

For information

LegCo Panel on Health Services

Enhancement of isolation and infection control facilities in public hospitals

Purpose

This paper informs members of the progress of the capital works projects undertaken / to be undertaken by the Administration to provide more isolation facilities and enhance the infection control facilities in public hospitals.

Background

2. In the wake of the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in early 2003, the Administration has implemented measures on various fronts to enhance the preparedness of our public health system to deal with possible outbreak of infectious diseases in future. One of these measures is to provide more isolation facilities in public hospitals and to enhance infection control facilities. Projects that have been completed or are in the pipeline include-

- (a) provision of 1,262 isolation beds in nine public hospitals in two phases¹;
- (b) provision of 153 isolation beds in five public hospitals²;
- (c) construction of a new infectious disease centre attached to Princess Margaret Hospital³; and
- (d) improvement of infection control provisions for autopsy facilities in 12 public hospitals⁴.

Latest position

3. The projects mentioned in paragraph 2(a) above were completed by May 2004. For paragraph 2(b), works in the five hospitals were conducted in batches at different timing so as to restrict disruption of services to these hospitals to a minimum. Works in four of the

hospitals were completed by June 2004 and those of Caritas Medical Centre were completed by end of September 2004. In early October, the hospital requested for some additional items to be carried out. These additional works were completed in November and the ward was formally handed over to the hospital in mid November. All together, there are now 1,415 isolation beds ready for use in public hospitals.

4. For the project mentioned in paragraph 2(c), funds were approved by the Finance Committee in June 2004. We commenced construction works in July 2004, aiming at completion in June 2007. Upon completion, the infectious disease centre will provide 108 isolation beds.

5. For the project mentioned in paragraph 2(d), we plan to submit a funding application to the Finance Committee of this Council within the current LegCo year. The project will take about one and a half year to complete.

Advice Sought

6. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
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¹ These nine hospitals are the Princess Margaret Hospital, Tuen Mun Hospital, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital, Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital, Kwong Wah Hospital and United Christian Hospital. Please refer to PWSC(2003-04)47 and PWSC(2003-04)58 for details.

² These five hospitals are Caritas Medical Centre, Ruttonjee Hospital, North District Hospital, Tseung Kwan O Hospital and Yan Chai Hospital.

³ Please refer to PWSC(2004-05)24 for details.

⁴ These 12 hospitals are Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital, Grantham Hospital, Kwong Wah Hospital, North District Hospital, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital, Tseung Kwan O Hospital, Tuen Mun Hospital, United Christian Hospital and Yan Chai Hospital.