

Submission to



Strategic Plan

of

National Disability Authority

Submitted by

**The Irish Association of
Supported Employment**

The Organisation

IASE is a national voluntary organisation which was established in February 1994 with the aim of promoting and developing supported employment at a national level. In 2006 IASE is the representative voice of almost 500 members in Ireland, who in turn are working with over 5,000 people with disabilities.

IASE is currently funded by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the white paper for voluntary services. IASE's mission is to promote best practice in Supported Employment for people with disabilities in Ireland.

Aims of the IASE.

- To promote the concept of Supported Employment.

- To facilitate the exchange of information between interested parties.

- To respond to the training needs of affiliated members.

- To actively participate in the European Union of Supported Employment.

- To assist members with networking and promoting the model of Supported Employment.

The National Executive

IASE was established in 1994, it is a company limited by guarantee and currently has 11 Directors.

| Name/Position | Organisation | Representative |
|--|---|-------------------|
| Dermot Cunningham Chairperson | Employment Response North West | North West Region |
| Stephen MacWhite Vice Chairperson | SMTDC, Dublin | East Region |
| Eithne Jarrett Company Secretary | Roscommon Supported Employment Service | West Region |
| Teresa Mallon Treasurer | Menei Services, St John of God, Dublin | East Region |
| Greg Barry Public Relations Officer | Work Web West, Co Mayo | West Region |
| Helen Grant Company Director | Louth Supported Employment Services | North East Region |
| Teresa Haughey Company Director | Worklink North West, Co Donegal | North West Region |
| Catherine Murphy Company Director | Connect Employment, Co Wicklow | East Region |
| Alice O'Carroll Company Director | Clare Supported Employment Service | West Region |
| Tony Reilly Company Director | Midland Employment Support Agency | Midlands Region |
| David Ryan Company Director | Work Access, Limerick | Southern Region |

Definition of Supported Employment

Supported Employment enables people with disabilities to find, secure and maintain paid employment in the open labour market.

On the job training and individualised long-term supports are key elements of Supported Employment.

The Beneficiaries of Supported Employment

People with disabilities

People with disabilities who wish to work are successful in gaining employment in the open labour market

Employers

Employers receive backup support of a professional service, they gain a valuable employee and they can introduce an equal opportunities policy within the organisation.

The Wider Community

The community benefits through the individuals personal and monetary input into the local economy.

SUBMISSION

Section A

1) The NDA has to decide on its priorities for its next strategic plan. What do you think the priorities should be?

- *Employment*
- *Further research and the publication of research*
- *Policy Development*
- *Standard, Quality Services and codes of practices*
- *Animation, advice and guidance to service providers in the disability sector*
- *Delivery of information etc.. through conferences, seminars, and information briefing sessions*

2) In your opinion, what have been the achievements and successes of the NDA in the last three years?

- *Briefing sessions on government department sectoral plans*
- *Publication of NDA's response to sectoral plans for the various departments and having it available in advance of deadlines for submissions*
- *Provision of Conferences have been extremely beneficial to service providers, service personnel and people with disabilities in Ireland*
- *Access to publications in a range of formats*
- *The development of the NDA's Website as a tool to service personnel*
- *NDA staff providing information on an individual basis to assist organisations with a range of issues (for example at the IASE AGM, National Conference etc..)*

Outline one aspect of work where you feel the NDA has done well

- *Briefing sessions on government department sectoral plans*
- *Publication of NDA's response to sectoral plans for the various departments and having it available in advance of deadlines for submissions*
- *Provision of Conferences has been extremely beneficial to service providers, service personnel and people with disabilities in Ireland*
- *Publications – Producing up to date documentation*
- *Access to publications in a range of formats*
- *The development of the NDA's Website as a tool to service personnel*
- *NDA staff providing information on an individual basis to assist organisations with a range of issues (for example support was provided to IASE at the AGM and National Conference in the area of policy and legislation)*

3) Outline one aspect of work where you feel the NDA could improve

- *Further resources directed to ensure **employment** for people with disabilities remains on the agenda as work is a central part of most adult lives. Paid employment provides people with an income, with financial independence, with the opportunity to meet and socialise with colleagues and participate in the wider community.*

4) Do you have any other comments?

- *As a national voluntary organisation representing people with disabilities in Ireland interested in employment, IASE found the recent briefing session on the governments sectoral plans to be extremely useful to progress policy issues and also by empowering voluntary organisations to have a voice in the planning process at a national level*

The information in this section will be treated confidentially

Section B:

Please indicate if this submission is from:

A person with a disability:

A family member or carer of a person with a disability:

A disability service provider:

Other (please specify): _____

Your age: N/A
Under 20: _____
20-30: _____
30-60: _____
Over 60: _____

Your gender:
Male: _____
Female: _____

The area in which you live:
Urban: _____
Rural: _____
Other – National Organisation

The county in which you live:

As a national voluntary organisation IASE has members in every county in Ireland