



Returning to Ireland Series



Irish Support Agency

In association with
Crosscare Migrant Project



Returning with children

16th May 2022 | Sarah Owen – Crosscare Migrant Project



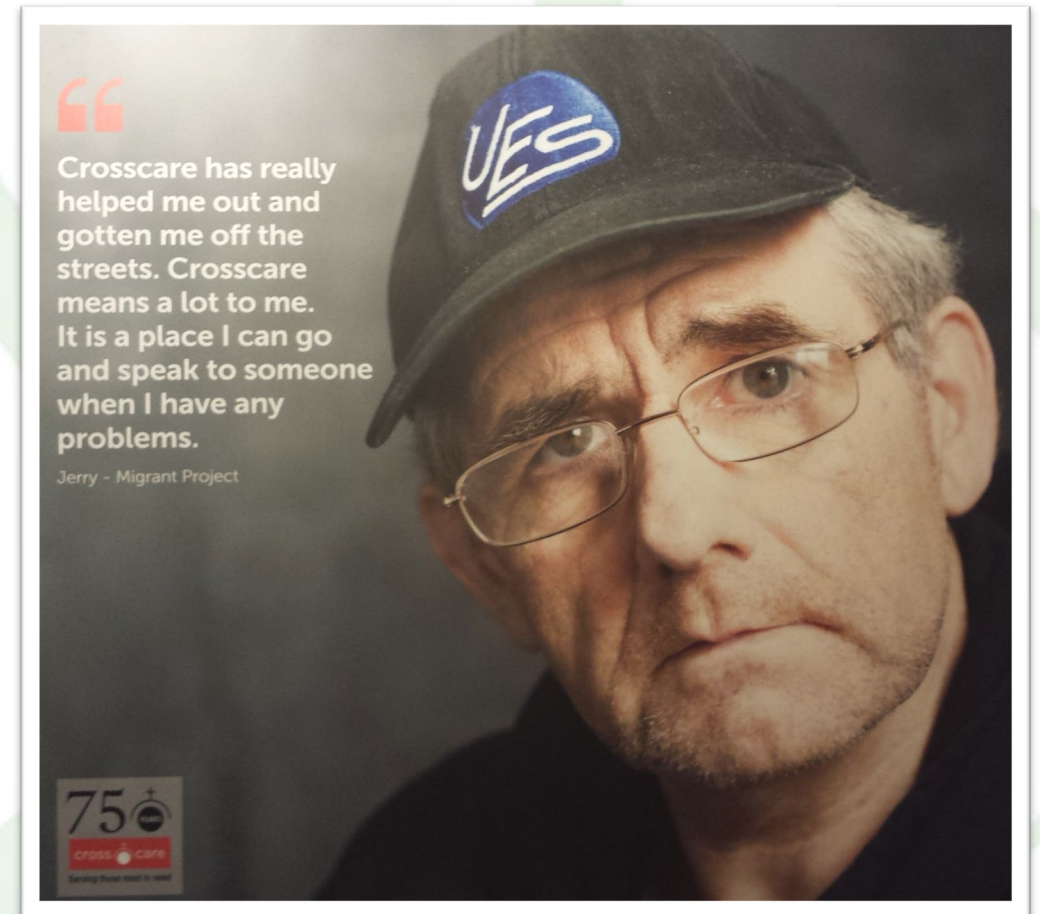
Topics covered:

- Who we are and what we do
- Trends in Irish return migration
- Information on:
 - Passports
 - PPS numbers
 - Child Benefit
 - Healthcare
 - Childcare
 - Education
- Useful resources
- Contact details

Who we are and what we do

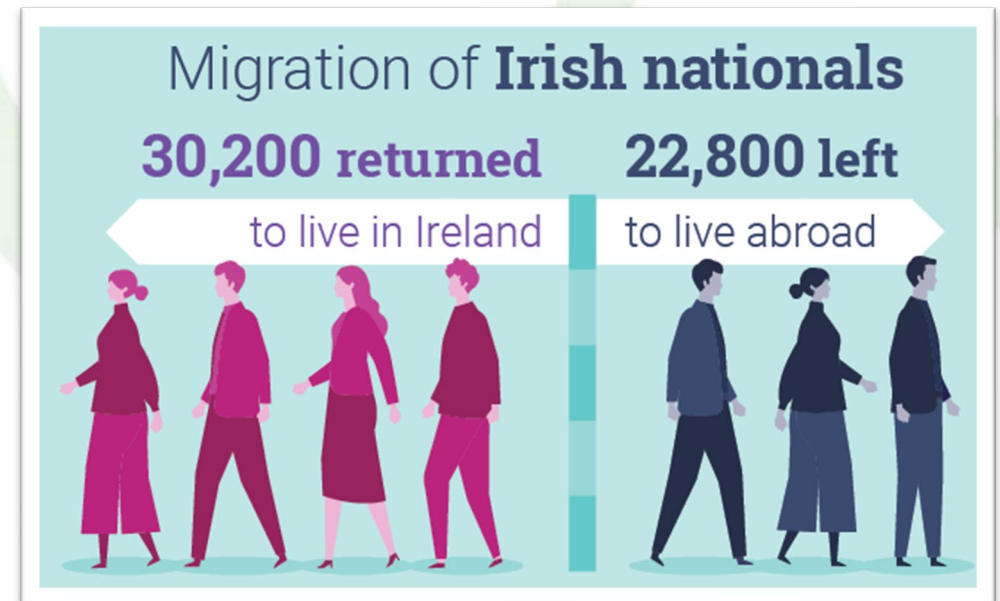
Crosscare Migrant Project

- Dublin based NGO funded by Irish Government's Emigrant Support Programme
- Established in 1987 as 'Emigrant Advice'
- Project of Crosscare, large social care service provider in the Dublin region
- Provide information, advocacy and referral supports to Irish emigrants and returning emigrants, particularly people in vulnerable situations
- Collaborate with and offer capacity building training to Irish emigrant groups abroad
- Research trends in Irish migration
- Undertake social policy campaigns



Trends in Irish return migration

- More people returning than emigrating
- Some reasons for return:
 - Covid-19 pandemic
 - Employment opportunities in various sectors
 - Want to be closer to family
- Things to consider:
 - Plan and do your research
 - Do what you can beforehand
 - Have savings and budget
 - Do what's right for you and have realistic expectations
 - Remember it will take time to get set up on return
 - Give yourself time to adjust and reach out for support
- *'Talk to others who have done it, but mostly take your time with the decision and think about why you are doing it'* – returnee from Australia



Central Statistics Office - Population and Migration Estimates, April 2021

Documents and State supports

Passport: Try to get your child an Irish passport before you return. They can enter on an Australian passport, once they are eligible for Irish citizenship and travelling with you, their Irish citizen parent/guardian.
www.dfa.ie/passportonline/

PPS number: This is a unique personal reference number that you need to access services in Ireland. You will need to apply one for your child if they were not born in Ireland. www.gov.ie/en/service/12e6de-get-a-personal-public-service-pps-number/

Child Benefit: A universal payment for parents with children under age 16 (or up to age 18 in some cases). PPS numbers needed. No means test, but must satisfy the [Habitual Residence Condition](#). Application usually made by mother. €140/month per child.
www.gov.ie/en/service/f14140-child-benefit/

Other social welfare supports: There are a range of social welfare payments to support families and specifically children, including supports for single parent families. Access to these depends on your family circumstances and other factors, such as whether you have enough PRSI contributions, or you are on a low income.

www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/social_welfare_payments_to_families_and_children/payments_to_families_and_children.html

Employment rights for parents: Certain types of leave are available to working parents, however these usually depend on your circumstances and length of employment.

www.citizensinformation.ie/en/returning_to_ireland/coming_home_with_children/returning_to_ireland_with_children.html#I93700

Healthcare

Public Health Services: Children in Ireland are dependants of their parents and have the same entitlement to health services as their parents. There are also a range of services specifically for children and certain services are provided free of charge for children, including vaccination and immunisation services.

www.citizensinformation.ie/en/health/health_services/children_s_health/child_health_services.html

Children under 6: All children under 6 years of age living in Ireland can get a GP visit card. This allows them to see a Doctor free of charge.

www2.hse.ie/services/gp-visit-cards/under-6s-gp-visit-card.html

Medical cards: If your income is below a certain level, you and your dependent children may be entitled to a [medical card](#).

Maternity care: If you are pregnant and you are [ordinarily resident](#) in Ireland you are entitled to free maternity care under the [Maternity and Infant Care Scheme](#).

Caring for a child with a disability: If you are caring for a child with a disability you may qualify for financial support. For example [Carer's Benefit](#), [Carer's Allowance](#), [Carer's Support Grant](#) or [Domiciliary Care Allowance](#).

Childcare

Childcare: Childcare in Ireland is generally offered by private service providers (e.g. crèche, childminders). It can be expensive and services are often over-subscribed so make sure to put your child's name down well in advance of return.

Under the [National Childcare Scheme](#), two types of financial support are available to help parents to meet the costs of childcare:

1. A **universal subsidy** for children under 3. Children over 3 who have not yet qualified for the ECCE are also eligible. It is not means tested.
2. An **income-assessed subsidy** for children up to 15. It is means tested.

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE):

Provides early childhood care and education for children of pre-school age. Children can start ECCE when they are 2 years and 8 months of age and continue until they transfer to primary school (as long as they are not older than 5 years and 6 months at the end of the pre-school year).

- To learn more about your **childcare options**:
www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/pre_school_education_and_childcare/your_childcare_options.html
- To find **childcare providers** near you:
<https://myccc.ie/>

Education

School: Start the application process for a school place well in advance of your return. Find your local school: www.gov.ie/en/service/find-a-school/

- In general, schools must accept all students who apply to them unless they get more applications than there are places.
- Primary schools cannot use religion as a basis for admission and cannot prioritise students based on their religious beliefs, but there are some exceptions to this rule.

www.citizensinformation.ie/en/returning_to_ireland/education_and_schooling/accessing_the_education_system_on_your_return_to_ireland.html

Special educational needs: If your child has special educational needs, they may attend ordinary classes in mainstream schools or in special classes in these schools. They may get additional educational support from special education teachers and care support from special needs assistants (SNAs).

www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/the_irish_education_system/special_education.en.html

Third Level Education: To qualify for [free third-level fees](#), your child must have been resident in Ireland or another EU country for 3 out of the previous 5 years. www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/third_level_education/fees_and_supports_for_third_level_education/fees.html

Useful resources

- gov.ie
- hse.ie
- ncs.gov.ie
- migrantproject.ie
- irishsupportagency.org.au
- [Returning to Ireland section on citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie)
- safehomeireland.com
- dfa.ie/irish-consulate/sydney/
- dfa.ie/irish-embassy/australia/
- [Irish Expats Returning to Ireland Facebook Group](#)
- [Irish Women Abroad / Returning to Ireland](#)
- [Ireland Move Club Forum](#)
- [Irish Times Abroad / Returning to Ireland](#)
- everymum.ie
- rollercoaster.ie

Contact us



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Facebook: [CrosscareMigrantProject](https://www.facebook.com/CrosscareMigrantProject)

Instagram: [@crosscaremigrantproject](https://www.instagram.com/crosscaremigrantproject)



Thank you!

Any questions?



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs