

Information paper on
21 February 2003

**Bills Committee of the Legislative Council
Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill 2001**

**Possession of a Valid Identity Card and
Entitlement to Right**

- A Supplementary Note on Welfare Services

INTRODUCTION

This note supplements the information note on “Possession of a valid identity card and entitlement to right” (CB(2)1147/02-03(02)) submitted to the Bills Committee on 11 February 2003 and confirms that the possession of an invalid identity card will not affect a person’s right to welfare services.

WELFARE SERVICES

2. For welfare services in general, it is the applicant’s entrenched need that will determine the eligibility for such services. A person’s right is not defined by the possession of a valid identity card, though possession of a valid identity card will facilitate the processing of applications for the respective services and benefits. For the aged, the blind and the infirm who can satisfy a registration officer that personal attendance for registration of Hong Kong identity cards will injure their health or the health of others, they are exempted from applying for the issue of an identity card or for the renewal of an identity card and may apply for a Certificate of Exemption. Possessing a valid Hong Kong identity card is not a pre-requisite for certain welfare services. For example, social workers of family services centres/integrated family service centres will provide crisis intervention and follow up the welfare

needs of demented elderly in isolation. Women refuge centres will admit needy women or children who are not local residents but are victims of abuse/international abduction.

Security Bureau
20 February 2003