

**Press conference on  
labour and welfare initiatives  
in "The Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address"**

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**Secretary for Labour and Welfare**

# Policy Address key initiatives related to welfare and labour



**Supporting ageing in place**



**Protecting children**



**Enhancing support for carers**



**Employment support**



**Lifting quality and quantity of  
residential care services for the  
elderly**



**Protection of labour rights**



**Targeted poverty alleviation**



**Occupational safety and health**

# Targeted poverty alleviation

- The current-term Government adopts the strategy of **targeted poverty alleviation** by directing resources to those most in need
- The Government will **restructure the Commission on Poverty** to study and identify any other target group for poverty alleviation



# Strive and Rise Programme

- The Task Force to Lift Underprivileged Students out of Intergenerational Poverty led by the Chief Secretary for Administration launched the **Strive and Rise Programme** in September through tripartite collaboration between the Government, the business sector and the community
  - three major elements: **mentorship, personal development plans and financial support**
  - supporting **more than 2 000** junior secondary school students (particularly those living in sub-divided units)
- Upon programme evaluation, we will chart the way forward and consider increasing mentee quotas and expanding the target group



# Protecting children

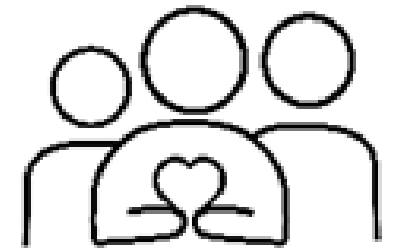
- Take forward at full steam the setting up of a mandatory reporting mechanism for child abuse cases by introducing a bill into the LegCo in the first half of 2023; provide training for relevant practitioners to facilitate their early identification and reporting of child abuse cases
- Identified areas requiring focused efforts for improvement in residential child care services; improve service quality in a holistic manner, enhance service plan, strengthen law-enforcing inspections and engage independent persons to conduct unannounced inspections



# Enhancing support for carers of elderly persons and of persons with disabilities

To implement a number of measures from 2023 progressively:

- Regularise the **carer allowance** under Community Care Fund and raise the allowance amounts
- Set up a one-stop information gateway and designated hotline for carers
- **Increase respite service places** and enhance the service enquiry system
- Encourage community-based peer support for carers
- Launch a territory-wide publicity campaign to raise public awareness of the needs of carers



# Enhancing support for persons with disabilities

- Increase the number of District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities to 21 in 2022-23
- Regularise the **Pilot Scheme on Professional Outreaching Team for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities** from March 2023
- Launch pilot scheme to provide **one-stop day training and residential care services** for ageing service users in hostels for severely and moderately mentally handicapped persons in 2023
- Launch pilot scheme to set up two new community rehabilitation centres for providing **integrated day care and home care services** for persons with severe disabilities living in the community in 2023





# Caring for the elderly

- There are about 1.5 million elderly persons aged 65 or above, with the vast majority living and ageing in the community with the support of their families or the Government, and 4% of them reside in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs)
- About three quarters of the elderly population are receiving financial assistance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and Social Security Allowance Scheme
- With due emphasis on both quality and quantity, improve elderly services and promote **“ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up”**





# Supporting ageing in place

- Regularise the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly in Q3 2023 and **increase the potential number of beneficiaries** in phases, **from 8 000 at present to 12 000** in 2025-26. Expand the coverage to include rental of assistive technology products
- **Set up 16 new neighbourhood elderly centres** in the next five years, and expand the services in Q4 2023 to cover areas such as retirement planning and promotion of gerontechnology



# Supporting ageing in place



- Expand the Hospital Authority's **Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients** by increasing the number of beneficiaries from about 33 000 to 45 000 per annum in Q3 2023. The number of beneficiaries who can be referred to home support services will increase from about 9 000 to 11 000

- Provide an **additional 900 subsidised day care service places for elderly** by end-2027, 300 of which will commence service next year



# Lifting quality and quantity of RCHEs

- Provide **an additional 6 200 subsidised residential care places** by end-2027, 2 600 of which will commence service next year
- Put forward proposals together with Development Bureau to the Chief Executive in early 2023 to encourage developers to **provide elderly service facilities in their private development projects** to meet the needs of our ageing population
- Expanded the application eligibility under the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care from subsidised service units to all RCHs since September 2022, so that about 500 more RCHs can use the fund to purchase or rent technology products



# Lifting quality and quantity of RCHEs

- On the premise that local workers' priority for employment will be safeguarded, launch a special scheme next year to **allow the importation of care workers for RCHs for the elderly and for persons with disabilities on an appropriate scale**, relax the ratio of care workers to be imported, and streamline the vetting procedures for applications, with a view to assisting the sector in enhancing service quality
- **Subsidise an additional 1 700 or more students** to enrol in nurse training programme in the coming five years. They will be required to work in the welfare sector for at least three years upon graduation
- Undertake a holistic review of the skill and qualification requirements of staff of RCHs with a view to **establishing professional standards and a career progression path**





# Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme

- Merged the Normal and Higher Old Age Living Allowances (OALAs) with effect from September 2022. The merged OALA adopts the more lenient asset limits of the Normal OALA and the payment rate of the Higher OALA (currently at \$3,915 per month), **benefiting about 50 000 elderly persons previously receiving the Normal OALA**
- Explore relaxing the absence limit under the pre-application one-year continuous residence requirement of the SSA Scheme. To consult the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services on the proposal by the end of this year



# New round of manpower projection



- **Improve the methodology** to assess manpower shortage and skill requirements for industries of key areas through extensive sectoral consultations
- Enable the Government to formulate appropriate strategies to address overall manpower demand
- Shorten the **projection period from 10 years to 5 years** to timely reflect the trends in our economic and labour markets
- Key analysis report expected to be completed in Q3 2024

# Retraining Allowance of ERB

- Invite the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) to **consider raising the daily rate of retraining allowance and providing allowance for half-day courses**
- For implementation by Q1 2023





# Regularise Greater Bay Area (GBA) Youth Employment Scheme

- Pilot GBA Youth Employment Scheme launched in 2021
  - 417 enterprises provided 3 494 job vacancies
  - Graduates submitted over 20 000 job applications, with 1 091 graduates reported for duty
- Launch the **regularised GBA Youth Employment Scheme** in the first half of 2023



# Employment support for ethnic minorities (EMs)

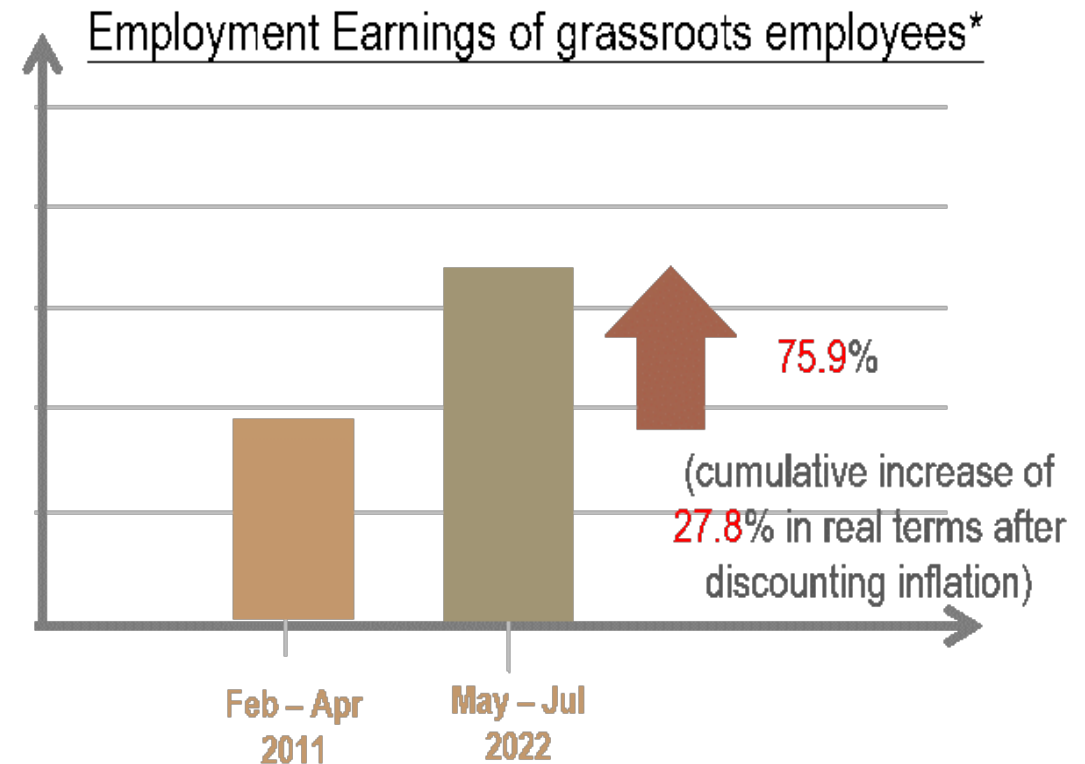


- Recruit more EMs as Employment Assistants and General Assistants in the Labour Department starting from the first half of 2023
- Regularise the **Racial Diversity Employment Programme** to provide one-stop employment services for EM job seekers through a case management approach in conjunction with non-governmental organisations



# Study how to enhance review mechanism of Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW)

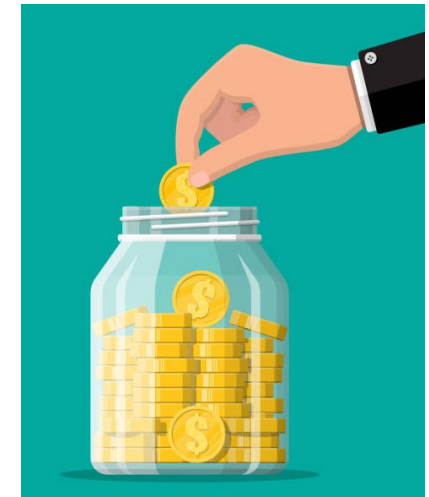
- Since the implementation of SMW in May 2011, grassroots employees' employment earnings have continued to improve
- Invite the Minimum Wage Commission to study how to **enhance the review mechanism of SMW**



\* Full-time employees of the lowest decile group (excluding government employees and live-in domestic workers to whom SMW does not apply)

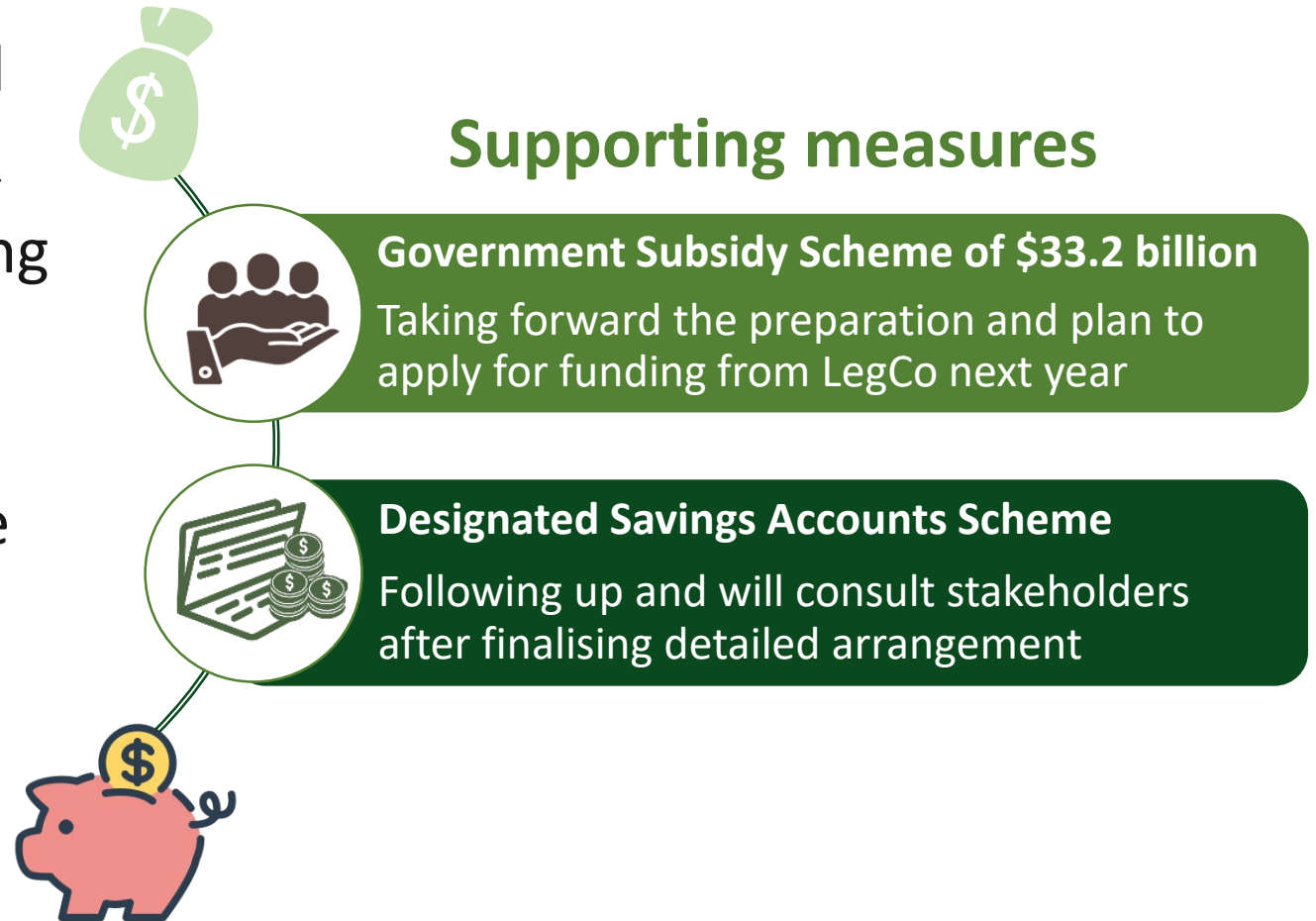
# Enhance application and processing procedures of Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund (PWIF)

- PWIF to provide legal services to assist applicants in filing winding-up or bankruptcy petitions against employers, so as to **expedite the disbursement of ex gratia payment to employees affected by business closures**
- With effect from Q4 2022, ex gratia payment from PWIF will be released
  - within three months for simple and straight-forward applications upon receipt of applications by the PWIF Application Office
  - not more than six months for 90% of non-disputed and substantiated applications



# Prepare for implementation of abolition of offsetting arrangement under Mandatory Provident Fund System

The Government is working full steam on the preparatory work for the abolition of the offsetting arrangement under the Mandatory Provident Fund System, and will implement the abolition no later than 2025 in tandem with the full implementation of the eMPF Platform.



# Review continuous contract requirement under Employment Ordinance

- The Government is reviewing the continuous contract requirement (also known as 4-18) under the Employment Ordinance
- Prudently and thoroughly explore how to strike a reasonable balance between the benefits of employees and the affordability of employers
- Plan to initiate discussion with the Labour Advisory Board within this year





# Occupational safety and health (OSH)

- Seek the passage of the bill under scrutiny by the LegCo as soon as possible to **raise the maximum penalties in OSH legislation**
- **Enhance safety of truss-out scaffolding works** through refining code of practice, strengthening safety training, inspection and enforcement
- Expand the scope of the notification mechanism for construction works to require contractors' notification of works with shorter duration and fewer workers but carrying higher potential risks (including truss-out scaffold works)
- To **reduce the five-year average industrial accident rate** per 1 000 construction workers **by at least 10%** from 29.8 in 2021 to 26.8 in 2026





# Occupational safety and health (OSH)

The poster features a group of seven people, including construction workers in hard hats and safety vests, and medical professionals in white coats, standing against a blue sky background. The title at the top reads '建造業 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY 工傷僱員復康先導計劃 Pilot Rehabilitation Programme for Employees Injured at Work'. Below the title, there are five key benefits listed in Chinese and English, each accompanied by a circular icon. At the bottom, there is contact information for the Labour Department, including a hotline number (2293 7000), a website (www.prrp.info.gov.hk), and a QR code. The bottom section also includes a table with QR codes for different languages: English, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

**建造業 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**  
**工傷僱員復康先導計劃**  
**Pilot Rehabilitation Programme for Employees Injured at Work**

- 快捷私家門診康復治療  
Speedy private out-patient rehabilitation treatment
- 只需公立醫院/公立診所收費 (可獲《僱員補償條例》僱主索償)  
Same fees as public hospitals/public clinics (Reimbursement can be sought from employer under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance)
- 無須排隊公立醫院/公立診所服務  
Need not wait for services at public hospitals/public clinics
- 由專人跟进治療及復工  
Designated person to follow up treatment and return-to-work
- 把握黃金康復期，避免工傷變成長期傷  
Grasp the golden recovery period to prevent work injuries from turning into chronic conditions
- 早日康復，重返工作及恢復正常生活  
Recover, return to work and resume normal life easily

想了解更多先導計劃 More details about Pilot Programme  
先導計劃服務熱線 Pilot Programme Service Hotline 2293 7000  
先導計劃網站 Pilot Programme Website www.prrp.info.gov.hk

希望參加先導計劃 Interested in Pilot Programme  
勞工處查詢熱線 Labour Department Enquiry Line 2417 6594

先導計劃語言 Pilot Programme Leaflet

英文 English	國語 Chinese	粵語 Cantonese	國語 Chinese	粵語 Cantonese	國語 Chinese	粵語 Cantonese	國語 Chinese	粵語 Cantonese
QR Code	QR Code	QR Code	QR Code	QR Code	QR Code	QR Code	QR Code	QR Code

- **Pilot Rehabilitation Programme for Employees Injured at Work** helps injured employees of the construction industry recover and return to work early
- By 2023, assist at least 50% of injured workers participating in the Programme to recover within five months after commencement of treatment
- Develop guidelines based on the Hong Kong Heat Index to require employers to take preventive measures in accordance with prescribed criteria to **protect employees from heat stroke at work**

Ends

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