

## **New scheme launched to assist survivors of institutional abuse in Ireland**

*January 16<sup>th</sup> 2014*

A new scheme has been launched to assist people who, as children, experienced abuse in institutions in Ireland and who received awards through the Residential Institutions Redress Board or Irish courts. It will be managed by a statutory body established under the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Act, 2012, called Caranua, and is supported by a fund of €110 million committed by Irish religious congregations.

The overall aim of the scheme is to bring about improvements in the living conditions and well being of eligible survivors. Caranua will provide a dedicated information and advice service to eligible survivors, will work with public bodies to ensure that survivors have their statutory entitlements and will fund the provision of additional health, housing and education services, based on successful applications from survivors.

There are 15,000 people potentially eligible to benefit from Caranua, of that 8,500 are in Ireland, 5,000 are in the United Kingdom and the remainder live in other parts of the world, mainly in Canada, Australia and the United States. Information on the scheme is available on [www.caranua.ie](http://www.caranua.ie) and from the Caranua office at 1800 212477 (from Ireland) and 0808 2341303 (from the United Kingdom). Information leaflets and application forms are available in health services, community services, libraries, Irish welfare services and Irish embassies.

Sample quote from **Mary Higgins** CEO Caranua: *“Caranua is committed to making a real difference to the lives of survivors. Many have suffered life long disadvantage as a result of their childhood experiences and most are now ageing. We cannot undo what was done but we can provide assistance to make their living conditions more comfortable and their lives fuller”.*

For further information or press queries contact: Helen and Kate at Athena Media  
on 01 4883350

Or visit **[www.caranua.ie](http://www.caranua.ie)**