

# Rose returns for fundraising drive

**Majella O'Sullivan**



Clare Kambattu: supporting 'Rose Week 2010'

INTERNATIONAL Rose of Tralee Clare Kambattu was back where it all began yesterday to lend her support to 'Rose Week 2010', the national fundraising drive for the Irish Society for Autism.

Dublin's Ha'penny Bridge will be festooned with silk roses throughout the campaign, which runs from October 7-9 and volunteers will be selling roses nationwide.

It is estimated that one child in every 100 is affected by autism, an increase from one in every 1,000 in the 1980s, according to the Irish Society for Autism (ISA), which bases its figures on a Cambridge study.

Head of administration at the ISA, Tara Matthews, said that even though there were different theories, there was no definitive reason for this increase.

"The only thing that is known is that numbers are increasing

and so the money we need to provide services will also increase," she said.

The Irish Society for Autism estimates that it costs €200m each year to provide care for children with autism but the figure is even higher for adults who need long-term residential care.

"The State provides some funding for our residential services for adults with autism but not for the support services we offer," Ms Matthews added.