

Child Rights Impact Assessment in Ireland

Past Considerations, Current Practice

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Past Considerations

- Does ex-ante impact assessment work?
- What should it involve? Common features: screening, scoping, core questions, appraisal or implementation, identification of alternatives, consultation with stakeholders, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, external support, early intervention
- The need for resources
- Who should do it and when?

The Ombudsman for Children's Office

- Established in 2002 under the Ombudsman for Children Act; first Ombudsman appointed in 2004.
- Section 7: to advise the Government on any matter including *'the probable effect on children of the implementation of any proposals for legislation'*.
- Section 13: occasional submissions and advice.
- Sections 8 – 16: complaint and investigation functions – adverse affect on the child and maladministration.

Examples under Sections 7 & 13

- **Constitutional Amendment on Children's Rights**
- *Advice on the Proposed Referendum on Children's Rights, 2006.*
- *Report to the Oireachtas on the Twenty-Eighth Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2007*
- *Report to the Oireachtas on the Thirty-First Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Bill 2012.*

Examples under Sections 8-16: Complaint Handling and Investigations

- Investigations: many of the components of CRIA: screening, scoping, core questions, consultation, appraisal/analysis, recommendations (alternatives), reporting and monitoring/review.**
- Examples of systemic change: Children First; Special Care Admissions Criteria; Applications for Assistive Technology.**

An Example from the NGOs: The Children's Rights Alliance

- *All Our Children: Child Impact Assessment for Irish Children of Migrant Parents, 2006*
- A suite of methods and approaches addressing a number of levels
- **Post-Budget Analysis**
- **Annual Score Card**

Questions

- **What are participants' understandings of 'child rights impact assessment'?**
- **Is CRIA the most effective means of influencing policy, legislation and administrative decisions?**
- **Do forms of CRIA already exist in Canada?**
- **Is the development of a template, toolkit, etc. necessary if CRIA is to become widespread?**
- **Who should be responsible for undertaking CRIA and in what form?**
- **What resources are required to support the practical and effective introduction of CRIA in Canada?**