

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Policy on care for the elderly”
moved by Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 28 June 2006**

Motion as amended by Hon LI Kwok-ying and Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

“That, in order to enhance the quality of life of Hong Kong’s elderly people, and to make preparations for the ageing of Hong Kong’s population in the future, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously implement a policy on care for the elderly which is geared to ‘healthy ageing’, and take measures to improve the existing health care, medical and long-term care services for the elderly, enhance the monitoring and quality of service of homes for the aged, help the elderly participate actively in community activities, improve their living environment and strengthen the prevention of abuse of the elderly, so as to help them enjoy their old age peacefully and comfortably; specific measures include:

- (a) formulating a comprehensive long-term care policy, taking into account the population structure, and establishing a mechanism for planning long-term care services in the future;
- (b) implementing a ‘community-based’ policy on care for the elderly, injecting more resources to home care services, so as to shorten the waiting time for such services;
- (c) increasing the places in subvented care-and-attention homes in order to shorten the waiting time and, at the same time, enhancing the monitoring of private homes for the aged;
- (d) enhancing support services for carers of the elderly, including increasing the places in day-care centres and extending their service hours, so as to alleviate carers’ stress from caring for the frail elderly;
- (e) making coordinated discharge arrangements for elderly in-patients, and providing information and support to enable them to obtain the necessary rehabilitation and care services;
- (f) drawing up a long-term policy to address the shortage of nursing staff in the social welfare sector to ensure the professional standard of long-term care services;
- (g) reviewing the existing medical fee waiver mechanism and expeditiously reducing the waiting time for general and specialist out-patient services to ensure that the elderly are not denied adequate medical services due to lack of means;

- (h) expanding the membership of elderly health centres to provide medical and health services to more elderly people;
- (i) enhancing the Chinese medicine services in the public sector for the elderly, and bringing Chinese medicine under the coverage of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance;
- (j) providing 'end of life' support services for those elderly with relatively weaker support network to allay their worry;
- (k) amending the Domestic Violence Ordinance to expand its application to cover parents, so that the elderly suffering from abuse will be protected under the Ordinance; and
- (l) providing sufficient financial assistance to the elderly in poverty, and implementing a universal retirement protection scheme so as to safeguard the basic livelihood of the elderly.”