

Tuesday 25th May

Celebrating Lifelong Guidance, and 10 years of the AEGI

**Jennifer McKenzie
Director, NCGE**

Welcoming Minister of State Sean Haughey and invited guests, Jennifer McKenzie, Director NCGE, thanked the Co Dublin VEC Firhouse Community College choir with musical director Samantha Conroy, and wished them every success with their summer exams and in the Leaving Cert in June...

The Director then welcomed guests to the DES and NCGE celebration of Lifelong Guidance and 10 years of the Adult Educational Guidance Initiative.

In her speech to the group Jennifer outlined...

"Today we are celebrating the achievements of the AEGI, highlighting specifically the City of Dublin VEC North East Adult Educational Guidance Service in Coolock. Today we are Also launching the Overarching research report on the AEGI pilot phases from 2000 – 2006 and bringing ICT further into guidance service provision with the launch of the NCGE web based AEGI handbook."

Jennifer thanked the Minister "for his genuine commitment to lifelong learning and especially lifelong guidance. With his support and recognition of the innovative and developmental work, the AEGI services expanded in 2007 to 40 services nationally and larger teams of Adult Educational Guidance Co-ordinators , Guidance Counsellors and Adult Guidance Information officers.

A special mention must also go to the NCGE staff who worked in and made a huge contribution to the development of the AEGI over the 10 years, including my predecessors Eileen Fitzpatrick, Sile Sheehy, and Marie McManamon. My thanks today especially to Ursula & James and the rest of the NCGE team who have put today's event together."

The Director said that "it is vital at this point to recognise the commitment of the DES to the AEGI over the last 10 years, providing funding, support, and publication of Circulars which recognise and clarify the different roles for those working in the guidance teams.

It is hard to believe that 10 years ago some of us entered empty offices as Education Guidance Workers and were asked to set up a guidance service for adults returning to education.

Today the DES, NCGE , the Advisory Group, the AEGI staff and the CEOs and management of the VECs and the CHART dept in WIT can be very proud of the collaborations, consultations, heated debates and development of exemplary models of adult guidance practice."