

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
AIDS Trust Fund**

Introduction

This paper briefs Members on the latest developments of the AIDS Trust Fund (the Fund).

Background

2. With a grant of \$350 million from the Finance Committee, the Fund was established in April 1993 to provide: -

- (a) Ex gratia payments for persons affected by HIV through the transfusion of blood products prior to August 1985; and
- (b) Funding support to medical and support services for AIDS patients and public education projects to enhance public awareness of AIDS prevention and acceptance of AIDS patients.

3. The Fund is administered on the advice of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund (the Council), members of which are appointed by the Chief Executive. The Council is under-pinned by three sub-committees to assess and approve funding applications. The three sub-committees are the Ex-gratia Payment Sub-Committee, the Medical and Support Services Sub-Committee and the Publicity and Public Education Sub-Committee.

Operation of the AIDS Trust Fund

4. In early 2003, the Council approved funding support of \$37.1 million to 15 organisations for a period up to three years. So far the Fund has disbursed \$228.4 million to support 373 publicity and public education projects (\$71.1 million), 95 medical and support services projects (\$123.7 million) and ex-gratia payment for 58 eligible persons (\$33.6 million). The balance of the Fund stood at \$334.6 million as at 1 July 2003.

5. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.