

**Crisis Pregnancy Agency
Information Note for Masters/ PhD's Research Scholarship Programme 2007
Background to the Research Scholarships Programme 2007**

The Crisis Pregnancy Agency is a planning and co-ordinating body established to formulate and implement a strategy to address the issue of crisis pregnancy in Ireland through:

- (a) A reduction in the number of crisis pregnancies by the provision of education, advice and contraceptive services;
- (b) A reduction in the number of women with a crisis pregnancy who opt for abortion by offering services and other supports which make other options more attractive;
- (c) The provision of counselling and medical services after crisis pregnancy.

The Agency's Statutory Instrument states that the Agency should promote or commission research into aspects of crisis pregnancy and this in an integral part of the work of the Agency.

Call for proposals

The Crisis Pregnancy Agency is inviting applications for funding for original research linked to the mandates of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency from qualified individuals and organisations under two strands:

- Research Awards
- Research Scholarships

This information note relates to the Research Scholarships Programme¹. Further information on the Research Awards Programme is available on the website at www.crisispregnancy.ie

Purpose

The purpose of the Research Scholarships Programme is twofold; to support the accumulation of knowledge in the area of crisis pregnancy in Ireland and to support proficiency and new developments in the field of crisis pregnancy research. It is intended that the Research Scholarships Programme will facilitate research which is relevant to the Crisis Pregnancy Agency and had the potential to inform the future work of the Agency. The aims of the Research Scholarships Programme are to:

- Ensure the Agency keeps abreast of factors related to crisis pregnancy, sexual activity and contraceptive use, reproductive decision making and health services research. Research gaps still remain.
- Build upon the range of research commissioned by the Agency and fill knowledge gaps still existing.
- Stimulate and further strengthen research in the areas of sexual health and sexual health policy, sexual decision making and crisis pregnancy.

- Ensure that the Agency's existing research portfolio continues to be used and is part of emerging developments in the field.

- Further build academic capacity and expertise in areas related to the Agency's work.

1 The Crisis Pregnancy Agency would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Health

Research Board, Combat Poverty Agency, Family Support Agency and the Office of the Minister for Children in the production of this document.

Themes:

While the Agency has identified a number of research priorities it is **open to receiving applications in areas outside these themes**, so long as all proposals are directly related to the mandate of the Agency, have an applied focus and will result in new insights on key issues.

Research priorities include:

- The influence of socioeconomic factors on teenage pregnancy

- A deeper understanding of sexual health issues with respect to specific population groups. These include: men, migrant population living in Ireland, women over 35 experiencing crisis pregnancy and people with low socioeconomic status

- A better understanding of workplace culture, work life balance, childcare and its relationship to crisis pregnancy, reproductive decision making and parenting issues.

- Health services research related to the mandates of the Agency from the perspective of service users, providers, managers and policy makers. This can be particular to specific settings e.g. maternity services, primary care, student health services, etc.

For further information on the work of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency, previous research commissioned and future research priorities, please consult the Agency's website.

Please return the completed application form and supporting documentation in hard copy to arrive no later than 5pm on Friday 22nd June to:

Crisis Pregnancy Agency

4th Floor

89 – 94 Capel Street

Dublin 1.

Applications should be clearly marked "Masters/ PhD Scholarship Programme 2007".