



AONTAS
Annual
Report
2005



AONTAS

Mission Statement

AONTAS is the National Association of Adult Education, a voluntary membership organisation. It exists to promote the development of a learning society through the provision of a quality and comprehensive system of adult education which is accessible to and inclusive of all.

The five objectives of the current AONTAS Strategic Plan, Sustaining Growth and Development 2004-2006, are:

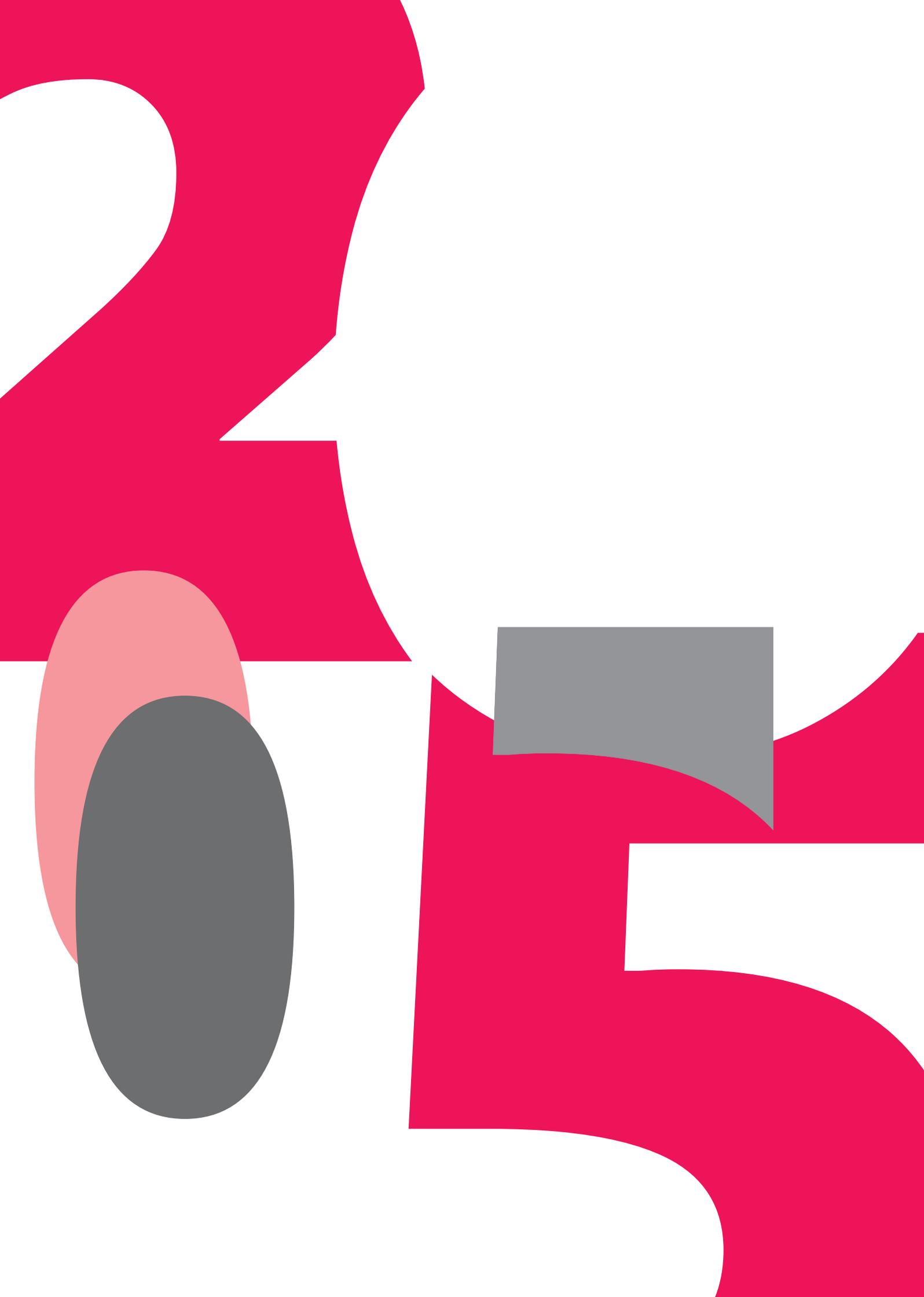
- Ensuring that the importance and value of adult and community education as a key part of lifelong learning are promoted locally, nationally and internationally
- Influencing and participating in the continued development of policy in the areas of adult education, lifelong learning and civil society
- Strengthening and building the capacity of members to operate effectively in the growth and development of the Adult Education Service
- Taking a lead role in supporting the growth and development of community education as a key sector providing access and progression for adult learners
- Developing the capacity of AONTAS as a learning organisation and a model of excellence for the Adult and Community Education sector

AONTAS

Annual Report &
Financial Statements

2005

The lower half of the page features a large, abstract graphic design. It consists of several overlapping, rounded shapes in various shades of red, pink, and grey. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.



Contents

	Page
Overview	5
AONTAS Membership Services	10
Policy Development	16
AONTAS Information Service	20
Promoting and Profiling AONTAS and Adult Education	26
Supporting Community Education	30
Partner Projects	38
Appendix One	
Executive Committee	41
Staff	
Appendix Two	42
Membership List	
Financial Statements	52



Overview

2005 has been a busy year for AONTAS and it has also been a somewhat disappointing year for the adult education sector as a whole. Five years on from the optimistic launch of the White Paper in 2000 the sector appears to have reached a plateau both in terms of resources being allocated to it and in terms of its development. For two successive years adult education has received no significant increases in funding and its lack of visibility within the 2005 Budget Estimates illustrates a worrying trend. The allocation to adult education remains static at just 2% of the education budget and the commitment to the development of a comprehensive adult education service appears to have slipped off the political agenda. The lack of development of co-ordinating structures for the sector has led to a huge gap in leadership and overall policy development, leading to the continuation of fragmented growth of the service. The treatment of the National Adult Learning Council by the Department of Education and Science is viewed as both disrespectful and cynical. Despite numerous requests and representations no feedback has been given to members of the Council about the findings of the review undertaken by the Department. In the absence of a co-ordinating structure at a national level important work such as professional development within the sector has not been progressed in any coherent way. A new commitment now needs to be made if the sector is to grow and develop.

While the continuing expansion and growth of the economy has meant that Ireland has achieved near full employment there is still less equality of opportunity here than in other European countries. The importance of access to continuing education and training programmes is crucial to the success of the economy and to the development of civil life. During 2005 AONTAS continued to contribute to policy discussions at a national level and to represent the issues and concerns of adult learners in a variety of fora. In January AONTAS made a submission to the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) project, *Creating an Inclusive Labour Market* and attended the NESF plenary session in October. In its submission AONTAS emphasised the need to open up education and training opportunities to those in the labour market, especially workers in part time or low paid employment. AONTAS proposed that employers, unions and the State devise a model for supporting workers in education, an idea which was adopted at the Forum, and we were heartened to see that our proposal was identified in the report of the project which has been published recently. The report states that ‘Ireland has a high proportion of low-skilled workers compared to other best performing countries and our level of lifelong learning remains low even though we ought to be investing in a higher-skilled workforce to compete successfully and to maintain jobs.’ AONTAS also promoted the notion of making a first degree free for people with low qualifications. This has also been recommended in the report.

Also in January, AONTAS was invited to make a presentation to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Science, and a detailed submission on priorities for the adult education sector was made to the Committee. Director Berni Brady, President John Ryan and Phyllis Priestley, an adult learner and tutor from Dublin's Inner City, presented to the Committee. The main issues raised in the submission related to basic education, the need for flexibility in the system and the need for co-ordinating structures at both local and national level. In particular the status of the National Adult Learning Council was raised. The meeting was also attended by Pauline Gildea and Des O'Loughlin from the Further Education Section of the Department of Education and Science.

2005 was designated the *European Year of Citizenship through Education*, by the Council of Europe. To mark the year AONTAS organised a national conference which was opened by President McAleese and attended by 200 people. The Conference theme, *Citizen Learner*, highlighted the key role played by lifelong learning in creating a strong civil society and generated much lively discussion and debate. A report and DVD of the conference activities will be available in early 2006.

For the past three years AONTAS has been working on a major piece of action research with the Women's Community Education groups towards the development of a Quality Assurance Framework. During 2005 the Framework which was developed by the women themselves under the guidance of consultant Eleanor Mc Clorey, was piloted with five groups and networks across the country. The work culminated in a seminar held in November where the results of the pilot were presented to the AONTAS women's community group members in the presence of Minister Síle DeValera who was hugely impressed with the outcomes. The seminar called on the Department of Education and Science to provide a funding line for women's community education and AONTAS plans to follow this up with the Minister. The meeting was also attended by the new Principal Officer of the Further Education Section of the DES, Breda Naughton and other staff from the FE Section. AONTAS was heartened by the positive response from both the Minister and the Department officials. The Quality Assurance Framework has succeeded in bringing great clarity about the work of this sector and highlights the value and quality of women's community education. A more detailed description of the project is included in the body of this report and copies of the Framework itself can be obtained from AONTAS. The Steering Group which guided the process is now considering the next steps required to mainstream the Framework with a wider number of groups in the sector.

After a pause in its development during 2004 the fourth phase of the Adult education Guidance Initiative was finally rolled out in September extending the Guidance Service to eleven more centres. There are now 35 guidance projects operating across the country and this will probably be the last phase of development under the current initiative. The Advisory Group on which the Director plays an active role representing AONTAS has recommended an evaluation of the initiative since its inception with a view to mainstreaming the adult educational guidance service in the context of the next National Development Plan. The operation of the service while successful has not been

without its problems mostly resulting from the lack of adequate funding for expansion and development. The service is vital to the development of access to learning opportunities for all adult learners and AONTAS will be making a strong case for mainstreaming it as a key feature of the adult education service.

In June 2005 the Educational Disadvantage Committee wrapped up three years of work and produced a final report entitled *Beyond Educational Disadvantage*. The Director has served on the Committee for those three years and strove very hard with other colleagues from the adult education sector to bring a lifelong learning perspective to its work. The final report reflects this work and makes many useful suggestions about how educational disadvantage could be tackled in an integrated way and from a lifelong learning perspective. Unfortunately the report has been somewhat sidelined by the Department's report on educational disadvantage in the school system. This report entitled *Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools, (DEIS)* was published three months before the EDC report which has barely received a mention by the Minister for Education. This is an extremely disappointing response to the hard work engaged in by the Committee and seems to display a narrowness of thinking about education and learning. It appears that while much lip service has been paid to lifelong learning it is still far from embedded in education policy as a whole.

The recent NESF report points out that around 13% of young people still leave school early and their unemployment rate is 18%. It goes on to state that the figure for early school leaving is much higher in many disadvantaged areas ranging from 40% to 50%, this despite a spend of €636 million in tackling educational disadvantage. The EDC recognised that educational disadvantage needs to be tackled on a much broader front and that communities and families must be supported as well as school-going populations. This kind of approach implies an understanding of what lifelong learning means in practice and a commitment to embedding it within both the thinking of policy makers and funders and the education system as a whole.

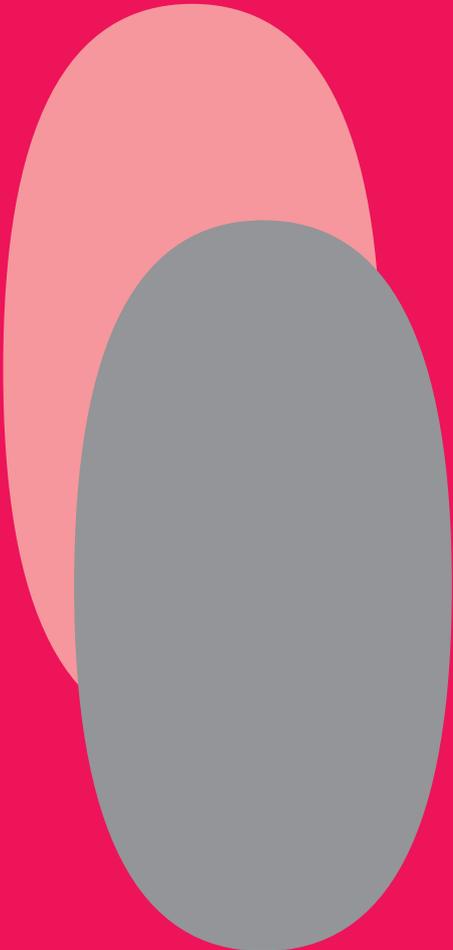
Halfway through the year AONTAS recruited two new members of staff, Communications Officer, Martina Quinn and Membership Development Officer, Niamh O' Reilly. Already they have made an important impact on the work of AONTAS by raising the profile of adult and community education and developing strong links with members. The regional meetings held in the Autumn once more surfaced issues and concerns of members and provided an important opportunity for networking and exchanging information. The feedback from these meetings has been incorporated into policy work for 2006 and has led to examining more strategic ways of using the resource that is the AONTAS membership. Media links were developed and the first media training session was delivered by the Communications Officer to staff of Westmeath VEC. A highlight of the latter part of the year was the first edition of the new AONTAS quarterly magazine *Explore* compiled and edited by the Communications Officer. It has received a very positive response from members and will add to ways in which the adult education sector can profile and promote its work.

The new Executive Committee got off to a lively start at the beginning of June with a day long meeting and workshop with the staff team. The Committee set out its priorities for the year and throughout 2005 contributed valuable information, insights and expertise thus enhancing the work of AONTAS. 2005 saw a changeover in personnel in the Further education Section of the Department of Education and Science with the departure of Pauline Gildea, Principal Officer. AONTAS met with the new Principal Officer, Breda Naughton in September and we look forward to establishing a good working relationship with her. AONTAS had two meetings with Minister DeValera during 2005 and she also spoke at the National Conference and the November seminar.

Towards the end of the year the Staff team reviewed the work undertaken during 2005 and began to make plans for taking advantage of the opportunities to feed into the next partnership and National Development Plan. The key focus of this work will be putting adult education firmly back on the national policy agenda and lobbying for the funding needed to develop the adult education service in a consistent and coherent way. The view that adult education has never been better resourced needs to be considered in the context of previously having practically no resources at its disposal. Many challenges lie ahead for the sector and for AONTAS but a concerted effort will be made to regain the ground lost over the past two years. Finally I would like to thank the President, John Ryan, the Officer Board and the Executive Committee for their support and commitment throughout the year both to AONTAS and myself and the staff team.

Berni Brady, Director

AONTAS
Membership
Services

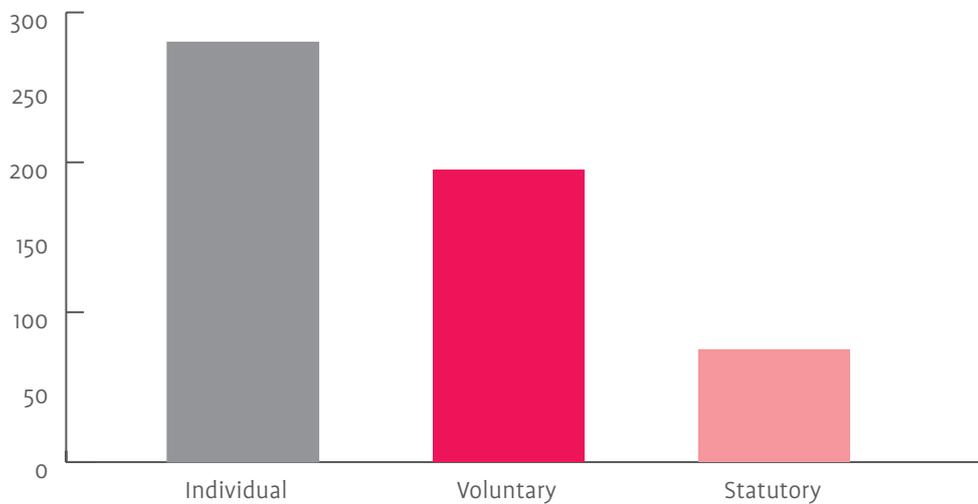


AONTAS Membership Services

AONTAS Membership

As of 31st December 2005 the AONTAS membership totalled five hundred and sixty nine members. A full membership list is included in this report (appendix two).

AONTAS Membership December 2005



Statutory/corporate	86
Voluntary/corporate	198
Individual members	285
Total Membership	569

Developing and Supporting Membership

Objective three of the strategic plan focuses on membership and seeks to strengthen and build on its capacity to operate effectively in the growth and development of the adult education service. Following on from the research undertaken in 2004 regarding membership a number of recommendations were implemented during 2005. The first of these was the recruitment of a Membership Development Officer, Niamh O'Reilly, with specific responsibility for increasing the capacity of the membership and expanding and developing it. Initiatives to facilitate capacity building were carried

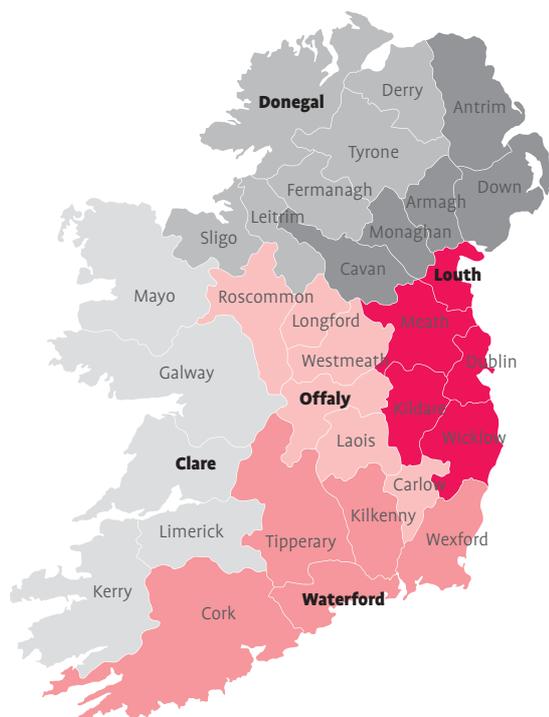
out through outreach work in order to create stronger links between AONTAS members and staff and to share information and provide support and advice. This was also achieved through an increased presence of AONTAS staff at member events and site visits. Regional networking meetings were held at members' premises where possible, to provide opportunities for members to get to know each other, share information and models of good practice. Stronger networking between members has had a significant contribution to the overall policy and promotion of adult education and has encouraged active participation of members in the work of AONTAS.

Site Visits

The Membership Development Officer and other staff made a number of site visits to a range of voluntary and statutory member organisations across the country. The areas visited include: Louth, Donegal, Waterford, Wexford, Laois, Cavan, Cork, Dublin and Limerick. The purpose of the visits included attending the launch of an event, contributing to exhibitions and exploring ideas and issues for forthcoming AONTAS meetings.

Regional Meetings

As a membership organisation it is vital that the views and concerns of the 550 plus members are heard and are fed directly into the policy work of AONTAS. One of the key functions of the AONTAS staff is to facilitate this process and to organise regional meetings where members can raise their issues and concerns. In 2005, the regional meetings took place during the autumn, culminating in the General Meeting in Dublin in November. To ensure that all of our members throughout the country had the opportunity to articulate their views, six meetings were held in the Northwest, Southwest, Midlands, Southeast, East and Northeast.



The focus for the 2005 meetings was very much in keeping with the current policy and political context. The key theme was *Adult Education and the National Development Plan*, although a more specific agenda for each meeting was devised in consultation with local members. Director of AONTAS, Berni Brady, gave an overview of the current position of adult education followed by inputs from a panel of local AONTAS members. These presentations provided a good basis for discussion and attendees were then invited to participate in smaller discussion groups.

Members reflected on the opportunities that lie ahead for adult and community education at local and national level, and how they can take advantage of these opportunities. Ways of incorporating member views into the work of AONTAS were identified and discussed. The meetings concluded on a motivational note, with the launch of the *Adult Learner Journal 2005*. In keeping with the *European Year of Citizenship through Education* the theme of the journal was *Adult Education: Citizenship and Participation*.

Issues and Concerns

While there have been many recent developments at national level in the adult education sector, these developments have not impacted fully and coherently at local level. Significant variations in provision were evident across the country and the regional meetings differed greatly from place to place. The inputs by local speakers were diverse and the overall tone of each meeting seemed to reflect a very different set of problems and concerns in each area. The smaller discussion groups provided lively debate. The main issues identified by learners at the meetings were lack of information about courses, the need for more flexibility in course provision, the inadequacy of financial support and lack of childcare. Learners also described the need for improved progression routes and for accredited course opportunities to address unemployment. This is especially an issue in rural areas where the number and range of providers is small. Areas identified for improvement by providers of adult and community education included the need for a dedicated community education budget, increased capital spending to address the lack of available premises, career paths for practitioners and the development of work to encourage more access by men especially those living in isolated rural areas.

One strong common thread in the discussions throughout the country was the importance of collaboration and inter-agency work in providing an effective adult and community education service. This involves working together at local level and also inter-departmental work at government level. Collaboration, consultation and networking were identified as key priorities. Other priorities common to all areas included sustainable multi-annual funding and a raised profile for adult and community education, locally and nationally.

Over the coming year AONTAS plans to act on the feedback from the regional meetings and tailor methods of consultation and communication with members which will make the most of the

resources at its disposal. This will include the development of fora for both learners and tutors designed to enhance exchange of information and practice, and to feed into the policy work of the Association thereby creating an inclusive and effective organisation.

Membership Recruitment Drive

An analysis of the current membership of AONTAS was carried out and a specific plan for a recruitment drive was created. In keeping with the notion that the AONTAS membership should reflect all strands of adult learning in Ireland a number of gaps were identified. Organisations which AONTAS would like to see included in its membership include community and area-based partnerships, local employment services, Institutes of Technology, Universities and voluntary organisations from counties which are under-represented in our membership.

In carrying out this work a number of approaches were taken. The regional meetings were open to all and key voluntary and statutory organisations who are currently not members were invited in areas where there is a low level of membership. Potential members were also contacted via various forms of communication, site visits, mailouts and attending events and exhibitions. This approach has generated a strong and constant growth in both statutory and voluntary organisation membership. However, AONTAS will continue to review the process and strive to attract key organisations at both local and national level.

Niamh O'Reilly, *Membership Development Officer*



Policy
Development



Policy Development

Introduction

The key focus of the work of AONTAS is feeding into the national policy agenda and striving for the continuing development of the sector within the framework of the White Paper on Adult Education. Under its current strategic plan, AONTAS policy work follows four broad themes: Accreditation, Learner Supports, Adults and Higher Education and Adult Education and Citizenship. During 2005, the themes each developed in different ways:

Accreditation

During 2005, AONTAS staff continued its work with the Further Education and Training Awards Council, FETAC, on the ongoing development of its policies and procedures. Staff met on a number of occasions with FETAC Development Officers in relation to specific themes and contributed to a number of projects on behalf of our members.

Standards were developed by FETAC for the new awards at levels 1 and 2 on the National Qualifications Framework. A working group representing the main stakeholders developed thinking on the levels, and included AONTAS members. AONTAS staff supported this work and relayed the outcomes to the wider membership during the year. In Autumn, a discussion paper on levels 1 and 2 was sent out for consultation and AONTAS prepared a short response. In its response AONTAS welcomed the new levels and endorsed much of the proposed content. However, AONTAS urged that the levels be strongly linked to the higher levels on the Framework to ensure smooth progression for learners onto higher-level awards.

A Standards Forum, in which AONTAS participates, continued to meet during 2005 to support the work of FETAC in the area of standards development. AONTAS staff and members attended a briefing session for community and voluntary sector providers hosted by FETAC at the Guinness Storehouse in May. The event allowed groups across the sector to come together to discuss the implications of the FETAC Quality Assurance policy and other upcoming issues. In 2006, AONTAS will be looking at ways of communicating the key elements of the new FETAC system to its members to ensure that they meet the appropriate requirements.

AONTAS also continued its work with the consultative group to the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, NQAI, throughout the year and staff attended a major conference on Framework implementation in February.

Learner Supports

The Adult Education Guidance Initiative was finally expanded to a fourth phase in 2005. Berni Brady, AONTAS Director, represents AONTAS on the Advisory Group to the Initiative and was part of the committee that evaluated applications for this phase. Problems with the capacity of the individual guidance projects to deal with demand at local level continue to be fed back to AONTAS which continues to lobby for further investment in the service as a priority.

Childcare was of course a major theme for discussion during 2005, and investment in the sector was the centrepiece of Budget 2006 announced in December. AONTAS lobbied for childcare supports to be integrated into programme funds in all of its promotional work in 2005, making submissions to the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF), to the Department of Education and Science and to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education and Science all urging progress in this area. AONTAS also urged that financial supports for learners be increased and that part-time fees for third level mature students be waived for their first third level course. There are signs that this issue will be addressed in 2006.

Adults and Higher Education

At the end of 2004, the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education published an Action Plan for 2005-2007. AONTAS participates in the Advisory Group which supports the work of the National Office in implementing this Plan, and takes a particular interest in issues relating to adult learners in Higher Education.

An important step in implementing the Action Plan was taken in 2005, when a document making recommendations about financial supports for students at third level was published. Key recommendations in the document are that the part-time fees issue be addressed, that better information on financial support be made available for learners and that a whole-community approach to access be developed. AONTAS now plans to work with its members on developing the links between local groups and third level colleges, work which was begun in November and which will continue through 2006.

Adult Education and Citizenship

2005 was designated European Year of Citizenship through Education, EYCE, by the Council of Europe, providing a real opportunity to promote the citizenship agenda. A major national Conference entitled *Citizen Learner* was the high point of the year. The aim of the conference was to contribute to the development of thinking on the role of lifelong learning in developing active citizenship and civil society.

The conference was officially opened by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, who spoke of the importance of citizenship through education. The keynote address of the conference was given by

Dr. Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, an international alliance of civil society organisations dedicated to strengthening citizen participation and civil society worldwide. Dr. Naidoo, a native of South Africa, and a former ANC activist addressed the conference on the topic *A Global Perspective on Citizenship and Civil Society*. He spoke about his involvement in the *Global Call to Action Against Poverty*. He is Chair of the co-ordinating body for the movement, more commonly known as the *Make Poverty History* campaign.

After the keynote address, delegates at the conference participated in discussion groups, which focussed on listening to and exchanging experiences of active citizenship in Ireland in the 21st Century. This was followed by a panel discussion featuring Dr. Naidoo; Jane Thompson, Research and Development Officer at the UK's National Institute of Adult and Continuing Education; Dr. Eilis Ward, lecturer in Women's Studies in the National University of Ireland, Galway; and Fintan O'Toole, newspaper columnist with *The Irish Times*. The closing address of the conference was made by David Ervine, leader of Northern Ireland's Progressive Unionist Party.

The conference was a great success, and was attended by over 200 delegates. AONTAS received financial support from Citizenship2005.ie and the Department of Education and Science for the event. A conference report and DVD have been prepared and can be obtained by contacting AONTAS.

Staff also participated in the Citizenship Education Network hosted by the Curriculum Development Unit, to share information and ideas about citizenship education. Citizenship2005.ie, the Irish lead project of the EYCE, hosted a major conference on the theme of citizenship through education in November. Participants from all over the UK and Ireland attended, and AONTAS mounted a small exhibition at the event as well as taking part in discussions. The *Adult Learner Journal*, published by AONTAS in partnership with the Adult Education Officers Association, also had the theme *Citizenship and Participation*.

Finally in December, the Policy Officer attended a conference in Berlin organised by the Network of European Citizenship Education, NECE. Hosted by the German Centre for Political Education, and supported by the European Association of Education for Adults (EAEA), the Conference reflected on the European Year of Citizenship and its relevance to formal and particularly non-formal education providers. Discussions centred on how the policies of individual States and of the European Union affect the work of adult and youth education projects. On an ongoing basis, the NECE network provides a means to access information about education policy directions in other European countries. It also facilitates networking, provides access to contact databases, and raises the profile of citizenship education with the Council of Europe and other international bodies.

Finola McDonnell, *Policy Officer*



AONTAS
Information
Service

AONTAS Information Service

Introduction

The AONTAS Information Service aims to provide current, relevant adult education information to the AONTAS members, staff, executive committee and general public.

Website

The AONTAS website continues to act as an important information and communications tool. 2005 witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of visitors to www.aontas.com, with the monthly average number of hits on the website doubling since 2004. The site now receives an average of 118,000 hits per month, with referrals from search engines accounting for a significant proportion of visitors. In keeping with previous years the *News and Events* section appears to be the most popular section on the website. Members have become more proactive at informing AONTAS about their activities and this is a contributing factor to the popularity of the section.

Members E-bulletin

The Members E-bulletin established firm roots in 2005 and feedback has been very positive. Members with email addresses receive the E-bulletin on a monthly basis. It contains AONTAS updates, members' news, details of forthcoming events, funding initiatives, training and news on policy developments and issues. Members are encouraged to submit information for inclusion in the E-bulletin on an ongoing basis.

Case Studies

Through sharing of real life experiences the importance of adult education in breaking down social, structural and economic barriers becomes clearly evident. To mark 2005, the *European Year of Citizenship through Education*, the monthly AONTAS Member's E-bulletin featured case studies from member groups, highlighting examples of the role adult education has to play in the promotion of active citizenship. Individual case studies are collected and profiled on the AONTAS website on an ongoing basis, highlighting the importance of adult education in both individual and community life.

International Links

2005 was a busy year for AONTAS on the international front with the organisation hosting study visits by staff representatives from the EAEA (European Association for the Education of Adults), the German Institute of Adult Education (DIE) and SoCius, Belgium.

Throughout 2005 AONTAS built up a close working relationship with SoCiuS (a support agency for non-formal socio-cultural education). Following on from the SoCiuS staff study visit to AONTAS a study visit to Ireland for representatives working in non-formal socio-cultural organisations in Belgium was organised in May 2005. The group participated in the AONTAS *Citizen Learner* conference and visited some Dublin based community and adult education groups.

In December three members of the AONTAS staff spent three days visiting the SoCiuS offices in Brussels, sharing experiences with the SoCiuS staff team. The relationship with SoCiuS has been a highly motivating experience and we would hope to continue to build and strengthen it during 2006.

Links with the EAEA were further developed in 2005 through representation on the Board of the organisation and attendance at EAEA events. In April 2005 the Information Officer represented AONTAS at an EAEA/ NIACE reception in the European Parliament attended by key players in the adult education sector from around Europe. The event provided an opportunity for all present to discuss the key priorities for non-formal adult education in Europe, focusing on lifelong learning, active citizenship and valuing learning.

In November the EAEA held its General Assembly in Lillehammer, Norway which was attended by over one hundred representatives working in the area of adult education from countries across Europe. The Assembly included a seminar on the theme of *Valuing Learning*, the presentation of the Grundtvig awards, updates on the work of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) and the EAEA. AONTAS was represented at the event by the Director, Information Officer and Hon. Secretary who is also a member of the EAEA Executive Board.

Events and Presentations

Following on from the AONTAS *Citizen Learner* conference in May 2005 the Information Officer has worked closely with Dundalk Media Centre to produce a conference DVD, capturing key moments from the event. It is hoped that this DVD will act as an important information and reference tool for groups working to promote active citizenship in their localities.

During the year the Information Officer and other member of staff attended and made presentations at a number of events on behalf of AONTAS. Examples include :-

UCC / FACE (UK Forum of Adult and Continuing Education) Conference

Comhairle's 'Different People, Different Needs' conference

Information briefings to clients in St John of God's Hospital

Presentation to KADE's Grundtvig partners

Attendance and participation in adult education exhibitions organised by various groups also became part of the work of the AONTAS Information Service, particularly in the latter half of 2005. The Information Officer, Communications Officer and Membership Officer worked together attending and providing information at these exhibitions.

Information Referral Service

The AONTAS Information Referral Service provides both direct and referral information on adult education issues to individuals and groups. Information provided through the Service addresses topics such as funding for courses and groups, availability of courses and information on learner supports. As far as possible the Service, which is the responsibility of the AONTAS Information Officer, endeavours to put learners and groups in touch with national, regional or local providers who can support them in their information search. Examples of these supports include the Adult Education Guidance Projects, Adult Education Officers in VECs, Mature Student Officers in Third Level institutions and Professional Bodies.

In 2005 the AONTAS Information Referral Service was contacted by 837 individuals / groups seeking information on diverse aspects of adult education. This figure represents a 10% increase from 2004. September was the busiest month for the Service, with the level of queries decreasing significantly over the Summer holiday period.

Just under half of those contacting the Service were hoping to source a specific course. A new emerging trend is an increase in the number of people trying to source distance learning courses. Another emerging trend is the significant increase in requests for AONTAS publications by learners studying adult and community education at third level. In 2005 the AONTAS Community Education policy document and Adult Learner Journal were the two most requested publications. Others contacting the Service in 2005 were hoping to access information about funding, how to pursue a career in adult education, along with a wide range of other issues.

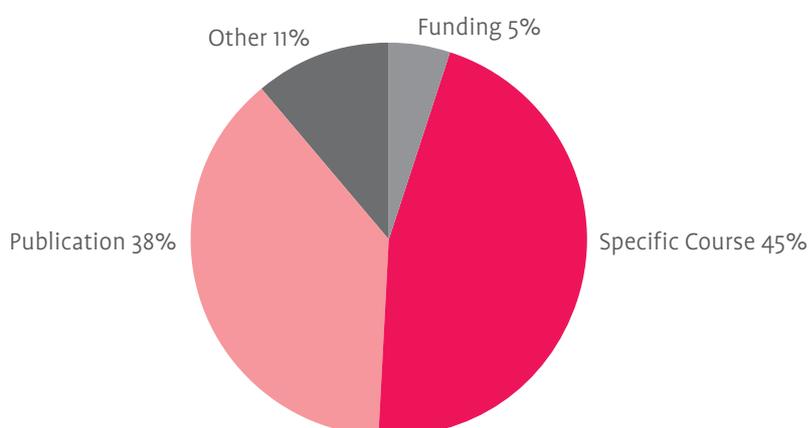
AONTAS appears to have increased its media profile over 2005 with 15% of those contacting the Service citing that they had heard about it through the media. This increase probably reflects the recruitment of a new Communications Officer halfway through the year. The figures also suggest that word-of-mouth continues to play an important role in promoting the AONTAS Information Referral Service.

While the telephone continues to be the main way in which people contact the Service, 2005 did see an increase in the number of email queries, with just under 25% of those contacting the Service using email to do so. The online facility on the AONTAS website, which allows visitors to submit information queries, is becoming increasingly popular.

The AONTAS Information Referral Pack containing contact details of Adult Education Officers, Adult Education Guidance Projects, Partnerships and Third Level institutions, together with information on funding, distance learning and studying for Leaving Cert continues to be popular, especially with those who hear about the Information Referral Service through the media. In 2005 the Service sent out approximately 250 information packs in response to request for information.

While many of the queries received by the Service can be responded to immediately, referring individuals / groups to various providers/support groups continues to play a fundamental role in the Information Referral Service. The Service is an important starting point for many adult learners and a useful resource for those working in the field of adult education.

Type of Query Received by Information Referral Service



Ongoing Development of the Information Service

There are a number of ongoing key tasks which have also been firmly incorporated into the work of the AONTAS Information Service.

The library continues to act as an invaluable information resource for AONTAS staff, members and Executive Committee, housing adult education journals and reports and research from relevant agencies. Throughout 2005 AONTAS has continued to build the membership section of the library, encouraging members to submit annual reports, information leaflets, research or any other documentation relating to work in which they may be involved.

The Information Service continues to send out information referral packs in response to calls from potential adult learners and this pack is updated regularly. The funding document was also updated in November 2005 and this continues to be an important resource for community and voluntary groups.

Finally, provision of information to the Community Education Facilitators (CEFs) continues to form an integral part of the Information Service. This provision takes the form of quarterly mailouts informing the CEFs of the latest developments in adult and community education. The Information Service also sources information resources which are made available to CEFs at national and regional training.

Frances Killeen, *Information Officer*

Promoting
& Profiling
AONTAS
& Adult
Education



Promoting & Profiling Adult Education

Introduction

During 2005 AONTAS took a decision to develop and implement a promotional strategy for adult education designed to give it much higher visibility and to ensure that it remains part of the political agenda. In May, AONTAS recruited Martina Quinn to fill the newly created position of Communications Officer. The role of the Communications Officer is to develop and implement the promotional strategy for AONTAS, and to develop and implement a media training programme for AONTAS staff, Executive Committee, and members.

Media Coverage

Throughout the year, AONTAS issued press releases on a continuous basis, in response to developments in the adult education sector, and in order to highlight or publicise AONTAS policy positions or forthcoming events. This press work generated considerable coverage for the organisation in the local and national media. At local level, AONTAS conducted sixteen radio interviews for stations throughout the country, and received coverage in twenty two articles in various local newspapers. At national level, AONTAS conducted one radio interview, received coverage in twenty five articles in the national daily and Sunday newspapers, and received coverage on the RTÉ television news for the south-eastern regional meeting.

AONTAS also contributed articles to various periodicals such as *Public Affairs Ireland* and *Council Review*, and information received from AONTAS was featured in articles in the *Phoenix*, the *Senior Times*, and in the news sections of various websites, most notably that of the European Association for the Education of Adults (the EAEA).

Media Monitoring

During 2005, the Communications Officer researched the usefulness of implementing a media monitoring service for AONTAS staff. From July 2005 onwards, after analysing the service offered by various companies, AONTAS decided to employ Media Market for the provision of a media monitoring service. The media monitoring service alerts the Communications Officer, by email, to any relevant articles appearing in the local and national press, and stores these articles on a website, accessible to and searchable by all AONTAS staff members. The service has proved particularly useful for assessing coverage of adult education, and of AONTAS, at a regional and local level, and for keeping AONTAS staff informed of adult education issues throughout the country.

AONTAS Magazine

In November 2005, a new AONTAS magazine, *Explore*, was launched. The twenty four page magazine featured news and feature articles about the adult education sector, as well as interviews with an adult learner and an adult education academic, contributions from various member organisations, and input from a member of the Executive Committee. The magazine was researched and edited by the Communications Officer, with the assistance of all other members of staff. Various staff members contributed articles to the first issue. The magazine received a great response throughout the adult education sector. It was distributed to all AONTAS members, and to over one thousand organisations involved in adult education. It is envisaged that *Explore* will be published on a quarterly basis throughout 2006.

Advertising

During 2005, due to budget constraints, it was decided to limit the amount of advertising commissioned by AONTAS. Over forty advertising requests were received from various publications during the year; AONTAS placed advertisements with approximately ten per cent of these. With regard to regard the educational supplements of the national newspapers, a conscious effort was made to contribute relevant copy to the journalists involved in lieu of placing advertisements within the supplements. This strategy was deemed to have worked well.

Exhibitions

AONTAS participated in approximately fifteen exhibitions during 2005, both at local and national level. A conscious effort was made to tailor exhibition materials at each event to best suit the needs of the target audience. Smaller, more focused, and locally-based events were prioritised and were found to be more useful than larger events held at national level. Exhibitions provided a useful means of promoting AONTAS to adult learners at local level, and of networking with our member organisations.

Media Training Programme

During summer 2005, the Communications Officer researched the feasibility of implementing a media training programme for AONTAS staff, Executive Committee, and members. Questionnaires were distributed to all members of the Executive Committee, and to any AONTAS members who expressed an interest in receiving training. Over thirty AONTAS members indicated their interest in media training, through these questionnaires.

Tailored media training sessions were devised in response to the information received from the questionnaires. The first training session took place in November with members of staff from Westmeath VEC, at the VEC premises in Mullingar, and positive feedback was received from all those who took part. It is envisaged that the media training programme will further expand during 2006.

The following are samples of some newspaper headlines carried in 2005.

'President McAleese salutes adults who return to education'

'AONTAS calls for part-time students' fees to be abolished'

'Poor are shut out by college fees'

'AONTAS' role in the educating-for-life challenge'

'Fighting for the rights of adult learners'

'Ireland lags behind in mature student education'

'Making progress on a long road'

'Childcare costs hit adult learners hard'

'Improved adult education can help tackle social problems – meeting told'

'National Association to hold Adult Education meeting in South East'

'Meeting calls for more education funding for midlands'

'Adult education in region needs funding'

'40 nationalities attending adult education classes'

'Third-level sector will benefit from €1.2bn boost'

Martina Quinn, *Communications Officer*

Supporting
Community
Education



Supporting Community Education

Introduction

The fourth objective of the AONTAS Strategic plan is that AONTAS endeavours to take a lead role in supporting the growth and development of community education. During 2005 it did this in a number of ways including the delivery of the support programme for the Community Education Facilitators, representation on a number of key groups and committees and in its action research.

Training and Support Programme for the Community Education Facilitators

The Community Education Facilitators Training and Support Programme hosted by AONTAS on behalf of the Department of Education and Science brings the thirty seven CEFs together for networking, support and information sharing at national and regional level.

The programme is supported by a Steering Group whose membership consists of: Berni Brady, AONTAS, Maureen Kavanagh National Co-ordinator, Breda Naughton, Department of Education and Science, Des O' Loughlin, Department of Education and Science, Crona Gallagher, Adult Education Officers Association (A.E.O.A), Leonora O'Reilly, A.E.O.A, John Ryan, Irish Vocational Education Association (I.V.E.A). Fiona Hartley, I.V.E.A. Bernie Judge, Further Education Development Unit, Bernie McDonnell, POBAL(formerly Area Development Management Ltd.).

National Meetings

During 2005 two national training events in the spring and autumn were held to provide networking opportunities for the thirty seven CEFs. The national training focussed mainly on academic inputs and facilitating the development of learning groups as models of practice thus enabling the CEFs to reflect critically on their work. The work of the CEFs is also supported by information on relevant policy developments, which is collated by the AONTAS Information Officer.

Regional Meetings

Two sets of regional meetings were also held. These focussed on two key topics i.e. reaching hard-to-reach men in education, and policy and practice lessons from phase one of the Education Equality Initiative (EEI).

With regard to the participation of men, it does appear from the activities documented at the regional meetings that men are participating in various education and training activities. While women are still the majority of learners in further and adult education, what is now evident is that there has certainly been an increase in initiatives targeted at men at local level. Feedback from the CEFs on examples of approaches to improve the participation of men highlights the fact that a number of key elements are needed. These include outreach, learning incentives, a positive learning environment and an understanding of men's own perception of education. This is very much in line with the findings of the AONTAS research report, *Gender and Learning* (2000). The CEFs agreed that this work needs to be supported through inter-agency co-operation underpinned by a deep understanding of the benefits of pre-development and capacity building work as educational activities.

The evaluation of the first phase of the Education Equality Initiative (EEI) has shown that educationally disadvantaged people respond positively to approaches involving service providers working together to provide integrated learning opportunities and supports. Project outcomes demonstrated to the CEFs that investment in learning for educationally disadvantaged adults provides benefits including personal development, family development, social capital development in the community and in the country as a whole. The regional meetings also provided a space for the CEFs to learn from a local model of good practice by the City of Dublin VEC which uses census statistics in planning targeted educational opportunities.

Back to Education Initiative Community Strand

The Back To Education Initiative (BTEI) Community Strand funded through the Further Education Section of the Department of Education and Science has become an important funding strand for community education providers. Just over €1 million has been available for groups to run courses for specific target groups whose educational achievements are less than upper second level. In accessing this funding groups have become familiar with providing accredited programmes from FETAC and in combining learner supports with formal learning courses. The BTEI Community Strand is the only direct funding line to community groups from the Department and is viewed as an essential element in recognising the contribution of community education providers to adult education. Maureen Kavanagh represents AONTAS on the assessment group for this Strand.

Education Equality Initiative EEI, 2000-2006

The aim of the Education Equality Initiative (EEI) is to generate policy and practice lessons in relation to addressing educational disadvantage through funding a small number of pilot projects. The Initiative is funded by the Further Education Section of the Department of Education and Science under the auspices of the National Development Plan (2000-2006) with support from the European Structural Funds.

The evaluation of the first phase of the Initiative 2000-2004 delivered a number of clear lessons which have policy implications in relation to addressing educational disadvantage experienced by adults. It

confirms that educational disadvantage is the result of a combination of factors working in tandem to marginalise men and women and impede their access to continuing education and employment. The evaluation also concluded that there is a need to broaden the understanding of educational disadvantage to include the concept and reality of representational inequality as experienced by adult members of the Travelling community, older adults, adults with a disability and gay and lesbian adults.

Key Policy Lessons from EEI 1

The major policy lesson identified by the evaluation is that an integrated service approach at national and local levels is the only effective way to address educational disadvantage. It also identified the need for support for lifelong learning throughout the education system and for national policy on the pre-service, continuing professional development and career paths of tutors and support workers in adult education. The need for funding for learner supports such as care, transport, study skills, incentives and guidance are still crucial to developing access for disadvantaged learners, and the development of creative arts as a methodology for working with people with learning disabilities was identified by the evaluation. Progression through basic, further and higher education with recognition of the ability of community-based groups to provide it was seen as important, as was the need for increased core financial support for educational work with educationally disadvantaged.

The evaluation found that budgets and planning must take into account the fact that the promotion of access requires extensive investment of time, expertise and money. In particular outreach work is a protracted process, which may encounter resistance from the target group, may be slow to produce quantifiable results and is highly dependent on the skills of the outreach worker. The provision of introductory learning activities in an enabling environment also requires skilled tutors, and an integrated approach between statutory and voluntary agencies is essential to resource outreach adequately. Comprehensive on-going internal documenting, monitoring and evaluating of plans, systems, strategies, procedures and actions are required by organisations addressing the learning needs of educationally disadvantaged.

If responses to adult educational disadvantage are to become more effective, dissemination and mainstreaming practice lessons arising from projects and programmes must be considered as important as carrying out the actual work of the projects and programmes. Otherwise policy-makers, funders, providers and support services will continue to experiment with responses and fail to build up and draw upon an inventory of proven responses arising from projects and programmes.

The second phase of the Education Equality Initiative started on 2004 and will run until the end of 2006. It is currently supporting ten projects.

Maureen Kavanagh, Coordinator, CEF Training and Support Programme

Developing a Quality Assurance Framework for Women's Community Education

Introduction

AONTAS has for the past three years been involved in an action research project to develop a Quality Assurance Framework for women's community education. The project arose from the work previously done by AONTAS in supporting its women's groups and was designed to bring visibility to the work done by them.

In 2003, the AONTAS Director convened the QAF Project Steering Group. Berni Brady, Maureen Kavanagh, Finola McDonnell and Maria McMullen are the AONTAS staff members directly involved. Valerie O'Carroll, coordinator of Clondalkin Women's Network and Chair of the National Collective of Community-based Women's Networks and Bríd Connolly, Honorary Secretary of AONTAS and lecturer in the Department of Adult and Community Education at NUI Maynooth, are the Board members. Eleanor Mc Clorey was employed by AONTAS to conduct the work on its behalf and is also a member of the Steering Group. The QAF process began with research into the literature on women's community education, and into the Steering Group members' understanding of women's community education.

The research identified that women's community education analyses the barriers to women's participation in society, and understands education in the radical tradition as having a role in addressing those barriers. It found that women's community education could be named and framed, that it is rooted in identifiable values, and that it has key features of practice.

Focus Group with Women's Community Networks

A focus group with women's community networks was convened in November 2003. Network representatives concurred with the preliminary findings of the research, and mandated AONTAS to develop the case study phase of the project. A defining feature of the QAF process is the authoritative role that women's community education groups and networks have played, and will continue to play, in shaping, informing, and guiding the project.

The Case Study Phase

In 2004, through a process worked out with the focus group, four women's community education organisations were invited to host the case study phase of the project. They were ACCESS 2000, Wexford, Amerge Women's Group, St. Johnston, Co. Donegal with the support of Donegal Women's Network, Clondalkin Women's Network and Longford Women's Link.

Twenty-one case study workshops were held in spring 2004, exploring the four-principle, four-dimension structure identified by the research. The case studies verified the relevance of this struc-

ture. The QAF project recognises and acknowledges that the achievements of the Framework are due to the sustained commitment and expertise of the four case study hosts, and also of Neighbourhood Work of the Northwest, who joined in 2005 in the piloting of the Framework.

In autumn 2004, the Steering Group and the case study hosts worked together on the wording and development of the Framework during a two-day residential workshop in Dublin. From this, the Framework was refined, presented to, and ratified by women's community groups and networks at a seminar early in 2005. By this time, the final structure of the Framework had emerged.

Pilot Phase: March-November 2005

The four case study hosts, together with a cross-border women's education network, Neighbourhood Work of the Northwest, agreed to work on the process of testing out how the Framework could be an accessible and user-friendly resource for groups and networks. The project worked out a format that guides groups and networks through a quality assurance process that is owned, managed, and led by the groups themselves. In this process, a number of projects come together to transparently validate each other's work and celebrate achievements and learning together.

Project Outcomes to Date

- A QAF document which defines women's community education and sets out its principles and practice
- A quality assurance model that, subject to funding, will be mainstreamed in 2006 with women's community education groups and networks interested in contributing to the next stage of the project
- A project report documenting the work of the project 2003-2005
- The launch of the QAF by Síle de Valera TD, Minister of State for Adult Education, in November 2005

The Quality Assurance Framework – A Strategic Resource

The Framework project gives women's community education groups and networks:

- An integrated approach to planning, quality assurance, and evaluation
- A structure for grant applications, for reports to funders and for training and development of management committees and staff teams
- A unifying language, true to the ethos and practice of women's community education

Looking Forward: Mainstreaming The Quality Assurance Framework

The QAF project identifies three core challenges confronting women's community education:

1. The absence of recognition and affirmation of women's community education for its distinctive contribution to adult and community education in Ireland
2. The absence of recognition and affirmation for its sustained contribution to progress towards gender equality
3. The absence of a secure resource base for its work

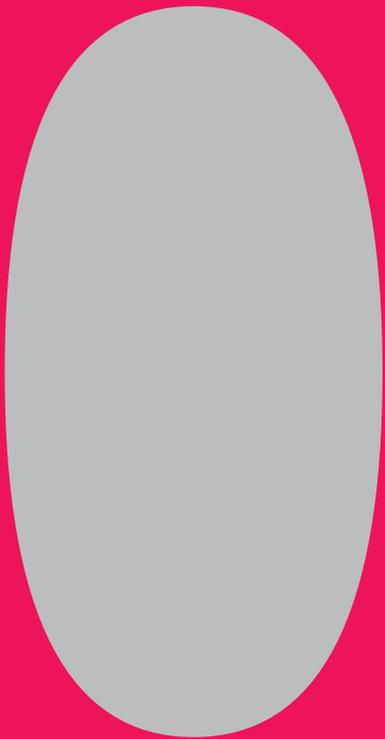
Currently, AONTAS is exploring funding sources to mainstream the Quality Assurance Framework. The mainstreaming phase will contribute to tackling the above challenges through two strands of work. The first strand involves work with a spread of groups and networks across Ireland in mainstreaming the use of the QAF as a strategic quality assurance resource. The second strand, complementing and linking with the first, involves work with groups and networks for resources, recognition, and support for women's community education, in its focus on women's education and development.

There are two great achievements from the QAF Project. One is that the Framework which has emerged provides women's community education, for the first time, with a resource that allows it to clearly communicate and demonstrate its complex work, its methodology, achievements, and outcomes. The second is that the Project has developed a process that is true to the ethos and practice of women's community education. AONTAS will be publishing a policy paper in 2006 on women's community education, based on the work of the QAF Project. In the meantime, copies of the QAF and the QAF Project Report are available from the AONTAS office.

Eleanor McClorey, QAF Project Consultant



Partner
Projects



Research Association in Adult & Community Education: RAACE

Since 2004, a number of researchers working in the Adult and Community Education fields in Ireland have been working on the development of a Research Association. A Development Committee, with representatives of AONTAS, NALA, the Department of Adult and Community Education in NUI/Maynooth, the UCD Adult Education Centre, and independent researchers has done a lot of groundwork on the development of the Association. Overall aims and objectives have been teased out, a possible membership structure examined and a large mailing list of interested potential members drawn up.

In May 2005, the RAACE idea was publicly 'launched' at the AONTAS AGM and Conference in Dundalk. Following on from the AGM, AONTAS and NALA agreed to finance a feasibility study into the development of the Association. The study aimed to map the existing research community in Ireland, examine the level of interest in a possible Association and outline practical ways forward for the Development Committee in formally establishing RAACE.

In Autumn 2005, a tender document was issued, and Lynda Gaynor of Sapitwa Consulting was awarded the contract to complete the feasibility study. By the end of 2005, the mapping exercise was almost complete, and a consultation with a cross-section of the research community had been arranged for January 2006. A workshop was organised with the Development Committee in December to establish their views on how RAACE should develop, and international network models were examined in detail.

A report on the feasibility study, and recommendations for ways forward in formally establishing RAACE, is due for completion in February 2006.

Finola Mc Donnell, Policy Officer

Working with the EAEA

The 2005 General Assembly of the EAEA (European Association for the Education of Adults) was held in Lillhammer, in November 2005. Berni Brady, Director, Bríd Connolly, Honorary Secretary, and Frances Killeen, Information Officer, AONTAS attended it. Bríd, a lecturer in adult and community education, NUI, Maynooth, is the Irish representative on the Executive Board, and her area of

responsibility is in the editorial arena: she is a member of the editorial board of EAEA communications, run from the Helsinki Link Office, and LInE, an lifelong learning journal, also directed from Helsinki. The web page, www.eaea.org has an archive of newsletters, and is updated frequently in order keep abreast of new developments.

International Co-operation

The key work of the General Assembly was on the priorities for the coming year with international co-operation being a main concern, especially the work with ICAE, the International Council for Adult Education. In the emergence of knowledge-society the ICAE promotes lifelong learning as a necessary component for people to contribute creatively to their communities and live in independent and democratic societies. Paul Bélanger, President of ICAE, attended the GA and Celita Eeher, Secretary General, addressed the General Assembly, urging the members to promote lifelong learning for the eradication of poverty.

Further information on ICAE is on: www.icae.org.uy

Grundtvig Award 2005

Janos Sz Toth, the President of EAEA, presented the Grundtvig Awards 2005. The Grundtvig Award 2005 went to the project '*Raccontare l'Europe*' (Narrating on Europe), co-ordinated by the UPTER, Universita Popolare di Roma with partners from Belgium, Germany, Italy and Spain.

A special award was presented to a project submitted by the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME), Beit Jala, Israel. The project was entitled '*Learning each other's historical narrative: Palestinians and Israelis*'. A short report on the Grundtvig Award 2005 is published in the *Explore* magazine.

The theme for 2006 will be on eradicating poverty through adult education and lifelong learning. The announcements will be made in early summer, on the EAEA website.

Constitutional Amendments

The EAEA was founded in 1953, and the world of adult and community education has changed since then, in many ways. The GA updated the constitution, focusing in particular, on the mission of the organisation, which is to promote the role of adult education, formal, informal and non-formal, in the learning society. The amendments reiterated EAEA as a transnational, non-profit association whose purpose is to link and represent European organisations, directly engaged with adult learning. Its primary focus is NGOs whose principal aim is adult learning, and it will work where possible through national co-ordinating bodies for adult learning.

The Future

Ireland, through AONTAS, is considered a very valuable member of EAEA, and the AONTAS representative is active in all aspects of the work of the Executive Board. In particular, the lessons from

the development of AONTAS provide a useful road map for the development for EAEA. EAEA is now the most influential European-wide body representing adult learners, and each meeting brings a further strengthening of its role.

The next GA will be held in Madrid, in Autumn 2006.

Brid Connolly, Hon Secretary

Appendix One

Executive Committee

Officers

Mr. John Ryan – President , City of Limerick VEC
 Mr. Tom Hussey – Vice-President, County Galway VEC/IVEA
 Mr. Patrick Nolan – Honorary Treasurer, County Wexford VEC
 Ms. Brid Connolly – Hon. Secretary, Dept. of Adult & Community Education, NUI/Maynooth

Ordinary Members

Ms. Mary Hilda Cavanagh – Irish Vocational Education Association
 Ms. Marian Duffy – County Carlow VEC
 Mr. Pat Higgins – Adult Education Officers Association
 Mr. Deiniol Jones – National Youth Council of Ireland
 Ms. Jan Lewis – Second Chance Education Project for Women, Donegal
 Ms. Marie Mulvihill – Francis Street Community Centre, Dublin
 Ms. Valerie O’Carroll – Clondalkin Women’s Network, Co. Dublin
 Ms. Carmel Sheridan – City of Limerick VEC
 Ms. Ruth Smith – Tipperary Women’s Network
 Ms. Rose Todd – National Collective of Community-based Women’s Networks

Individual Members

Ms. Anna Dangerfield
 Ms. Cora Foley

Staff

Ms. Berni Brady	Director
Ms. Jacinta Cuthbert	Office Manager
Ms. Maureen Kavanagh	National Co-ordinator of the Training/Support Programme for Community Education Facilitators
Ms. Finola McDonnell	Policy Officer
Ms. Frances Killeen	Information Officer
Ms. Niamh O’Reilly	Membership Development Officer
Ms. Martina Quinn	Communications Officer
Ms. Geraldine Pollard	Information Assistant
Ms. Maria McMullen	Policy and Membership Support Worker
Ms. Jennifer Gunning	Receptionist / Clerical Officer
Ms. Frances Hackett	Administrative Assistant

Appendix Two

Membership List

Corporate Statutory Members

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna
 Association of Secondary Teachers in Ireland
 Athlone IT
 Avondhu Development Group
 Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
 Canal Communities Partnership
 Centre for Adult & Community Education, Maynooth
 City and Guilds
 City of Cork VEC
 City of Dublin VEC
 City of Limerick VEC
 City of Waterford VEC
 Clare Co Library
 Co Carlow VEC
 Co Cavan VEC
 Co Clare VEC
 Co Donegal VEC, Donegal Town
 Co Dublin VEC
 Co Galway VEC
 Co Kildare VEC
 Co Kilkenny VEC
 Co Laois VEC
 Co Leitrim VEC
 Co Limerick VEC
 Co Longford VEC
 Co Louth VEC
 Co Offaly VEC
 Co Roscommon VEC
 Co Tipperary VEC (NTH)

Co Tipperary VEC (STH)
 Co Waterford VEC
 Co Westmeath VEC
 Co Wexford Partnership Limited
 Co Wexford VEC
 Co Donegal VEC, Letterkenny
 County Carlow Adult Educational Guidance Service
 DCU/Office of Vice President for Learning Innovation
 Development Studies Centre
 Donegal Adult Learner Guidance Service
 Dublin City Council
 Dublin City Development Board
 Dublin Corporation Public Libraries
 Dublin Employment Pact (DEP)
 Dublin Institute of Technology
 Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology
 Fáilte Ireland
 FÁS
 Finglas Cabra Partnership
 Foroige
 Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC)
 Galway City Partnership
 Higher Education Training Awards Council (HETAC)
 Hope Worldwide - Pakistan
 Irish Country Women's Association (I.C.A.)
 Irish National Teachers' Organisation (I.N.T.O.)
 Irish Vocational Education Association (I.V.E.A.)
 Institute of Public Administration (IPA)

Irish Centre for Continuing Pharmaceutical Education

Irish Coach Institute

Kerry Education Service

Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Limerick Institute of Technology

Limerick Senior College

Literacy Development Centre, Waterford Institute of Technology

Macra na Feirme

National College of Ireland

National Learning Network

New Directions Women's Education Project

NUI Galway

OAK Partnership

OSCAIL - The National Distance Education Centre,

Public Service Executive Union

Quarryvale Family Resource Centre

R.T.E.

South Kerry Development Partnership Co Ltd

Tallaght Partnership

Teachers' Union of Ireland

The College of Progressive Education

The Milltown Institute of Theology & Philosophy

The Open University in Ireland

Tipperary Institute

Udaras na Gaeltachta

University College Cork

University College Dublin

Western Health Board

Womens Studies Centre

WRC Social & Economic Consultants Ltd

Corporate Voluntary Members

A.L.P.S.

ACCEPT Counselling Association of Ireland

Access 2000 Wexford Ltd.

Adult Community Education Network

AEO'S Association

Age Action Ireland

Age and Opportunity

AILIM Community Training Development Agency

Ait Na Ndaoine CDP

Aonad Family Resource Centre

Association of Community & Comprehensive Schools

B.A.S.E.

Ballyfermot LES

Ballyhoura Development Ltd.

Ballymun Men's Centre

Ballyphenane/Togher C.D.P.

Banulacht

Bawnogue Women's Development Group

Borrisokane Area Network Development

Brackenstown Adult Scene Of Education (BASE)

Brainwave, The Irish Epilepsy Association

CANDO

Community Partnership

Carlow Youth Training

Castlemaine Family Resource Centre

Catholic Youth Care

CELT (Centre for Environmental Living and Training)

CEO'S Association

Clare Women's Network

Clondalkin LES

Clondalkin Women's Network

Co Kildare Centre for the Unemployed
 Community Action Network (CAN)
 Community and Family Training Agency (CAFTA)
 Community Awareness of Drugs (C.A.D.)
 Connolly Information Centre for the Unemployed
 Cooneal/Ballysakeery women's
 Corduff Community Development Project Ltd.
 CORI Education Office
 Cork Adult Education Council
 CREATE
 D.A.T.E. – Dundrum Adult Training and Education
 Darndale Belcamp Discovery Centre
 Deonach
 DOCHAS for Women
 Donegal Local Development Co Ltd
 Donegal Town Women's Group
 Donegal Travellers Project
 Donegal Women's Network
 Doras Buí-a Parents Alone Recourse Centre
 Douglas Community School
 Dr Steven's Centre
 DRAIOCHT
 Drogheda Area Women's Network
 Drogheda Community Forum
 Drogheda Resource Centre for the Unemployed
 Duagh Family Centre
 Dublin 12 Women's Action Group
 Dublin Adult Learning Centre
 Dublin College of Management and IT
 Dublin Men's Coalition
 Dunrath Training & Development
 Easkey Community FRC
 Educational Guidance Service for Adults
 Eiri Corca Baiscinn – West Clare Development
 Enable Ireland – Cork Service
 Fiuntas - Media Training
 Forbairt Naionrai Teo
 Forum Women's Working Group
 Foundation For Research and Sustainable Development (Frsd)
 Francis Street Community Education Centre
 Galway People's Resource Centre
 Greater Blanchardstown Development Project
 Greendale Community School
 Harmony Community Dev. Programme
 Hospital Family Resource Centre
 ICS SKILLS
 Institute for Social Awareness & Rural Development
 Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
 Iveragh Information Technology Training Ltd.
 Joint Managerial Body
 KAIES
 Kerry Action for Development Education
 Kerryhead/Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre
 Kildare Women's Group
 Kilternan Adult Education
 KLEAR LTD
 Larkin Unemployed Centre
 LES Guidance Service Limerick
 Letterkenny Woman's Centre
 Limerick Community Education Network
 Limerick Recourse Centre for the Unemployed
 Limerick Womens Network
 Longford Women's Link
 Loreto Centre
 Lourdes Youth & Community Services

Mary Immaculate Secondary School	(PARD)
Mature Student Society WIT	People's College
Mayfield Community Adult Learning Project (C.A.L.P.)	Presentation Family Centre Ltd.
Maynooth Adult Daytime Education (M.A.D.E.)	Prussia Street Women's Group
Men's Development Network	Quarryvale Family Resource Centre
Mercy College	Redeemer Centre of Ongoing Learning
Mercy Education Centre	Ronanstown Women's Group/CDP
Mercy Family Centre	Rowlagh Womens Group
Mevagh Resource Centre	Ruhama
Ministries Development Group	S.A.O.L. Project Limited
N.C.C.W.N.	Sacred Heart Secondary School
National Adult Literacy Agency	Scoil Dara
National Parent's Council Primary	Scoil Mhuire
National Training Centre	Second Chance Education Project for Women
National Women's Council of Ireland	Shanty Education and Training Centre
National Youth Council of Ireland	Sligo Adult Guidance in Education (SAGE)
Navan Traveller's Training Centre	Soilse
Nenagh Community Network	South West Wexford Community Development Project
Network Kildare	Southill Integrated Development Programme
New Inn Womens Group	Southside Women's Action Network (S.W.A.N.)
New Ross Community Development Project	South-West Kerry Women's Association (S.W.K.A.)
Newbury House Family Centre	St. Vincent's Trust
North Kerry Together	St. Aloysius' College
North Leitrim Women's Centre	St. Andrew's Resource Centre
North Meath Communities Development Association	St. Catherines Community Services Centre
North Wall Women's Centre	St. Davids Secondary School
North West Inner City Women's Network	St. Kilian's Adult and Community Education
Northside Community Enterprises Ltd.	St. Munchin's Family Resource Centre
One Family	St. Patrick's Women's Group
PARTAS	T.A.R.G.E.T.
Pavee Point Travellers' Group	Tallaght Centre for the Unemployed
People with Disabilities in Ireland Ltd	Teach Tearmainn Women's Refuge Project
People's Association for Rural Development	The Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Outreach Project

The Media Co-op
 The National Agency for Beauty Therapy
 Education & Training
 The Open Training College
 The WEB Project
 Tipperary Women's Network
 Tir Boghaine Teoranta
 Togher Family Centre Ltd.
 Tralee Centre for the Unemployed
 Tralee Women's Forum
 Tuam Community Development Resource
 Centre
 Tullamore Creative Women Journeying
 Together
 URRUS - A Ballymun Youth Action Project
 Warrenmount C.E.D. Centre
 Waterford Women's Centre
 Weightwatchers
 West Cork & Beara Womens Network
 West Cork Community Partnership
 West Cork Traveller Centre
 West Training & Development
 Westmeath Community Development
 Whitefriar Community, Education &
 Development Project
 Wicklow Information Network (WIN)
 Women Educating for Transformation
 Women of the North West
 Women Together Tallaght Network
 Women's Community Projects (Mullingar)
 Association Ltd.
 Women's Development Group
 Women's Education Research & Resource
 Centre
 Women's Equality in Bray (WEB)
 Women's Issues Task Force

Women's Resource & Development Agency
 Workers' Educational Association
 Yoga Therapy Ireland
 Youth Information Centre, Letterkenny

Individual Members

Syed Adnan Ali
 Ms. Theresa Ahearne
 Ms. Aine Ahern
 Faheem Ahmed
 Ms. Veronica Allen
 Mr. Patrick B. Bannon
 Mr. Denis Barrett
 Ms. Mary Blake
 Simplicie Bodji
 Ms. Breda Bollard
 Ms. Ruth Bourke
 Mrs Patsy Brady
 Ms. Mary Brodie
 Ms. Rita Brophy
 JJ Brosnan
 Ms. Eimer Broucke
 Ms. Sinead Burke
 Ms. Elaine Butler
 Ms. Melissa Butler
 Ms. Elaine Butler
 Ms. Geraldine Butler
 Ms. Sandra Byrne
 Ms. Breda Cahill
 Ms. Ruth Callaghan
 Ms. Dorothy Calvert
 Ms. Anne Carberry
 Mr. Derek Henry Carr
 Ms. Gill Casey

Ms. Monica Cassidy
Mr. Serge Claes
Mr. Matthew Gerard Clarke
Ms. Marie Cody
Mr. Donal Coffey
Mr. Stephen Colbert
Ms. Ann Cole
Ms. Ursula Coleman
Ms. Agnes Coleman
Ms. Grainne Collins
Sr. Bernadette Collins
Ms. Maureen Condon
Fr. Martin Convey
Mr. Jerry Cronin
Mr. Timothy Crowley
Ms. Cathy Cryan
Ms. Susan Cullinane
Ms. Dolores Cummins
Ms. Jacinta Cunneen
Ms. Andrea Dalton
Ms. Orla Daly
Ms. Anna Dangerfield
Ms. Merike Darmody
Ms. Fiona De Buis
Ms. Teresa Delaney
Olayinka Dixon-Oludaiye
Mr. Andrew Doherty
Mr. John Doherty
Ms. Emer Dolphin
Ms. Liz Donnelly
Ms. Colette Dorrian
Ms. Tracey Dorricott
Ms. Linda Dowling
Ms. Flori Downey
Ms. Catherine Doyle
Ms. Elizabeth Doyle
Ms. Tara Doyle
Prof. Sheelagh Drudy
Mr. Ed Du Vivier
Ms. Liz Duffy
Ms. Susan Dunne
Mr. J.G. Dunne
Ms. Anne Dunne
Sr. Angela Durkin
Ms. Nora M. Edgeworth
Ms. Rita M Edwards
Mr. Anthony Thomas Egan
Mr. Brendan Egan
Mr. Mike Egan
Mr. Nino Elkanishvili
Ms. Paula Faller
Ms. Maggie Feeley
Ms. Norma Ferrell
Ms. Maeve Finch
Ms. Adele Finnegan
Ms. Carina Fitzgerald
Ms. Riona Fitzgerald
Ms. Kay Fitzgerald
Ms. Eileen Fitzgerald
Mr. John Fitzgibbon
Ms. Liz Fitzsimons
Ms. Mary Flanagan
Ms. Rhonda Flanagan
Ms. Mary Flannery
Mr. Desmond Fleming
Dr. Ted Fleming
Mr. David Flynn
Ms. Cora Foley

Ms. Trish Forde
Ms. Mary Foudy
Mr. Paul Gaerty
Ms. Theresa Gallagher
Ms. Lorraine Galvin
Mr. Christopher Glancy
Mr. Brian Glennon
Mr. Pádraig Glynn
Ms. Margaret Griffin
Ms. Betty Hannon-Flavin
Ms. Angela Harnesse
Mr. Kevin Harrington
Ms. Elizabeth Harrington
Ms. Joan Hassett
Ms. Brigid Haugh Mac Sweeney
Ms. Aobhan Haverty
Ms. Fiona Healy
Ms. Orla Heaney
Ms. Marietta Herraghty
Ms. Mary Hickey
Mr. Pat Higgins
Ms. Cathleen Hogan
Ms. Freda Holly
Ms. Tracey Holsgrove
Ms. Eleanor Hough
Ms. Geraldine Hunt
Ms. Margaret M. Hurley
Mr. Kevin Hurley
Mr. Mark Hynes
Ms. Niamh Jackson
Mr. Andrew Jilani
Ms. Deirdre Johnson
Ms. Marcie Jones
Ms. Jacqueline Joynt
Mr. Larry Kavanagh
Ehsan Kazemi
Ms. Alison Keane
Ms. Anne Martina Kehoe
Mr. Michael Dermot Kelly
Ms. Diana Kelly
Ms. Margaret Kelly
Ms. Fiona Keogh
Ms. Máire Kerrane
Mr. Filiz Keser
Yousaf Khan
Mr. Liam Kilbride
Ms. Jenny Kilbride
Ms. Debbie King
Ms. Paula King
Ms. Bernadette Kinsella
Ms. Josephine Lally
Mr. Michael Lanigan
Mr. Paul Larkin
Ms. Kerry Lawless
Mr. Sean Lawless
Ms. Deirdre Lawlor
Ms. Catherine Leonard
Mr. Ray Lucey
Tsambwa MacDonald Freeman
Ms. Sarah Mackey
Ms. Breege Madden
Ms. Eileen Magee
Ms. Lesley Malone
Ms. Joslyn Manuel
Ms. Anne Marron
Mr. Larry Masterson
Ms. Mary Mather Leahy
Mr. Patrick Maunsell

Ms. Louise McCann
Ms. Josephine McCann
Ms. Vivienne McCann
Ms. Pamela McCarthy
Ms. Mary McCoy
Ms. Teresa McCullagh
Ms. Pauline McDermott
Mr. Sean McDermott
Ms Mary McEvoy
Mr. Dermot McGarthy
Mr. Pat McGill
Ms. Verona McGivern
Ms. Majella McGovern
Ms. Valerie McGrath
Ms. Sinead McMahan Coffey
Ms. Ann McNamara
Ms. Marian McRory
Ms. Kay Meany
Mr. Peter Melanie
Ms. Catherine Melvin
Mr. Adrian Mitchell
Ms. Mary Molloy
Mr. Frank Molloy
Ms. Edel Moloney
Mr. Patrick Moloney
Ms. Marie Mooney
Ms. Patricia-Anne Moore
Patsy Moran
Ms. Elizabeth Mulhall
Ms. Kaye Mullaney
Ms. Marian Murphy
Mr. Denis Murphy
Ms. Ciara Murphy
Mr. Damien Murphy
Ms. Margaret Murphy
Mr. Luke Murtagh
Ms. Clora Neilan
Ms. Cait Ni Mhurchu
Ms. Stephanie Nwaigwe
Mr. Aiden O'Brien
Ms. Maire O'Brien
Ms. Ann O'Brien
Ms. Margaret O'Brien
Ms. Loretta O'Brien
Mr. Sean S. O'Broin
Ms. Ruth O'Callaghan
Ms. Eva O'Connell
Ms. Elizabeth O'Connor
Ms. Fiona O'Connor
Ms. Catherine O'Connor
Ms. Mary O'Donnell
Ms. Siobhan O'Dowd
Ms. Catherine O'Dowd
Ms. Mary O'Driscoll
Ms. Noelle O'Dwyer
Ms. Julia O'Gorman
Ms. Maeve O'Grady
Mr. John O'Loughlin
Mr. James O'Loughlin
Mr. T O'Mahoney
Mr. Colm O'Maolmhuire
Ms. Katherine O'Sullivan
Mr. Rory O'Sullivan
Ms. Mary O'Sullivan
Mr. Joseph O'Sullivan/Mr. Noel Keenan
Ms. Sorcha O'Toole
Ms. Toni Owens
Mr. Paul Patton

Mr. Gary Pheasey
Ms. Sandra Phillips
Robias Phiri
Ms. Angela Potter
Ms. Eileen Pugh
Ms. Emma Quirke
Ms. Mary Rafferty
Ms. Janice Ransom
Ms. Liz Redmond
Ms. Fionnuala Richardson
Mr. Michael Riordan
Mr. Paddy Robinson
Ms. Barbara Ronayne
Ms. Orna Ryan
Ms. Patsy Ryan
Ms. Miriam Ryan
Ms. Hilary Ryan
Mr. Seamus Scanlan
Mr. Eugene Scully
Ms. Anne Shanahan
Ms. Mary Sheehy
Ms. Carmel Sheridan
Ms. Mary Sheridan
Mr. Eugene Sherry
Ms. Bernie Sibbald
Ms. Trish Sinnott
Mr. Dermot Andrew Skelly
Ms. Sheila Smith
Ms. Lynda Stacey
Mr. Paul Stanley
Ms. Imelda Staunton
Ms. Ruth Stewart
Mr. Jim Strain
Mr. Michael Thompson

Mr. Ricky Thompson
Ms. Gabrielle Thorsch
Ms. Geraldine Tighe
Koi Tirima
Ms. Ita Treacy
Khalid Usman
Mr. Ray Walker
Ms. Fiona Wall
Ms. Sarah-Beth Watkins
Mr. Robin Webster
Mr. Keith Whelan
Ms. Catherine White
Mr. Owen Wims

Financial Statements



Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2005

Organisational Information

Directors

Mr. John Ryan (President)
Mr. Tom Hussey (Vice-President)
Ms. Brid Connolly (Hon. Secretary)
Mr. Patrick Nolan (Hon. Treasurer)
Ms. Mary Hilda Cavanagh
Ms. Anna Dangerfield
Ms. Marian Duffy
Ms. Cora Foley
Mr. Pat Higgins
Mr. Deiniol Jones
Ms. Jan Lewis
Ms. Marie Mulvihill
Ms. Valerie O'Carroll
Ms. Carmel Sheridan
Ms. Ruth Smith
Ms. Rose Todd

Secretary

Ms. Brid Connolly

Company Number

80958

Charity Number

6719

Registered Office

83-87 Main Street
Ranelagh
Dublin 6

Auditors Anne Brady McQuillans DFK
Iveagh Court
Harcourt Road
Dublin 2

Business Address 83-87 Main Street
Ranelagh
Dublin 6

Bankers Bank of Ireland
Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2

Solicitors P.J. Walsh & Company
12 Upper Fitzwilliam Street
Dublin 2

Directors' Report

The Board of Directors of AONTAS present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2005.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the organisation is the promotion and development of adult education in Ireland.

Results for the year and State of Affairs at 31 December 2005

The results for the year and the state of affairs of the organisation at 31 December 2005 are set out on pages 58 to 62 of the financial statements. The results for the year show a deficit of €49,229 (31 December 2004 : €35,843).

Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986

The reporting requirements of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986 relating to financial statements do not apply as AONTAS is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

Directors

The Executive Committee constitutes the Board of Directors of the organisation under the terms of Article 28 of the Articles of Association of the organisation:

Mr. John Ryan (President)
Mr. Tom Hussey (Vice-President)
Ms. Brid Connolly (Hon. Secretary)
Mr. Patrick Nolan (Hon. Treasurer)
Ms. Mary Hilda Cavanagh
Ms. Anna Dangerfield
Ms. Marian Duffy
Ms. Cora Foley
Mr. Pat Higgins
Mr. Deiniol Jones
Ms. Jan Lewis
Ms. Marie Mulvihill
Ms. Valerie O'Carroll
Ms. Carmel Sheridan
Ms. Ruth Smith
Ms. Rose Todd

Books of Account

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 202, Companies Act, 1990, regarding proper books of account include the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The books of account of the organisation are maintained at 83-87 Main Street, Ranelagh, Dublin 6.

Auditors

The auditors, Anne Brady McQuillans DFK have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

Signed on behalf of the Board

Mr. John Ryan
Director

***Mr. Tom Hussey**
Director

* It was agreed by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 4th March 2006 that Mr. Tom Hussey, Vice President would sign off the Financial Statements on behalf of Mr. Patrick Nolan, Treasurer who was unable to do so due to illness.

Date: 4th March 2006

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the organisation and of the surplus or deficit of the organisation for that year. In preparing these the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organisation and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2005. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Board

Mr. John Ryan
Director

Mr. Tom Hussey
Director

Date: 4th March 2006

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of AONTAS

We have audited the financial statements of AONTAS on pages 58 to 68 for the year ended 31st December 2005 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 63.

This report is made solely to the organisation's members, as a body in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the organisation's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the organisation and the organisation's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Irish Accounting Standards are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and auditing standards promulgated by the Auditing Practices Board in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2005. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the organisation and whether the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the organisation's balance sheet and its income and expenditure account are in agreement with the books of account.

We report to the members if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration or directors' transactions is not given and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises only the Directors' Report. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of Audit Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the organisation's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the organisation's affairs as at the 31 December 2005 and of its deficit and cash flows for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2005.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the organisation. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion the information given in the directors' report on pages 54 to 55 is consistent with the financial statements.

Section 40(1) of the Companies (Amendment) Act 1983 does not apply as the organisation is limited by guarantee.

**Anne Brady McQuillans DFK
Chartered Accountants and
Registered Auditors
Iveagh Court
Harcourt Road
Dublin 2**

Date: 4th March 2006

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2005

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
Income			
Restricted and unrestricted funds	2	<u>1,040,989</u>	<u>1,095,141</u>
Resources Expended			
Administration			
Salary costs		183,544	173,265
Pension scheme		21,753	16,515
Staff training and expenses		5,989	18,306
Postage and courier services		11,917	15,044
Printing and stationery		17,449	26,096
Advertising		3,236	39,249
Telephone		8,248	10,266
Motor and travel		8,927	15,092
Executive and general committee expenses		32,800	29,969
Legal fees		1,001	30
Audit and accountancy fees		7,622	8,815
Bank interest and charges		875	947
Representation and affiliation		13,948	19,777
Miscellaneous		35	107
Rent of venues and equipment		1,300	197
Computer costs		<u>4,646</u>	<u>8,164</u>
		<u>323,290</u>	<u>381,625</u>

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2005

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
Premises			
Light and heat		3,012	3,264
Rent and rates		91,962	65,174
Repairs and maintenance		14,595	18,548
Leasing charges		893	967
Insurance		9,020	8,316
Cleaning		2,907	3,576
Depreciation of computers and office equipment		24,706	29,087
		<u>147,095</u>	<u>128,932</u>
Development			
Salaries		304,937	276,718
Pension scheme		31,705	31,838
Consultants and contract staff		8,829	34,691
Travel and subsistence		29,035	46,152
Printing and publications		41,299	94,834
Conferences / seminars / membership meetings		106,740	62,269
Public relations		-	7,233
Information – library		6,955	8,756
Evaluation		630	6,305
Recruitment		14,071	-
Childcare		1,925	3,887
		<u>546,126</u>	<u>572,683</u>
Research			
Quality assurance framework for community education		71,751	47,744
RAACE		1,956	-
		<u>73,707</u>	<u>47,744</u>

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2005

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
Total resources expended		<u>1,090,218</u>	<u>1,130,984</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for year		(49,229)	(35,843)
Fund balances at beginning of year		<u>27,439</u>	<u>63,282</u>
Fund balances at end of year		<u>(21,790)</u>	<u>27,439</u>

Income and expenditure arises from continuing operations. The charity has no recognised losses other than the movement in funds for the year.

The notes on pages 63 to 68 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board on 4th March 2006 and signed on its behalf by

Mr. John Ryan
Director

Mr. Tom Hussey
on behalf of Mr. Patrick Nolan, Director

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2005

	Notes	2005		2004	
		€	€	€	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		29,691		54,397
Current assets					
Debtors	9	10,776		7,574	
Cash at bank and in hand	10	<u>616</u>		<u>1,320</u>	
		11,392		8,894	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	11	<u>(62,873)</u>		<u>(35,852)</u>	
Net current liabilities			(51,481)		(26,958)
Net (liabilities)/assets			<u>(21,790)</u>		<u>27,439</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		-		1,615
Unrestricted funds	15		<u>(21,790)</u>		<u>25,824</u>
Total funds			<u>(21,790)</u>		<u>27,439</u>

The notes on pages 63 to 68 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board on 4th March 2006 and signed on its behalf by

Mr. John Ryan
Director

Mr. Tom Hussey
Director

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2005

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
Reconciliation of operating (deficit)/surplus to net cash outflow from operating activities			
Operating (deficit) less interest receivable		(49,320)	(35,880)
Depreciation		24,706	29,087
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors		(3,202)	10,292
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors		<u>(22,820)</u>	<u>(149,092)</u>
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities		<u>(50,636)</u>	<u>(145,593)</u>
Cash flow statement			
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(50,636)	(145,593)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	12	91	37
Capital expenditure	12	-	<u>(17,029)</u>
Decrease in cash in the year		<u>(50,545)</u>	<u>(162,585)</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt (Note 13)			
Decrease in cash in the year		(50,545)	(162,585)
Net debt at 1st January		<u>(2,529)</u>	160,056
Net debt at 31st December	13	<u>(53,074)</u>	<u>(2,529)</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2005

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention and comply with reference to the recommendations of the revised Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting by Charities issued by the Charity Commissioners in 2000.

1.2 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	–	20% Straight Line
Office equipment	–	20% Straight Line
Computer equipment	–	33.3% Straight Line

1.3 Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.4 Pensions

Payments to defined contribution pension schemes are charged to the profit and loss account in the period to which they relate.

1.5 Grants receivable

Grant income receivable from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and that receivable from the Department of Education and Science in respect of the CEF Training and Support programme are treated as being restricted as the incomes are applied for particular purposes. All other income receivable is treated as being unrestricted.

Where specific grants are received in the year and none, or only part, of the related expenditure has been incurred, the unused portion of the grant is carried forward in creditors and accruals as deferred income.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2005

2. Sources of Income

	2005	2004
	€	€
Restricted funds		
Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform	5,214	30,780
Department of Education & Science:		
CEF Training and Support programme	135,000	130,000
Department of Education & Science:		
Once off conference grant	15,000	-
Unrestricted funds		
Department of Education & Science:		
Grant in Aid	430,000	413,000
Grant in Aid (supplementary)	27,500	-
S.P.I.D.A.S. supplement	365,000	353,000
Members' subscriptions	18,671	15,054
Sale of publications	-	15
National conference	22,655	(720)
Interest receivable	91	37
Miscellaneous	2,093	1,705
	<u>1,021,224</u>	<u>942,841</u>
Opening deferred income	19,765	172,065
Closing deferred income	-	(19,765)
	<u><u>1,040,989</u></u>	<u><u>1,095,141</u></u>

3. Continuing operations

The statement of financial activities has been prepared on the basis that the organisation has only continuing operations in accordance with the Companies (Amendment) Acts, 1983 and 1986.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2005

4. Net Outgoing Resources for the year

	2005	2004
	€	€
Net outgoing resources for the year is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	24,706	19,183
Auditors' remuneration:		
AONTAS	7,622	7,000
CDC Audit	<u>-</u>	<u>1,815</u>

5. Employees

	2005	2004
Number of employees		
The average numbers of employees during the year were:	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>

Employment costs

	2005	2004
	€	€
Wages and salaries	444,719	408,938
Social welfare costs	43,762	41,045
Other pension costs	<u>53,458</u>	<u>48,353</u>
	<u>541,939</u>	<u>498,336</u>

6. Pension costs

The organisation operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are made by both the employee and the employer. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the organisation in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by AONTAS to the fund and amount to €53,458 (2004 : €48,353).

7. Taxation

The organisation has been granted exemption from taxation and this exemption has pertained since its incorporation.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2005

8. Tangible Assets

	Office equipment	Computer equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
At 1 January 2005	48,624	92,985	49,519	191,128
At 31 December 2005	<u>48,624</u>	<u>92,985</u>	<u>49,519</u>	<u>191,128</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2005	37,643	81,203	17,885	136,731
Charge for the year	<u>5,491</u>	<u>9,311</u>	<u>9,904</u>	<u>24,706</u>
At 31 December 2005	<u>43,134</u>	<u>90,514</u>	<u>27,789</u>	<u>161,437</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2005	<u>5,490</u>	<u>2,471</u>	<u>21,730</u>	<u>29,691</u>
At 31 December 2004	<u>10,981</u>	<u>11,782</u>	<u>31,634</u>	<u>54,397</u>

9. Debtors

	2005	2004
	€	€
Other debtors and prepayments	<u>10,776</u>	<u>7,574</u>

10. Cash at Bank and on Hand

	2005	2004
	€	€
Deposit accounts	-	955
Cash on hand	<u>616</u>	<u>365</u>
	<u>616</u>	<u>1,320</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2005

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2005	2004
	€	€
Bank overdraft	53,690	3,849
Trade creditors	467	2,786
Deferred income – grants receivable	-	19,765
Accruals	8,716	9,452
	<u>62,873</u>	<u>35,852</u>

12. Gross Cash Flows

	2005	2004
	€	€
Returns on investments and servicing of finance		
Interest received	<u>91</u>	<u>37</u>
Capital expenditure		
Payments to acquire tangible assets	<u>-</u>	<u>(17,029)</u>

13. Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

	Opening balance €	Cash flows €	Closing balance €
Cash at bank and in hand	1,320	(704)	616
Overdrafts	<u>(3,849)</u>	<u>(49,841)</u>	<u>(53,690)</u>
Net debt	<u>(2,529)</u>	<u>(50,545)</u>	<u>(53,074)</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2005

14. Restricted Reserves

	Balance at beginning of year €	Incoming resources €	Resources expended €	Balance at end of year €
Specific funds:				
Grants from Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform	-	5,214	(5,214)	-
Grants from Department of Education & Science:				
CEF Training and Support programme	<u>1,615</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>(151,615)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1,615</u>	<u>155,214</u>	<u>156,829</u>	<u>-</u>

15. Unrestricted Reserves

	Balance at beginning of year €	Incoming resources €	Resources expended €	Balance at end of year €
General Fund	<u>25,824</u>	<u>885,775</u>	<u>933,389</u>	<u>(21,790)</u>

16. Controlling Party

The organisation is controlled by the Board of Directors.

17. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the board on 4th March 2006 and signed on its behalf by

Mr. John Ryan
Director

Mr. Tom Hussey
Director



AONTAS

National Association of Adult Education
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