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12 June 2007

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Chairman of the Subcommittee to
Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education
and Employment Opportunities for Children
with Special Education Needs
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**Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Education Needs**

Thank you for your letters of 28 February and 31 May regarding the provision of residential respite service for persons with disabilities aged under 15.

The Education and Manpower Bureau has been involved in the discussion on this matter because some of the special schools under it provides boarding service to cater for the long-term boarding needs of their students and to facilitate them to receive school education during school days. However, the provision of residential respite service for persons with disabilities aged under 15 is to meet the need of their parents and/or carers. The orientation of this service is different and should not come from the education system. It is by nature a social service.

The Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food will examine whether it is possible to enhance or extend the existing services to help fill this service gap with the existing resources allocated to him. He would also explore different service options and the merits of fee charging. He would revert to your Subcommittee in due course.

(Rafael S.Y. HUI)
Chief Secretary for Administration

cc Secretary for Education and Manpower
Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food