

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)2067/04-05  
(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 Tuesday, 31 May 2005 at 4:30 pm  
in Conference Room A 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

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

Ms Jane CHENG Chee-hing  
Principal Education Officer (Quality Assurance)

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

Department of Justice

Ms Grace LEUNG  
Government Counsel

**Clerk in attendance** : Miss Flora TAI  
Chief Council Secretary (2)2

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Bernice WONG  
Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Mr Stanley MA  
Senior Council Secretary (2)6

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Action

**I. Meeting with the Administration**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1625/04-05(01), CB(2)1712/04-05(01) and (02), CB(2)1727/04-05(01) to (04) and CB(2)1729/04-05(01)]

The Bills Committee deliberated (Index of proceedings at **Annex**).

Staff-to-children ratio

2. Some members considered that the Administration should review the staff-to-children ratio for kindergartens (KGs) and child care centres (CCCs) with a view to improving quality of pre-primary services in the long term.

3. Mr Tommy CHEUNG, however, pointed out that as a result of a decline in pupil population, there was fierce competition in student enrolment within the KG sector. He considered that members should not interfere with the staff-to-children ratio in the KG sector after harmonisation, and should leave the KG sector to determine the appropriate staff-to-children ratio for KGs in the light of the changing circumstances. He also held the view that pre-primary services for children within the ages of zero to six should be put under the purview of one bureau.

4. In light of members' views expressed, the Administration responded that it would consider conducting a review of the provision of pre-primary services two years after harmonisation.

Action

Provision of kitchen

5. Some members considered it necessary for KGs/CCCs to operate a kitchen after harmonisation. They considered the operation of a kitchen would facilitate the provision of nutritious diets for young children in KGs/CCCs. Mr Tommy CHEUNG held a different view. He pointed out that primary schools would prefer to use the services of licensed caterers than to operate a kitchen for provision of meals to students.

Financial assistance to parents upon harmonisation

6. The Administration confirmed that it would apply the “no worse-off” principle to existing Child Care Centre Fee Assistance Scheme (CCCFAS) recipients who joined the CCCFAS in the 2004-05 school year.

7. Dr Fernando CHEUNG, however, expressed concern about the impact of harmonisation on applicant families. Dr CHEUNG pointed out that there were differences in the level of financial assistance provided to eligible parents between the existing CCCFAS and the enhanced Kindergarten Fee Remission Scheme (KGFRS). According to the estimates of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, about 90% and 70% of parents of children in day creches and day nurseries respectively were eligible for financial assistance under CCCFAS but would be ineligible under the enhanced KGFRS. Members considered that in line with its policy of aiding the poor, the Administration should ensure that needy parents should be provided with appropriate level of assistance upon harmonisation.

Admin

8. In response, the Administration agreed to provide a comparison between the levels of financial assistance provided under the CCCFAS and the enhanced KGFRS for families of different income levels upon harmonisation. Nevertheless, the Administration also pointed out that since the social and economic status of existing and future beneficiaries of the schemes as well as their choice for day nursery and kindergarten would not be the same, it would be misleading to assess the impact of replacing CCCFAS by KGFRS based on the profiles of existing CCCFAS beneficiaries.

**III. Date of next meeting**

9. Members agreed to hold meetings on 6 and 14 June 2005 at 10:45 am.

10. The meeting ended at 6:10 pm.

**Proceedings of the Bills Committee on  
Child Care Services (Amendment) Bill 2005  
on Tuesday, 31 May 2005 at 4:30 pm  
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Action required</b>
000000 - 000949	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Mr Tommy CHEUNG Ms Audrey EU Dr Fernando CHEUNG	Date of future meetings	
000950 - 001559	Chairman Admin	Briefing on the Admin paper for the meeting LC Paper No.CB(2)1712/04-05(01).	
001600 - 002724	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Admin	Provision of care and education services to children aged 3 to 6 in KGs under the Education Ordinance and Regulations.	
002725 - 004542	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Chairman Admin	Review of staff-to-children ratio for KGs after harmonisation;  Provision of kitchen in KG/CCCs.	<b>See para 4 of the minutes</b>
004543 - 004929	Mr Tommy CHEUNG Chairman Admin Dr Fernando CHEUNG	No smoking in CCCs and the inclusion of outdoor spaces of CCCs;  Significance of the staff-to-children ratio and operation of kitchens in CCCs.	
004930 - 010859	Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chairman Admin Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong	Financial implications to needy parents in the replacement of Child Care Centre Fee Assistance Scheme with the enhanced Kindergarten Fee Remission Scheme upon harmonization.	
010900 - 011113	Chairman Dr Fernando CHEUNG Admin	Long-term planning and provision of child care services after harmonization.	
011114 - 011544	Ms Audrey EU Chairman Admin	Administration's undertaking on the adoption of the "no-worse off" principle for existing recipients of CCCFAS or KGFRS.	
011545 - 012609	Mr Patrick LAU Chairman Admin Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Dr Fernando CHEUNG	Requirements of kitchen and toilets in KGs/CCCs; and  Code of Practices for services providers in the operation of KGs/CCCs after harmonization.	

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Action required</b>
012610 - 013055	Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chairman Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Admin	Financial assistance to needy parents in day crèches and DNs after harmonization.	<b>See para 8 of the minutes</b>
013056 - 013258	Mr Patrick LAU Chairman ALA1 Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Admin	No-smoking in CCCs under Child Care Services Ordinance and in schools under Education Ordinance.	
013259 - 013540	Chairman Admin	CSA on commencement of the Bill on 1 September 2005.	

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
23 June 2005