

Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan
Chairman
Bills Committee
Legislative Council

Paper No. CB(2)367/00-01(07)

27th November 2000

Dear Madam,

**Bills Committee on Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and
Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Bill**

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to the above named Bill.

In general terms we welcome the introduction of the Licensing Scheme, as it will serve to update previous legislation. A register of all voluntary services will allow the client a wide range of approaches and services from which to choose.

We are in general agreement that certain codification on basic facilities such as Structure of the Buildings, Fire Safety Regulations and Sanitary Systems etc. will serve to upgrade general service provided to those persons in rehabilitation.

We wish to raise the following comments and questions.

- (1) Under the Proposal 5(c) we would suggest that centres come under *uniform assessment* rather than uniform control. This would enable those who have alternative models or practice variations to be legalised.
- (2) Section 14 Clause 16. We assume 'give directions' means guidelines to practices rather than mandatory programmes for these practices.
- (3) Section 14 Clause 18. We assume this means the Director of Social Welfare may visit premises and staff for evaluation rather than the patients whose confidentiality is currently protected.
- (4) Section 16 Clause 25 and Section 17 Clauses 28 and 29. How wide are these powers and are there any guidelines for the exercise of this power?

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these points further.

Yours faithfully,

Wong Wai Chung
St. Stephen's Society