

# MARY MITCHELL O'CONNOR TD

DÚN LAOGHAIRE



## PROTECT THE RECOVERY

This Government's responsibility has been to steer a jobs-led recovery to get back on our feet as quickly as possible. Through hard work, Irish workers and businesses have managed to turn around the trend of job loss much quicker than predicted.

The independent Central Statistics Office has confirmed that:

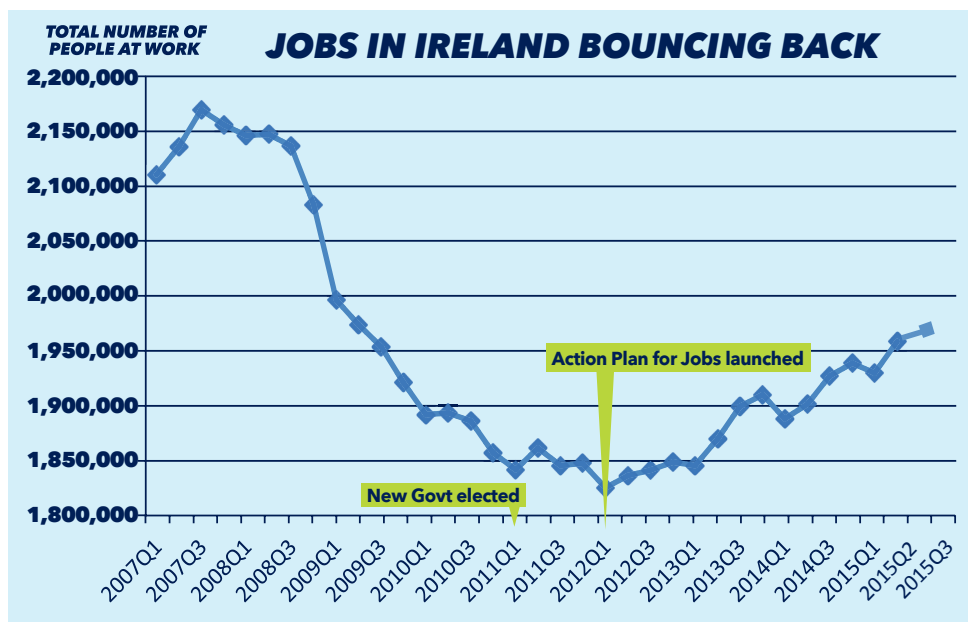
- **Over 64,000 extra people are at work in Dublin with their lives back on track**
- **Youth unemployment** is down by one third and net emigration down by two thirds
- **Unemployment** in Dublin is now under 8%, down from a peak of 13.5%
- Most new jobs are **well paid** - in good companies, trades and professions

The new jobs have brought in extra tax revenue which has allowed a start to be made in reversing the impact of the crash on families and on services.

## CELEBRATING ENTERPRISE



Mary with Proprietor Thomas Murphy from Thomas's of Foxrock



## FUTURE POTENTIAL

Our economy is capable of creating 40,000 extra jobs each year if the right policies are followed.

These policies are about supporting people who start up a business, and enterprises who innovate and win new markets. They are about investing in the right skills and creatively using the new technologies. Everyone must get the opportunity to fulfill their potential. That is why sustainable full employment is a central goal for Fine Gael.

## MAKING WORK PAY

**Working families have struggled hard during the crash. We are now able to make changes that are making work pay for all families.**

- Over 125,000 people stand to gain from a proposed increase in the **National Minimum Wage** to €9.15 which is worth €1,000 to a person working full-time.
- The gradual restoration of **public pay** cuts will favour the lower paid, who will get a €1,000 boost to earnings starting in January 2016.
- 71% of private employers indicate that they plan to increase pay in 2016.
- The Back to Work Family Dividend and increased Homecarer Tax Credit helps working families.
- **Cuts in USC and Income tax** have taken over 2 points off the tax rates at low to middle income levels - a saving of up to €1200.

**The competitive edge of our enterprises is creating more jobs and delivering better living standards. Keeping this progress going is vital to our success as a country.**



*Mary at Sandyford Business District Association (SBDA) Breakfast Seminar (pictured) with Aileen Eglinton from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber of Commerce and Sheila Moore from SBDA.*

## INVESTING IN BETTER SERVICES

**Success on the jobs front has delivered a significant payback. Services under acute strain are getting new staff.**

- 2,260 **extra teachers** and 600 Special Needs Assistants to help children, especially those with special needs.
- Almost 2,000 more staff in our **hospitals** compared to a year ago. A concerted effort, is underway to deal with A&E and long waits.
- Increases for **pensioners and carers** and easier access to the Fair Deal to Home care Packages and to GP Care for older people.
- 550 new recruits entering **Garda** training strengthens the focus on crime and especially the surge in burglaries, where gangs and serial offenders are being targeted.
- The **National Rehabilitation Hospital** in Dun Laoghaire has received an additional €15 million for redevelopment.



*Investing in education today for the talent of the future.  
Photo Credit: Gerry Stronge Photography*

**However, it is not just about more spending, it is about working smarter. We have merged or closed over 180 agencies.**

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

*The government is setting out important plans to open up new opportunities and to solve difficult problems.*

## Investing in our Children's Future

- Building **extensions and new schools**, for 62,000 pupils with a wider choice of school patronage.
- Investing in a range of **new Apprenticeships** with an intake of 1,500 in the first wave and 2,500 in the second.
- A Strategy for **Childcare** developing free pre-school from age 3 and improving quality and affordability of early childhood care.



*Mary presenting Oisín Ó Murchú with the Apprentice of the Year award at Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute Graduate Awards 2015.*

## Building New Infrastructure

- A New **Housing Strategy** to fast track new homes (including 35,000 social housing and 20,000 Nama - built).
- **Every secondary school** in the country now has world class (100Mbps) broadband following a three-year €30m investment. Primary school programme to follow.
- Better access to **Healthcare** through 80 new Primary Care Centres and the new Childrens Hospital.



*Planning for the next generation. Mary at the open day of Cherrywood with Brian Moran, Managing Director of Hines Ireland.*

## Better Services for our Communities

- A transformation in the oversight and management of the **Gardaí** with a new Independent Police Authority and a modern ICT system equipped to deal with sophisticated criminals.
- An integrated strategy to tackle **Suicide** and ring-fenced money for Mental Health.
- Better **Pathways to Independence** for people whose lives have been disrupted by job loss, homelessness, tragedy, disability or addiction.



*Mary with Robert Carley from Suicide or Survive based in Shankill at the launch of their "High Tea and Talk" Mental Health campaign.*

*These plans are being built on a solid foundation. Responsibility for delivery is being assigned to leadership who will be accountable.*

## NO GOING BACK

**The biggest risk to Ireland is that we slip back to old ways. In government we have made some important changes to prevent the mistakes of the past being repeated:**

- New Regulation of Lobbyists
- Strong **Freedom of Information** and new Protection of Whistleblowers
- A strong **Financial Regulator** and an independent **Fiscal Council** to protect against bad budgets
- A new way of selecting **State Boards** so only the best suited persons are considered

**Politics must continue to change, building on this greater openness and stronger accountability. Loose government spending could undermine the strong enterprise which is creating better paid jobs and supporting better services.**

# MEETING THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Dear Resident,

Thanks to the hard work and resilience of the Irish people, the economy is recovering. Our roads and shops are busier. In Dublin there are over 64,000 extra people at work. That is putting vital money back into our communities.

But there is still a long way to go. There are still many without jobs and emigration is still too high. Much more needs to be done to repair the damage done by the crash.

However, we can be optimistic about the future. The jobs led recovery has been built on solid foundations. It is those new jobs that are allowing us to relieve pressure on families, young and old by reducing taxes and investing in better services.

Some of the plans which are building a brighter future for everyone are set out here. We can travel much further along the road to recovery. But the recovery is fragile also. The policy choices to be made in this election matter.

We in Fine Gael will not risk wasting the sacrifices made by so many people, nor the future of our country by repeating the mistakes of the past.

Kind regards,



Mary discussing the challenges of living with Dementia with Brian Doyle.

**Mary is actively campaigning for better services and supports for older people and for an implementation plan for the National Positive Ageing Strategy.**



A well attended local Public Meeting on Dementia organised by Mary.

## YOUR FINE GAEL TEAM IN DÚN LAOGHAIRE



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