



2014 Policy Address

Care for the Elderly and Support for the Disadvantaged

**Press Conference by the Secretary
for Labour and Welfare**

17 January 2014

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Care for the Elderly

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Vision

- Respect, love and care for the elderly
- Provide a full range of support
- Promote service diversity
- Pragmatic and forward-looking planning

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Challenges Arising from an Ageing Population

- Elderly population in 2012: around 1 million; projected population in 2041: 2.56 million (around one third of Hong Kong's total population)
- Rapidly ageing population poses various challenges

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Multi-faceted Elderly Services

- Provide three levels of elderly services to meet various needs of our senior citizens:
 - Active Ageing
 - Ageing in place as the core
 - Institutional care as back-up

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Strategic and new thinking

- Enhance the hardware and software of elderly services with strategic and new thinking:
 - Explore innovative subsidy modes
 - Enhance medium and long-term planning
 - Foster cross-sectoral collaboration
 - Preserve our cherished virtue of family support

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Active Ageing

- Implement the Elder Academy (EA) Scheme together with the Elderly Commission since 2007
- Encourage lifelong learning and active participation in community affairs by the elderly so that they may lead a more fulfilled life
- At present, a total of 108 EAs have been set up in primary and secondary schools and tertiary institutions
- Propose to inject \$50 million into the Elder Academy Development Foundation to sustain the development of the Scheme and explore new areas of development

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Active Ageing (Con't)

- Since the launch of the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities, the number of average daily passenger trips so far is 670 000, with around 590 000 trips made by elderly aged 65 or above
- Extend the Scheme to green minibuses in phases starting from the first quarter of 2015

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Ageing in Place

- Provide additional resources to strengthen subsidised Community Care Service
- Provide additional resources to elderly centres to enhance information dissemination and counselling services, care needs assessment and processing of care services applications
- Enhance support services by District Elderly Community Centres to elderly persons with dementia and their carers

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Ageing in Place (Con't)

- **Strengthening support for carers**
 - Regularise the District-based Scheme on Carer Training
 - Community Care Fund Task Force is considering a pilot scheme on a carer allowance for the elderly

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Ageing in Place (Con't)

- Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly
 - The First Phase of the Pilot Scheme, which lasts for two years, has been implemented since September 2013
 - 8 selected districts; 1 200 vouchers
 - 62 Recognised Service Providers
- As at 16 January 2014, a total of 817 elderly persons have participated in the Pilot Scheme

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Provision of Choices

- Respect the wish of those Hong Kong elderly persons who choose to retire on the Mainland
- Continue to provide support for those elderly :
 - Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme
 - Guangdong Scheme

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Institutional Care

Approach

- A multi-pronged approach to increase residential care places and explore new service modes

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Institutional Care (Con't)

- Purchase residential care places from Hong Kong Jockey Club Shenzhen Society for Rehabilitation Yee Hong Heights run by Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
- Provide option for elderly persons who are on Central Waiting List for subsidised residential care places to live in the home concerned
- Invite eligible elderly persons in Q2 2014 and arrange placements in Q3 2014.
- Explore similar arrangements with another home run by a Hong Kong NGO in Zhaoqing

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Institutional Care (Con't)

- Task the Elderly Commission to explore feasibility of introducing vouchers for residential care service (RCS) for the elderly
- Submit a report to the Government in a year's time
- The Government has earmarked a total of \$800 million to meet the expenses for issuing 3 000 RCS vouchers in three phases from 2015-16 to 2017-18

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Institutional Care (Con't)

Objectives of the RCS Voucher:

- Money-following-the-users
- Provide the elderly in need with financial support other than CSSA so that they may receive RCS from eligible private or self-financing residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs)
- Allow those elderly and their families with means to share part of the service costs in accordance with their financial ability
- Offer the eligible elderly a wider choice of residential care places, thereby better utilising the capacity of private RCHEs and enhancing their service quality
- Encourage the overall participation of private and self-financing RCHEs in the provision of elderly services, with a view to making available more quality care places in the medium to long term

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Institutional Care (Con't)

- Through:
 - building new contract homes
 - purchasing places
 - making better use of space in subvented homes
 - RCS vouchers

to provide about 5 000 additional subsidised residential care places

- Promote the continuum of care in nursing home places

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Medium and Long-term Planning

- Launch the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses to provide additional service places for the elderly
- Provide a concrete basis for the planning of welfare facilities and manpower requirements in next 5 to 10 years or more

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Medium and Long-term Planning (Con't)

- Task the Elderly Commission to prepare an Elderly Services Programme Plan
- Complete in two years' time

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Supporting the Disadvantaged


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Vision

- Implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and take forward initiatives along the development direction of Hong Kong rehabilitation policy
- Build barrier-free environment
- Ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy equal opportunities and participate in full in their personal growth, education, employment and social life
- Support the families and carers of persons with disabilities

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Strengthening the capacity of Commissioner for Rehabilitation

- Responsibilities of Commissioner for Rehabilitation (C for R)
 - formulate overall rehabilitation policy for persons with disabilities
 - co-ordinate government bureaux and departments in the implementation of UNCRPD
- Upgrade C for R's ranking and strengthen the establishment of his/her team to enhance co-ordination among various bureaux and departments

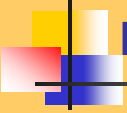
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Regularising Three Programmes under Community Care Fund

- One programme provides a pre-school rehabilitation training subsidy for children with disabilities from low-income families
- The other two provide a subsidy for persons with severe physical disabilities living in the community to cover their expenses to purchase medical equipment and consumables, and for one-stop integrated support services coordinated by case managers in accordance with their needs

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Day Training and Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- Increase the manpower of day training centres for persons with disabilities to strengthen the care and support for ageing service users
- Raise the daily rate of incentive payment for Sheltered Workshops and Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres to further encourage persons with disabilities to participate in vocational rehabilitation training

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Strengthening Community Support for Persons with Disabilities

- Enhance short-term day and residential care services for persons with disabilities
- Increase manpower of the District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities to introduce a case management service approach
- Strengthen manpower of the Multi-service Centres for Hearing Impaired Persons and relevant Social and Recreational Centres for the Disabled to enhance sign language interpretation services for persons with hearing impairment
- Increase funding to better support the operation and development of the Financial Support Scheme for Self-help Organisations for Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illnesses


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Promoting Employment of Persons with Disabilities

- Continue to promote the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme launched in September 2013 to encourage more employers to provide internship and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and actively participate in promoting the employment of persons with disabilities

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Extending the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

- Since the launch of the Scheme, the number of average daily passenger trips so far is 670 000, with around 590 000 trips made by elderly aged 65 or above and around 80 000 trips by eligible persons with disabilities aged between 12 and 64
- Extend the Scheme to eligible children with disabilities aged below 12 in the first half of this year to enable them to travel on general MTR lines, franchised buses and ferries at \$2 per trip
- Extend the Scheme to green minibuses in phases starting from the first quarter of 2015

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Pilot Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities

- Regularise the Pilot Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities, with the cap of subsidised places in each home raised from 55% to 70%.

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Provision of Additional Places for Rehabilitation Services

- Provide 6 200 additional places for rehabilitation services during the term of this Government, including :
 - 2 016 day training and vocational rehabilitation service places
 - 2 713 residential care service places
 - 1 471 pre-school rehabilitation places

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Medium to long-term planning

- Launch the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses to provide additional service places for persons with disabilities
- Provide a concrete basis for the planning of welfare facilities and manpower requirements in the next 5 to 10 years or more

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Social Welfare Planning

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Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (Special Scheme)

- Use Lotteries Fund in a flexible manner
- Better utilise the land owned by social welfare organisations
- optimise land use to increase facilities for elderly and rehabilitation services in particular
- About 40 organisations involving about 60 in-situ expansion or redevelopment projects

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Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (Con't)

- Based on the rough estimation of these organisations, the Special Scheme will provide about 17 000 additional service places in total for the elderly and persons with disabilities
- Arrange for the transfer of funds of \$10 billion into the Lotteries Fund and provide the necessary assistance to social welfare organisations

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Human resources in care services

- Cope with the demand for care personnel in the social welfare sector
- Provide the younger generation with more employment options and long-term development in their career paths
- Launched a pilot scheme in 2013
 - Recruit young people to provide care services at residential care homes for the elderly
 - “First-hire-then-train” mode
 - Subsidies from the Government to pursue a course offered by the Open University of Hong Kong
 - Move up the career ladder progressively

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Human resources in care services (Con't)

- The response to the pilot scheme is positive
- The Government will allocate additional resources to expand the pilot scheme -
 - To cover more elderly services units
 - To extend the coverage to rehabilitation services as well
 - To provide an additional 1 000 places for young people who have graduated from Secondary 5 or Secondary 6 level in the coming few years

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Enhancement of the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System

- Increase annual recurrent funding for NGOs to:
 - strengthen central administrative support to enhance their corporate governance
 - strengthen supervisory support to enhance the quality of frontline service
 - increase the provision of “Other Charges” to cope with other operating expenses such as food costs
 - enable NGOs to recruit and retain paramedical staff more effectively or to hire paramedical services
- The above measures will incur additional recurrent expenditure of about \$470 million in 2014-15.

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Enhancement of the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System (Con't)

- Allow NGOs to transfer surplus of their Provident Fund reserve for Snapshot Staff to their Provident Fund reserve for non-Snapshot Staff, so as to improve NGOs' contributions to the latter's Provident Fund

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Conclusion

- Enhance and improve existing services by adopting a multi-pronged approach, including the increase in the number of day care and residential care places for the elderly and the number of rehabilitation services places
- Experiment new service modes, such as the residential care service voucher for the elderly and the pilot residential care service scheme in Guangdong
- Emphasise medium to long-term planning (particularly on the planning for service facilities and manpower)

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Thank you
