

**Subcommittee to Study the Transport Needs
and Provision of Concessionary Public Transport Fares for
Persons with Disabilities**

**Information on the payment rates of Disability Allowance under
the Social Security Allowance Scheme**

Purpose

This paper provides information on the payment rates of Disability Allowance (DA) under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme.

Objective of the allowance

2. The objective of DA under the SSA Scheme is to provide a monthly allowance to help the severely disabled to meet special needs arising from disability. It also aims to encourage family support for members with disability.

3. A person is considered to be severely disabled if he/she is certified by a public medical officer as being in a position broadly equivalent to a person with a 100% loss of earning capacity according to the criteria in the First Schedule of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282).

Basis for determining the level of DA

4. DA was first introduced in April 1973 under the Disability and Infirmary Scheme (now the SSA Scheme) to provide some form of financial assistance for the severely disabled regardless of the financial position of the applicant.

5. As a non-means-tested scheme which was called for at a time when there was limited form of alternative assistance and support for persons with disabilities, DA caters for general, non-specific needs of the recipients. In fact, it was practically difficult to quantify the special needs of different types of

severely disabled persons. Given these considerations, it was decided to pay a flat-rate monthly allowance to all persons meeting the eligibility requirements for DA. The rate of the allowance was pegged to 100% of the single person basic rate under the Public Assistance Scheme (now Comprehensive Social Security Allowance Scheme) for the purpose of review.

6. In 1988, a higher rate of DA (i.e. HDA) was introduced for severely disabled persons who require constant attendance from others in their daily life but are not receiving such care in a government or subvented institution or a medical institution under the Hospital Authority. The rate of which was set at twice that of DA which was renamed Normal Disability Allowance (NDA) since then.

7. The rates of DA are revised annually according to the movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (known as Public Assistance Index of Prices before the introduction of the CSSA Scheme in 1993) to take account of inflation/deflation.

8. The current rates of NDA and HDA are \$1,140 and \$2,280 per month respectively.

Number of DA recipients

9. As at end of February 2007, the numbers of NDA recipients and HDA recipients are 101 962 and 14 607 respectively.

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

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Social Welfare Department
April 2007