Government Policy in Relation to Play Resources and Facilities
Population
4,015,676

0-14 years: 20.9%
(male 434,225
female 406,730)

15-64 years: 67.5%
(male 1,358,086
female 1,354,148)

65 years +: 11.5%
(male 203,614
female 258,873)

(CSO- July 2005)
Ireland
The Old and the New
Celtic Tiger
Background to the National Play Policy

- National Children’s Strategy (2000)
  - the lack of play and recreation facilities was the most frequently cited concern by children
Ireland and Play


- Young peoples Views about Opportunities, Barriers and Supports to Recreation and Leisure (2005)
The Vision for Developing a National Play Policy

• “An Ireland where the importance of play is recognised so that children experience a range of quality play opportunities to enrich their childhood”
Public Playgrounds in Ireland

In 2004 Ireland had 405 golf courses
1:9,672 people

Golf course

In 2004 Ireland had 168 Public playgrounds
1:23,598 children

Playgrounds
The Government and Playgrounds

• “The provision of fixed play equipment is the most tangible evidence of a national commitment to supporting play” (p 12 Ready, Steady, Play! A National Play Policy)
Government Funding of Playgrounds

• Funding of €7.9 million has been provided since the launch of the Policy.
  - Of this, €7.3 million has gone directly towards providing playgrounds, with the remaining €600,000 being targeted at play in healthcare settings.
  - As part of this funding €3 million was made available to support the development of 45 new or refurbished playgrounds in disadvantaged areas in the country.
  - A further 32 playgrounds are nearing completion.
Play and Resources

• Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
Hurling

- The oldest field game in Europe, the fastest field game in the world
- GAA was founded in 1884
- Ball (sliotar)
- Hurley (camán)
- Camogie is the female version hurling
• History of Hurling

• One of the earliest references to hurling is from the 12th century

• The story of Cu Chulainn clearly mentions the word camán (hurley). Cu Chulainn was one of the greatest Irish mythological heroes
Grandfather of Ice Hockey??

"[Ice Hockey] originated around 1800, in Windsor, where the boys of Canada's first college, King's College School, established in 1788, adapted the exciting field game of Hurley to the ice of their favorite skating ponds and originated a new winter game, Ice Hurley. Over a period of decades, Ice Hurley gradually developed into Ice Hockey."
GAA and Scor na nÓg (1969) (Irish Dancing)
Play, Schools and the Church
Overview of National Schools in Ireland

- 3,200 National Schools in R.O.I.
- 980 are single sex schools
- No. of Children (5-12 yrs) in National School 448,754
The Church and Teaching Roles

- 37 Male Religious Teaching Posts
- 327 Female Religious Teaching Posts
- 24,364 Lay Teaching Posts
The Church and National Schools

• The Church owns the Land on which the vast majority of National Schools are built.

• All National Schools have the local priest on the Board of Management of the school
Thank You

• Questions?