
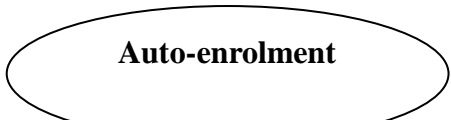
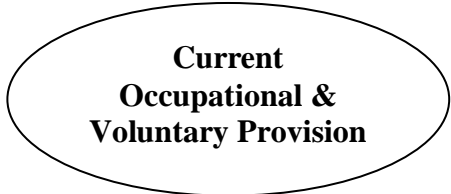




## Overview of the National Pensions Framework

The aim of the National Pensions Framework is to deliver security, equity, choice and clarity for the individual. It also aims to increase pension coverage, particularly among low to middle income groups and to ensure that State support for pensions is equitable and sustainable. The framework sets out key developments for the future of pension provision in Ireland, as follows:

 <p><b>Social Welfare Pensions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory social welfare pension coverage will continue.</li> <li>• The Government will seek to maintain the rate at 35% of average weekly earnings.</li> <li>• The system will be simplified with a move to a total contributions approach.</li> <li>• Homemakers' disregard will be replaced with credits for new pensioners from 2012.</li> <li>• State pension age will increase to 66 in 2014, 67 in 2021 and 68 in 2028.</li> <li>• Arrangements will be put in place to allow people to postpone receipt of the State Pension and to make up contribution shortfalls.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Auto-enrolment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will increase coverage and employer responsibility.</li> <li>• There will be matching employer contributions and matching State contributions. The State contribution will equal 33% tax relief (delivery mechanism to be decided).</li> <li>• There will be an opt-out mechanism for employees</li> <li>• Access to Approved Retirement Funds will be provided.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Current Occupational &amp; Voluntary Provision</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be a matching State contribution equal to 33% tax relief (delivery mechanism to be decided).</li> <li>• Access to Approved Retirement Funds will be provided for defined contribution scheme members.</li> <li>• There will be stronger regulation.</li> <li>• A new DB model is proposed which schemes may wish to adopt in future.</li> <li>• The funding standard will be kept under review.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Public Service Pensions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single new pension scheme will be introduced for all new entrants, with effect from 2010.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Tracing Service Dormant Benefits</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A tracing service will be put in place to facilitate the tracing of pension rights by former employees and scheme trustees.</li> <li>• Consideration will be given to the establishment of a State managed fund into which untraceable accounts would be deposited.</li> </ul>