

Women in Leadership Weekend – 17 October

Questions for Julie Sinnamon

1. Our people are the most valuable asset we have and yet the home/family life is not a priority but a challenging barrier to the world of work?

A: I agree that people are our most valuable asset. I don't believe that the world of work can be successful unless the home/family life is prioritised. At some stages in our career/home life this is very challenging due to competing demands. For any of us who have chosen to work and have family responsibilities this requires excellent childcare and both partners sharing these responsibilities. Having gone through these very busy years I am conscious of the pressures and believe that it is really important for us to be particularly supportive of parents who are juggling the various responsibilities. It does get better!

Q. I think that in politics, women are better placed to be Minister for Children & Family Affairs, if they are married and have children. I think a person in charge of children and not married has not got the full qualification, has not got the full day to day experience, to be in charge of Family & Children's affairs. For myself I'm married but have no children & would not be qualified to take on the job. Men with children would also be better placed to take the job. What does the speakers think?

A: I believe that a Minister – male or female, married or not married, with children or no children – can successfully do the job if they are interested in the brief, ask questions, get to understand the issues, have great empathy and are committed to addressing the issues.

R. How willing would you be to be involved with the Government in bringing about the changes needed?

A: I am currently involved in this area through my existing role in working to bring about change in this area. It is an area that I am passionate about and will continue to be actively involved in.