

**Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty  
Meeting on 9 November 2006**

**Supplementary Information Requested by Members**

**INTRODUCTION**

At the meeting of the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty on 9 November 2006, Members requested for supplementary information on the following under the purview of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau –

- (a) the provision of fee waiving places under the After School Care Programme (paragraph 14 of the minutes);
- (b) the number of application of exemption of the residence requirement under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme (paragraph 15 of the minutes); and
- (c) breakdown of job placement statistics under the New Dawn Project (paragraphs 24 and 26 of the minutes).

The Administration undertook to provide the relevant information after the meeting.

**DETAILS**

**After School Care Programme (ASCP)**

2. The recurrent resources for ASCP fee waiving were increased from \$10 million to \$15 million in 2005-06. Moreover, with more primary schools now operating on a whole day basis, the number of after school care hours required for some late afternoon sessions has been reduced. Some of the fee waiving rate can therefore be reduced from \$1,000 to \$750 per child per month from October 2006. As a result of such enhancement in resources and reduction in fee level, the total number of full waiving places has been increased from 830 to 1 540.

3. Since demands in various districts may be different, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) allocates the fee waiving places according to the utilization statistics submitted by the operating non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of different districts. SWD would flexibly adjust the allocation among districts according to the latest district demands to ensure that districts with higher demands are allocated with more places.

4. As at 1 October 2006, the total number of full fee waiving places used was only 1 147, which is 393 less than the maximum available. Hence, the present provision of fee waiving places is adequate to meet all the demands. We will also

closely monitor the situation to see if any further enhancement is justified.

## **Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme**

### Residence requirement

5. Of the 843 CSSA applications approved under discretion to waive the seven-year residence requirement in 2005-06, two applications were originally rejected in 2004-05, but were subsequently approved upon re-application on social grounds and in recognition of the applicant's effort to become self-reliant through securing employment.

### The New Dawn Project

6. Up to October 2006, around 1 000 New Dawn Project participants had secured full time or part time employment. For those in employment of not less than 32 hours per month, they had worked mainly as cleaners (25.8%), shop sales and service workers (24.1%), domestic help (13.4%) or in other elementary occupations (15.6%). The monthly average wage is \$2,525 and the average hourly rate is \$24. More details are set out in the Annex. We have not kept information on participants working less than 32 hours per month.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau  
December 2006

**Information on jobs secured by participants**

**I. Successful Job placement <sup>(Note)</sup> secured by New Dawn Project Participants**

Type of Occupation	No of placements	Percentage
Managers & Professionals	3	0.3%
Clerks	17	1.7%
Sam Hong & Craft Related Workers	10	1.0%
Plants / Machine operators and Drivers	5	0.5%
Shop Sales and Services Workers	245	24.1%
Cleaners	262	25.8%
Domestic helpers	136	13.4%
Other elementary occupations	158	15.6%
Others	179	17.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**II. Monthly wages received by New Dawn Project Participants**

Monthly wages	No of placements	Percentage
Under \$1,435	321	31.6%
\$1,435 - \$2,999	385	37.9%
\$3,000 - \$4,999	184	18.1%
\$5,000 - \$7,999	110	10.8%
\$8,000 or over	15	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$2,525</b>	

<sup>(Note)</sup> Successful job placements refer to those jobs entailing no less than 32 hours per month.

**III. Wages of the jobs per hour taken up by New Dawn Project Participants**

Hourly rate	No of placements	Percentage
< \$10	14	1.4%
\$10 - \$19	245	24.1%
\$20 - \$29	554	54.6%
\$30 - \$39	116	11.4%
\$40 or over	86	8.5%
Total	1015	100.0%
Average	\$24	