



**Speaking notes for Caroline Spillane, Director of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency,
thanking the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese for attending the event
marking the transition of the Agency into the HSE, National Gallery of Ireland,
Thursday November 26th 2009**

Good morning to you all. As a new chapter opens for the Crisis Pregnancy Agency we are honoured by the words of the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, who has given her time to be with us here today.

Looking back over the past eight years, it is hard to believe how fast time has flown and how far we have come. However, I think it is fair to say that the achievements of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency can be significantly attributed to the success of partnership. Quite simply, we could not have achieved what we have without the dedicated support of so many groups, agencies and individuals.

These support networks and partnerships were the backbone of our Agency and represent the work being done at a grass roots level in local communities nationwide.

As Katharine has mentioned, we place great emphasis on the value of partnership, and we've been privileged to work with people from a range of backgrounds including State and Semi-State organisations, non-governmental organisations, charities, commercial organisations and the media. Without the contribution of so many driven and talented individuals, the Agency's work would not have progressed in the manner in which it has over the past eight years.

In moving forward the Crisis Pregnancy Agency will now form part of the HSE where we will have the opportunity to use its network more directly to advance our work.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese most sincerely for being with us. We are all absolutely delighted to be in her company today and she has made this an unforgettable celebration for us. Thank you President.

Finally, as we draw to a close I am struck by the number of people who have taken the time to be with us here today to mark the transition of the Agency into the HSE. I'm delighted to be celebrating together with so many familiar faces. We would be here all day if I were to list all of

the people who have been instrumental in the success of the Agency but we are extremely grateful to all. A huge thank you for your unending support - we would not be where we are today without you.

Thank you all very much for coming today.