

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FET Conference,
Equality Authority,
2 Clonmel Street,
Dublin 2

Speaker Biographies

Peter Cassells is currently Chairperson of the National Centre for Partnership and Performance (NCP). The NCP was established by the government in 2001 to promote and facilitate workplace change and innovation through partnership and to contribute to a better quality of life for employers and employees alike. As former General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions from 1989 to 2001, Peter Cassells was one of the main architects of the national social partnership agreements.

Miriam David is Professor of Sociology of Education and Associate Director (Higher Education) of the Economic and Social Research Council's Teaching & Learning Research Programme (TLRP) at the Institute of Education University of London. In this capacity she is responsible for research projects on widening participation to and learning within higher education and issues around social diversity and difference across all levels of education, including lifelong learning.

Dr Barney O' Reilly is CEO of the Kerry Education Service (KES), the Vocational Education Committee (VEC) in Kerry. An Equality Review was undertaken by the KES in 2004 to conduct research on the management and implementation of equality issues, in order to define objectives for the implementation of an equality action plan in relation to KES employees and in the provision of educational services to its students.

Niall Crowley is the Chief Executive Officer of The Equality Authority since its establishment in 1999. Prior to this he worked in the community and voluntary sector on a wide range of equality issues. He has been a member of the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) and the National Economic and Social Council (NESC). He is the author of *An Ambition for Equality* published by Irish Academic Press.

FUNDED BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND PART FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND UNDER THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 2000-2006.

YOUR PLAN-YOUR FUTURE

Mainstreaming Equality

Promoting equality and accommodating diversity in further education, training and labour market programmes

3rd Annual Conference

Date: Thursday 22nd November, 2007

Time: 0900 - 1320

Place: The Royal College of Physicians
6 Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Context

The composition of the Irish workforce is changing rapidly. Employee diversity encompasses all of the nine grounds covered under equality legislation - gender, marital status, family status, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion and membership of the Traveller community. Investing in equality and diversity is key to mobilising and developing this changing workforce.

Beyond responsibilities on providers in further education and training not to discriminate, there is an economic and social imperative to actively pursue the recruitment and progression of learners from all groups experiencing inequality under these grounds. The principal challenge in this sector is to mainstream equality in learning opportunities for all people, taking full account of their diversity.

This conference will focus on understanding the implications of promoting equality and accommodating diversity for the work of further education and training practitioners. Keynote speakers and facilitated workshops will:

- Examine the importance of promoting equality for the diverse workplace of the future
- Explore the implications of equality and diversity for students and practitioners in further education and training
- Identify key lessons learned from promoting equality in the vocational education sector

Conference Programme

0830 Registration, Tea/Coffee

0900 Introduction and Welcome
Niall Crowley, CEO, The Equality Authority

0905 Opening Address
Mr Seán Haughey TD, Minister for Lifelong Learning

0915 - 1100 Session One – Plenary

- Chair: Carole Sullivan, Development Officer, The Equality Authority
- Peter Cassells, Chairperson, NCPP
Meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse workplace of the future
- Prof. Miriam David, Institute of Education University of London
Social diversity and equality, further and higher education for the 21st century
- Dr Barney O' Reilly, CEO, Kerry Education Service
The challenges and dividends of mainstreaming equality in the KES

1100 - 1130 Tea/Coffee

1130 - 1240 Session Two – Workshops

- *Workshop A - The diverse workplace of the future; challenges for further education and training* with Peter Cassells
Workshop facilitator: Carole Sullivan, Development Officer, The Equality Authority
- *Workshop B - The implications of social diversity and difference for engaging professionals and students in further and higher education in Ireland* with Prof. Miriam David
Workshop facilitator: Shira Mehlman, Director Social Inclusion, FÁS
- *Workshop C - Implementing equality in the VEC sector* with Dr Barney O' Reilly
Workshop facilitator: Andrina Wafer, Development Officer, FETAC

1240 - 1320 Session Three – Plenary

- Chair: Laurence Bond, Head of Research, The Equality Authority
- *Workshop Feedback and Discussion*
- Niall Crowley, CEO, The Equality Authority
Supporting Equality Mainstreaming

1320 Lunch

Mainstreaming Equality – Registration Form

CONTACT DETAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Organisation: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Workshop Registration:

Please indicate your first, second and third preference of workshops, inserting number 1, 2 and 3 in order of your choice.

Workshop A with Peter Cassells _____

Workshop B with Prof. Miriam David _____

Workshop C with Dr Barney O' Reilly _____

Lunch: Please indicate if you will be staying for lunch. Yes No

Special Dietary Requirements: If you have any special dietary requirements, please tick the relevant box.

Vegetarian Vegan Gluten Free Diabetic

If other please specify:

If you would like to attend this conference please return this form by Thursday 15th November, 2007 to: **FET Conference, Equality Authority, 2 Clonmel Street, Dublin 2**, by fax to: (01) 417 3331, by phone contact: Nigel Hickey at (01) 417 3376 or email nhickey@equality.ie

If you have any specific access needs (such as a sign language interpreter or wheelchair accessibility) please let us know in advance.