Sites				
Dublin Local Authorities:	249	246	252	253
Other Local Authorities:	528	543	572	549
Total:	777	789	824	802
7(b) Temporary Halting Sites				
Dublin Local Authorities:	256	237	248	207
Other Local Authorities:	95	89	61	64
Total:	351	326	309	271
7(c) Transient Halting Sites				
Dublin Local Authorities:	0	0	0	0
Other Local Authorities:	15	19	15	27
Total:	15	19	15	27

2. Financial Assistance

The Department of the Environment and Local Government continues to provide 100% capital funding for the provision of halting sites and group housing schemes for Travellers. Expenditure has been increased from £6.5m in 1996 to £8.2m in 1998. Expenditure in 1999 was £8.9m. There is a provision for £12m in 2000.

The Department of Environment and Local Government refunds to local authorities 100% of a special grant of £3,000 paid to Travellers who satisfy the criteria for the schemes to purchase or construct houses. This grant was introduced to encourage Travellers to provide their own accommodation. Expenditure on this special grant has increased from £30,000 in 1995 to £78,000 in 1998. In 1999 £45,000 was refunded.

In April 1997, the Department of the Environment and Local Government announced details of a new scheme of financial assistance to local authorities for the management and maintenance of Traveller accommodation. Briefly, the scheme refunds to local authorities:

- 75% of their expenditure on caretakers salaries;
- 50% of their expenditure on routine maintenance of halting site bays, up to a maximum expenditure of £500 per bay per year; and
- 50% of their expenditure on skip hire of, up to a maximum expenditure of £250 per bay per year.

2. Health

Health Services

The Department of Health and Children allocated additional revenue funding to health boards for Traveller health initiatives over the past four years as follows:

- 1997 £0.1 million,
- 1998 £0.4 million,
- 1999 £0.9 million,
- 2000 £0.9 million.

3. Education

1. Enrolment Numbers and Supports

Pre-School:

There are 52 pre-schools with approximately 537 pupils on the roll. The Department of Education and Science funds 98% of the salary costs of the teachers in pre-schools. The Department also funds 98% of the transport costs. An annual equipment grant is also provided.

Primary:

There are currently 443 resource teachers for Travellers serving 404 primary schools. The enrolment at primary level in the schools which have resource teachers is as follows:

4464 pupils under 12 years
776 pupils over 13 years

The Department of Education and Science does not have a record of the number of Travellers in primary schools which do not have the service of a Resource Teacher for Travellers.

Capitation Grant:

The standard rate of capitation grant paid in respect of each pupil in a mainstream primary school is £64.00. For each Traveller child enrolled the rate is £181 for pupils under 12 and £376 for pupils over 12 years (The school must have the service of a resource teacher in order to qualify for enhanced capitation).

Post Primary:

The Department of Education and Science sanctions 1.5 hours per week teaching support for each Traveller child enrolled at second level. (One full time post is equal to 22 hours per week).

The Department of Education and Science does not have a record of the number of Travellers enrolled in second level schools where the school has not applied for additional support.

TYPE OF SCHOOL	ENROLMENT	TEACHER ALLOCATION Whole time equivalents
Secondary School	486	32.13 posts
VEC	441	23.19 posts
Community & Comprehensive	75	7.58 posts

Capitation Grant

The rate of Capitation for pupils at post primary level is £184.00. The rate payable in respect of Travellers is £336.00.

Special Schools

There are 3 special schools for Travellers.

Visiting Teacher Service

There are 40 visiting teachers plus one National Education Officer for Travellers.

[Note: The above enrolment numbers are not an accurate account of the number of Travellers in full time education as the Department do not have records of Traveller pupils enrolled in primary and post primary schools where the school has not applied for support or in the case of primary schools where there were insufficient pupils to warrant the appointment of a full time teacher.]

2. Participation

(a) Retention in Primary Schools:

No. Traveller pupils aged 12+ remaining in Primary Schools in 1997/1998 : 737

(b) Progression through Post Primary School - Example of Retention Rates:

The following is a sample of a small isolated survey which helps to demonstrate the progressive reduction in participation by Travellers in secondary education.

No. Traveller pupils in 1st Year:	314	-	100%
No. Traveller pupils retained in 2nd Year:	175	-	56%
No. Traveller pupils retained in 3rd Year:	91	-	29%
No. Traveller pupils retained in 4th Year/Transition:	20	-	6%
No. Traveller pupils retained in 5th Year:	22	-	7%
No. Traveller pupils retained in 6th Year:	15	-	5%
No. Traveller pupils retained post Leaving Cert.:	1	-	0.3%

(c) Number in Post Primary Schools:

No. Traveller pupils in Post Primary Schools in 1998/1999: 738

3. Community Development Programme

1. Supports for Travellers Through the Community Development Programme

Through its Community Development Programme (CDP), the Scheme of Grants for Locally-Based Community and Family Support Groups and a category of funding within that scheme for core-funding of more developed community groups, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs is committed to targeting particular support to Travellers groups, as Travellers in Irish society suffer significant poverty and disadvantage. The aim of this support is to raise awareness of Travellers' issues and contribute to development initiatives by Travellers themselves.

Under the Scheme of Grants to Locally-Based Community and Family Support Groups, once-off grants are given each year to a range of local Traveller groups for personal development, social development and vocational training initiatives. Seven Traveller groups are also approved at present for core-funding under this scheme. A total amount of £170,000 has been allocated to six of these groups in 2000 and funding in respect of the remaining group is currently under negotiation. (Details of individual amounts are in Appendix A). Two of these groups were formerly funded under the Community Development Programme.

At present, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs supports some 91 Community Development Projects many of which would identify and target Travellers in their community for support. Eight of these are specialist community development projects working with the Traveller community. Total funding allocated to these eight projects in 2000 is £481,600. (Details of individual amounts are shown in Appendix A). In addition, Pavee Point Traveller Centre is funded as a specialist support agency to the Programme with annual funding of £180,000 per annum. The overall aim of the Specialist Support Agency is the appropriate inclusion of Travellers in the various aspects of the Programme and progress in addressing their social exclusion. These aims are addressed through three strategies (i) impacting on area based projects, Travellers projects and the overall Programme, (ii) providing an information service and (iii) work on policy.

While many of the geographically based community development resource centres in the CDP give a high priority to working with Travellers, the inclusion of specialist Traveller projects in the Programme ensures that Traveller issues and concerns are highlighted in a way that is not always possible in a purely area-based approach. It also ensures resources for development initiatives that come from within the Traveller community itself.

2. Supports for Traveller Women

While many of the Traveller projects supported by the Department cater for the broad Traveller community, a number of the projects focus particularly on the needs of Traveller women. In acknowledging the particular issues facing Traveller women, the Department supports the National Traveller Women's Forum who co-ordinate Traveller Women's Groups nationally. As with all projects funded under the Department's programmes, projects focusing on Traveller women must be community-driven and managed by members of the target group. The Department's support for such groups is based on the group identifying and prioritising its own needs and also identifying the appropriate means to address these needs. This flexibility within the Department's programmes acknowledges the very different needs that may exist in communities, and that may exist for women, and Traveller women particularly, and ensures that the communities themselves are in a position to put in place programmes and activities to meet their specific needs.

It is intended that other specialist Travellers projects - including those addressing the needs of Traveller women - will be included in the Community Development Programme or Programme of Core-funding to Locally-Based Community and Family Support Groups as appropriate in the future.

A Code of Practice, which provides a framework for community development projects to address racism and promote equal outcomes for minority ethnic communities, which would include Travellers, was published by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs in November, 1999.

3. Supports for Travellers through the Money Advice and Budgeting Service

In addition to providing the above supports to Traveller groups, a grant of £21,000 was made available in 1995 to the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul to set up a research project relating to the access to credit available to the Traveller community.

Findings indicated that most Travellers were unaware of the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) operated by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. Direct contact of information and advice workers with the Traveller community was identified as an essential element in developing the necessary confidence in this community to avail of MABS.

In 1998 the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs approved the two year appointment of an outreach worker to:

- link Travellers to local existing MABS
- disseminate information in relation to MABS within the Traveller community.

With funding to a maximum of £25,000 per annum, this appointment is subject to evaluation at the end of its two year period. In November, 1998 the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs increased funding to £50,000 per annum for the period 98/99 and 99/00 to provide for the employment of a second outreach worker.

(a) Funding allocated under the Programme of Core-funding to Locally-Based Community & Family Support Groups

Group	Funding in 2000	Funded since
Clonakilty Traveller Women's Association	£25,000	1994
Wicklow Traveller's Group	£15,000	1998
National Traveller Women's Forum	£15,000	1998
Bray Travellers Development Network	£50,000	1998
Southside Travellers Action Group	£30,000	1999
Tipperary Rural Travellers	To be negotiated	1997
Waterford Travellers Interest Constituency	£35,000	1997

Tipperary Rural Travellers and Waterford Travellers Interest Constituency were previously funded under the Community Development Programme but have since been transferred to the Programme of Core-funding to Locally-Based Community and Family Support Groups. The level of funding payable to Tipperary Rural Travellers is currently being negotiated.

(b) Funding allocated under the Community Development Programme

Group	Funding in 2000	Funded since
Tullamore Travellers	£67,000	1993
Pavee Point*	£180,000	1994
Clondalkin Travellers Development Group	£62,000	1995
Limerick Travellers Development Group	£59,200	1996
Galway Travellers Development Group	£61,000	1996
Cork Travellers Development Group	£60,000	1997
Kerry Travellers Development Group	£69,000	1997
Interest Constituency Northside Traveller's Support Group	£55,700	1998
Tallaght Travellers	£47,700	1999

* Funded as a Specialist Support Agency under the Community Development Programme. The overall aim of the Specialist Support Agency is the appropriate inclusion of Travellers in the various aspects of the Programme and progress in addressing their social exclusion. These aims are addressed through three strategies (i) impacting on area based projects, Travellers projects and the overall Programme, (ii) providing an information service and (iii) work on policy.

Appendix III

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TERM	EXPLANATION
Bay	the area within a site allocated for the use of a family, usually walled, with space for caravans and with a small service block.
Group housing	a purpose built scheme of bungalows or houses.
Halting site:	
- Permanent	Site with individual bays, with full range of services provided in a small structure on each bay;
- Temporary	short term site, providing basic facilities, for families awaiting permanent accommodation;
- Transient	site providing the basic facilities, for short term use by families pursuing a nomadic way of life, or visiting relatives.
Housing/Local Authority	for the convenience of the reader, the term "local authority" has been used throughout this Report, even where the term "housing authority" would technically be the more appropriate term.
Single house	either built or purchased by a local authority, to meet the needs of a specific family.
Standard housing	in standard local authority housing, in local authority housing schemes.
Stray horse or wandering horse	a horse apparently wandering at large, lost, abandoned or unaccompanied (whether tethered or untethered) by any person apparently in charge of it in a public place or on any premises without the owner's or occupier's consent.
Traveller specific accommodation	group housing and halting sites built specifically for Travellers.
Units:	
- roadside	household on an unofficial site;
- serviced	household on an official site.

"The Task Force on the Travelling Community" is referred to briefly as "The Task Force".

"The Committee to Monitor and Co-ordinate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community" is referred to briefly as "The Monitoring Committee".

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