

'In Australia I can offer my family a better way of life'

FAMILIES TO LEAVE FOR A NEW START

BY EUGENE MASTERSON

THEY ARE Ireland's new suitcase generation – and they are packing in their droves.

More than 100 people a day are taking boats and planes out of recession-ravaged Ireland.

Next week Frank O'Callaghan, wife Deirdre and their son Evan will join them when they leave for Melbourne, Australia.

Thousands more will flock to a recruitment fair in Dublin's RDS next weekend with the same dream.

Around 76,000 people left the Republic in the 12 months to April including more than 40,000 Irish nationals. That compares with 27,700 Irish nationals in the previous 12 months.

The vast majority of emigrants are aged between 15 and 44 and most are heading to the English-speaking countries of Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The **Working Abroad Expo** will feature the largest number of overseas companies and recruiters assembled since the crash and they are looking to employ tradesmen, doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers and others from Ireland.

The drive is following on an appeal from New Zealand which is seeking 3,000 Irish tradesmen to rebuild the earthquake-ravaged city of Christchurch in an €18bn project.

Frank O'Callaghan left in a previous wave of emigration but returned when the economy took off here.

"It's a much bigger decision this time, considering family makes emigration a whole different ball game," says Frank.

"Things have become increasingly difficult workwise for me and the last few years have not been enjoyable here.

"Having already lived in Australia, I know the kind of life I can offer my family.

"It's a lifestyle filled with the outdoors, sport and family-orientated activity fantastic upbringing for kids.

Resource

The **Working Abroad Expo** will feature recruiters from Sydney, Perth, Darwin and Melbourne in Australia, Auckland and Christchurch in New Zealand and Toronto and Alberta in Canada.

"The situation has almost completely changed from a year ago with the likes of New Zealand now proactively looking to Ireland to recruit construction workers to help rebuild Christchurch as well as nationwide in New Zealand," notes emigration expert, Stephen McLarnon.

"Australia's **Northern Territory** is expecting in excess of 20,000 jobs to come online with the launch of their offshore gas projects, the Western Australia Government anticipates the state will need over 150,000 workers over the next five years to sustain its resource boom.

"For those interested in working in either Australia, Canada or New Zealand, the exhibition will have the biggest amount of jobs ever on offer."

The Canadian Government doubled the number of 'Experience Canada' student youth visas to 5,000 in 2011 and it will remain the same for 2012.

The PCL Industrial Group, which is part of Canada's largest construction company, plans to recruit Irish people to help fill over 100 key positions.

Originally from Donabate, Co. Dublin and Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Gavin and Mary Dunne know all too well what the upside of the Australian lifestyle is having lived in Sydney for 10 years. On November 4 they and their children, Ryan and Zoe, will head for Sydney.

Gavin and Mary met in Australia, married and decided to set up life in Ireland.

Originally a construction project manager by trade, Gavin and his family had some good years here.

But things changed for the worse with the crash.

The couple moved to Cork and Gavin ended up working in the wholesale food business with Mary securing a job as an intensive care nurse at Cork Hospital.

"I had to look for work outside the construction industry, things proved extremely hard and even now that I am working, I don't see a future here for us - life is just too difficult," explains Gavin.

"I've three job offers on the table for Sydney with the perks you could wish for. I want to give my kids a better future, it's the best option for us."

● The **Working Abroad Expo** takes place at the RDS next Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5pm daily and entry is €10. To find out more log on to www.workingabroadexpo.com.



LEAVING: Gavin Dunne and children



OPPORTUNITY: Sydney is where many Irish head

NO END IN SIGHT: The dole queues just get longer

FRESH START: Irish will help rebuild Christchurch



GOING SOUTH:
Frank and Deirdre
O'Callaghan with
their son Evan