

REHAB UNVEILS IRELAND'S FIRST ONLINE LOTTERY GAMES

Ireland's first internet lottery games, offering big money prizes at the click of a mouse, were launched by Rehab today (Monday August 11th).

Earnings from the new games, available at www.rehablotteries.com, will go specifically towards the development of Rehab's home-based and residential respite care programmes for people with disabilities across the country.

Jackpots of up to €10,000 are on offer from nine different games on the site, including scratch cards, bingo and keno. Stakes range from 25 cent to two euro per play and payment is by means of credit card which means minors are unable to play.

Speaking at the launch of the initiative, Rehab Lotteries managing director, John McGuire declared: "This is a very exciting development for Rehab. Apart from being Ireland's first online lottery, it is undoubtedly the most serious attempt yet in this country to use the internet to generate fundraising income for good causes.

"Internet usage is showing rapid growth in Ireland with 40 per cent of all Irish homes now having web access and of all Irish adults, some 38 per cent are now purchasing from home on the internet. This medium is ideal for the distribution of new and fun lottery products and we are confident that this channel will raise significant funds for our respite care programme."

Dr McGuire said that because of the very low operating costs associated with the internet, the games have very high prize payout levels and so offer a much greater winning experience than similar products available in regular retail outlets. On some games, it is possible to win on more than one occasion per play. The games are high on entertainment value in that they have very attractive interactive visuals accompanied by audio sounds.

The technology required to create a highly secure lottery website has been provided by US owned Lottery Network Services Ltd which is a company specialised in the development of lottery game software. New games are expected to be introduced on a regular basis to keep the site fun and fresh.

At present, RehabCare operates four purpose-built respite care centres which give many people with disabilities from around the country their only opportunity to take a break, in addition to providing home-based respite in various counties which give primary carers relief from the rigours of round the clock caring.

“There is huge demand for respite and home support services. Respite is very much needed throughout the country and immensely important in the lives of families of people with disabilities,” said Dr McGuire, “and Rehab is very keen to further enlarge its network of services nationally.”

The Rehab Group is one of Ireland’s largest companies in the not-for-profit sector. It provides training, employment and care services to people with disabilities and the socially disadvantaged. The Group provides services to 40,000 clients at 160 locations in Ireland and the UK.

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