

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1790/04-05  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/BC/7/04

**Bills Committee on  
Child Care Services (Amendment) Bill 2005**

**Minutes of meeting  
held on Monday, 23 May 2005 at 4:30 pm  
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Dr Hon YEUNG Sum (Chairman)  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP  
Hon Bernard CHAN, JP  
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Health, Welfare and Food Bureau  
  
Ms Linda LAI  
Deputy Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Family  
and Women)  
  
Mr Freely CHENG  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and  
Food (Family)  
  
Mr Gavin KWAI  
Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food  
(Family) 1

Social Welfare Department

Mr FUNG Pak-yan  
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family and Child Welfare)

Mr Peter NG  
Chief Social Work Officer (Family and Child Welfare) 2

Education and Manpower Bureau

Mr Andrew POON  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Education and Manpower (Quality Assurance)

Mr CHAN Hung-to  
Senior Education Officer (Harmonization of Pre-primary)

Department of Justice

Ms Grace LEUNG  
Government Counsel

**Attendance by invitation** : Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union

Ms YUNG Hau-heung  
Principal

Public Services Union (Social Services), Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions

Miss LAM Ying-hing  
Organizing Secretary

Hong Kong Baptist Kindergarten Education Convention Ltd

Mr CHAN Mei-tak  
President

Mrs CHAN Tsui-yuk  
Principal

The Non-Profit-Making Kindergarten Council of Hong Kong

Ms Harlanna YEUNG Chui-chun  
Chairman

Ms CHENG Sau-yan  
Vice-Chairman

The Hong Kong Institute of Education Past Student's  
Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education Ltd.

Mrs MAK TSE How-ling  
Chairman

Mrs MAK LEUNG Shuk-wan  
Vice-Chairman

Hong Kong Early Childhood Educators Association

Ms CHOW Wai-chun  
Chairman

Ms LAM To-poon  
Secretary

Hong Kong Kindergarten Association

Ms Mary TONG Siu-fun  
Chairperson

Ms CHAU Choi-ngo  
Vice-Chairperson

Victoria Education Organisation

Ms KOONG May-kay  
Principal

Council of Non-profit Making Organizations for  
Pre-primary Education

Ms Sanly TSANG  
Chairman

Mrs CHU TANG Lai-kuen  
Consultant

Tai Po Early Childhood Education (ECE) Principal Association

Ms KWOK Chor-kiu  
Principal

Ms CHAN Wai-ling  
Principal

Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association

Ms TSE Shuk-in  
Executive Secretary

Ms YEUNG Pui-ling  
Supervisor

Hong Kong Teachers' Association

Mrs Bessie PANG  
Chairman of Kindergarten Schools Group

Creative Kindergarten and Day Nursery

Mrs Angela LUK CHIU Kwan-hung  
Supervisor

Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms Angela NG  
Chief Officer (Children & Youth)

Ms CHAN LAU Yin-king  
Member, Specialised Committee on Children & Youth

Caritas Pre-school Education and Child Care Service

Ms Gloria LEUNG Chi-kin  
Service Head

World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP – Hong Kong)

Ms Hazel LAM  
President

S.K.H. Kindergarten and Nursery Council

Miss SAN Man-ching  
Vice-Chairperson

Miss Ann CHEUNG Chui-wah  
Member

Po Leung Kuk

Ms WONG Yu-sum  
Assistant Principal Social Services Secretary

The Alumni Association of Pre-School Administration and  
Management Course, SPACE – University of Hong Kong

Ms Emmy CHOW  
Chairman

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (Child Care Services)

Ms WONG Pui-lai  
Service Coordinator (Day Nurseries)

The Salvation Army

Ms Christie CHAN  
Child Care Service Co-ordinator

The Association of Evangelical Free Churches of Hong Kong

Mr Francis CHAU Yin-ming  
Social Service Officer

Pok Oi Hospital, Board Office & Social Service Department

Miss Cheryl CHEUNG Wan-fung  
Day Nursery Service Manager

**Staff in  
attendance**

: Ms Bernice WONG  
Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Mr Stanley MA  
Senior Council Secretary (2)6

Miss Sherman WOO  
Legislative Assistant (2)2

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**I. Meeting with deputations and the Administration**

The Bills deliberated (index of proceedings as at **Annex**).

2. Members received the views from the following deputations on the Bill –

- (a) Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1637/04-05(01)]
- (b) Public Service Union (Social Services), Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions
- (c) Hong Kong Baptist Kindergarten Education Convention Ltd
- (d) The Non-Profit-Making Kindergarten Council of Hong Kong  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1637/04-05(02)]
- (e) The Hong Kong Institute of Education Past Student's Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education Ltd.
- (f) Hong Kong Early Childhood Educators Association  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1647/04-05(01)]
- (g) Hong Kong Kindergarten Association  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1647/04-05(02)]
- (h) Victoria Educational Organisation
- (i) Council of Non-profit Making Organisations for Pre-primary Education  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1647/04-05(03)]
- (j) Tai Po Early Childhood Education (ECE) Principal Association
- (k) Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association
- (l) Hong Kong Teachers' Association  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1647/04-05(04)]
- (m) Creative Kindergarten and Day Nursery
- (n) Hong Kong Council of Social Service  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1647/04-05(05)]

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- (o) Caritas Pre-school Education and Child Care Service
- (p) World Organisation for Early Childhood Education (OMEP – Hong Kong)
- (q) S.K.H. Kindergarten and Nursery Council
- (r) Po Leung Kuk
- (s) The Alumni Association of Pre-School Administration and Management Course, SPACE – University of Hong Kong
- (t) Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (Child Care Services)
- (u) The Salvation Army
- (v) The Association of Evangelical Free Churches of Hong Kong
- (w) Pok Oi Hospital, Board Office & Social Service Department  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1647/04-05(06)]

Staff-to-children ratio

3. Members noted that deputations in general supported enactment of the Bill, but deputations from the aided child care service sector considered that the proposal to align the staff-to-children ratio of existing day nurseries (DNs) and kindergartens (KGs) to 1:15 upon harmonisation would have adverse effects on the operation of existing DNs which were now subject to a staff-to-children ratio of 1:14. Deputations from the KG sector, however, pointed out that KGs had already taken a great step to improve the staff-to-children ratio from 1:30 to 1:15 over the past few years. Members in general considered that harmonisation of pre-primary services should aim at improving quality of services in KGs/child care centres (CCCs). They shared the concerns of deputations from the aided child care service sector and suggested that the Administration should consider adopting a staff-to-children ratio of 1:14 for both KGs and CCCs for children of two or more years of age upon harmonisation.

4. The Administration explained that the Child Care Services Ordinance and the Education Ordinance had different requirements on staff-to-children ratio. The improved ratio of 1:15 for KGs was implemented in the 2003-04 school year by administrative measures. Given that the number of children attending KGs was far greater than those in DNs, the Administration proposed adopting the ratio of 1:15 for all children aged two to six as the minimum standard. The ratio was only a minimum standard and operators were free to adopt a more generous ratio. In view of members' concern and suggestion, the Administration undertook to explore the

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feasibility of improving the staff-to-children ratio from 1:15 to 1:14 for both CCCs for children of two or more years of age and KGs upon harmonisation.

Operation of kitchen

5. Members noted the concerns of deputations from the child care service sector and the KG sector regarding the existing requirement for DNs offering full-day programme to operate a kitchen to provide meals for their children. While the child care service sector in general considered the provision of kitchen in CCCs or KG-cum-CCCs upon harmonisation essential for provision of nutritious meals for children, a deputation from the KG sector had pointed out that many existing KGs were not having kitchens in conformity with the required standards. Some members had expressed support for the retention of the existing requirement for CCCs operating on a full day basis to have a kitchen upon harmonisation.

Follow-up action to be undertaken

6. The Administration was requested to –
- (a) explain the financial implications of improving the staff-to-children ratio from 1:15 to 1:14 on the provision of subvention to and the operation of CCCs upon harmonisation;
  - (b) provide a breakdown of the different levels of financial assistance provided under the existing Child Care Centre Fee Assistance Scheme and the enhanced Kindergarten Fee Remission Scheme for families with different levels of income; and
  - (c) elaborate on the effects of the requirement of operating a standard kitchen to provide meals for children on existing KGs upon harmonisation.

**II. Date of next meeting**

7. Members agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, 31 May 2005 at 4:30 pm.

8. The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.



**Proceedings of the Bills Committee on  
Child Care Services (Amendment) Bill 2005  
on Monday, 23 May 2005 at 4:30 pm  
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Action required</b>
000000 - 001307	Chairman	Introduction and date of next meeting	
001308 - 001817	Ms YUNG Hau-heung	Oral presentation of the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union	
001818 - 002024	Miss LAM Ying-hing	Oral presentation of the Public Services Union (Social Services), Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions	
002025 - 002226	Mr CHAN Mei-tak	Oral presentation of the Hong Kong Baptist Kindergarten Education Convention Ltd	
002227 - 002749	Ms Harlanna YEUNG	Oral presentation of The Non-Profit-Making Kindergarten Council of Hong Kong	
002750 - 003021	Mrs MAK TSE How-ling	Oral presentation of The Hong Kong Institute of Education Past Student's Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education Ltd	
003022 - 003542	Ms CHOW Wai-chun	Oral presentation of Hong Kong Early Childhood Educators Association	
003543 - 003859	Ms Mary TONG	Oral presentation of Hong Kong Kindergarten Association	
003900 - 004129	Ms KOONG May-kay	Oral presentation of Victoria Education Organisation	
004130 - 004702	Ms Sanly TSANG	Oral presentation of Non-profit Making Organizations for Pre-primary Education	
004703 - 004946	Ms KWOK Chor-kiu	Oral presentation of Tai Po Early Childhood Education (ECE) Principal Association	
004947 - 005215	Ms YEUNG Pui-ling	Oral presentation of Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	
005216 - 005604	Mrs Bessie PANG	Oral presentation of Hong Kong Teachers' Association	
005605 - 005849	Mrs Angela LUK CHIU	Oral presentation of Creative Kindergarten and Day Nursery	
005850 - 010307	Ms Angela NG	Oral presentation of Hong Kong Council of Social Service	

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Action required</b>
010308 - 010631	Ms Gloria LEUNG	Oral presentation of Caritas Pre-school Education and Child Care Service	
010632 - 011001	Ms Hazel LAM	Oral presentation of World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP – Hong Kong)	
011002 - 011201	Miss SAN Man-ching	Oral presentation of S.K.H. Kindergarten and Nursery Council	
011202 - 011504	Ms WONG Yu-sum	Oral presentation of Po Leung Kuk	
011505 - 011740	Ms Emmy CHOW	Oral presentation of The Alumni Association of Pre-School Administration and Management Course, SPACE – University of Hong Kong	
011741 - 012200	Ms WONG Pui-lai	Oral presentation of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (Child Care Services)	
012201 - 012311	Ms Christie CHAN	Oral presentation of The Salvation Army	
012312 - 012738	Mr Francis CHAU	Oral presentation of The Association of Evangelical Free Churches of Hong Kong	
012739 - 013244	Miss Cheryl CHEUNG	Oral presentation of Pok Oi Hospital, Board Office & Social Service Department	
013245 - 013400	Chairman	Major concerns of deputations	
013401 - 014859	Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Chairman Admin	Alignment of the staff-to-children ratio for DNs and KGs and implications.	<b>See para 6(a) and 6(b) of the minutes</b>
014900 - 020329	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Admin Chairman	Harmonisation of pre-primary services should aim at improving quality of pre-primary services, and the staff-to-children ratio for DNs and KGs should align at 1:14.	<b>See para 3 of the minutes</b>
020330 - 022322	Dr Fernando CHEUNG Admin Chairman Mr Patrick LAU Deputations	Provision of kitchen in DNs and KGs and impact of harmonisation on fee remission to eligible parents under the existing CCFAS and the enhanced KGFRS.	<b>See para 6 (b) and (c) of the minutes</b>
022323 - 022358	Chairman	Date of next meeting	