



立法會  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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來函檔號 YOUR REF  
本函檔號 OUR REF CB2/PL/WS  
電話 TELEPHONE 2509 0264  
圖文傳真 FACSIMILE 2332 1893

**By Fax (2882 0099)**  
16 November 2007

Mr Henry TANG, GBS, JP  
The Chief Secretary for the Administration  
12/F, Central Government Offices  
West Wing  
Lower Albert Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr TANG,

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Provision of subvented residential care places  
for persons with disabilities**

I am writing to request the Administration to expedite the provision of residential care places for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

At its meeting on 12 November 2007, the Panel on Welfare Services has examined the proposals of setting up two new Integrated Rehabilitation Services Centres for PWDs. In studying the items, members have expressed grave concern about the long waiting time for residential care services and day care services for PWDs. Members note that, for instance, the average waiting time for a residential care place in the Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons in 2006-2007 was as long as 83 months. The Panel considers that the waiting time is unacceptable and that the provision of subvented residential care services for PWDs should be expedited to shorten the waiting time.

The Panel notes that the Social Welfare Department bids for additional resources for providing new subvented residential care places for PWDs on an annual basis. The Panel strongly requests the Administration to formulate long-term plans, set specific targets and timetable as well as allocate additional and adequate resources for the provision of residential care places for PWDs.

The Panel has instructed me to convey the requests to you. Members hope you would give personal attention to the matters and the Administration would provide a response to the Panel's requests by the end of January 2008.

With best regards,



(Fernando CHEUNG)  
Chairman to Panel

c.c. Mr John TSANG, JP (Fax No. : 2840 0569)  
Financial Secretary



Our Ref.: ( ) in  
Your Ref.: CB2/PL/WS

11 January 2008

Dr the Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Chairman to Panel on Welfare Services  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road, Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Dr Cheung,

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Provision of subvented residential care places  
for persons with disabilities**

Thank you for your letter of 16 November 2007, conveying the Panel's concern on the provision of subvented residential care places for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

To support the full integration of PWDs into the community, the Government has been sparing no efforts in taking care of PWDs who cannot live on their own and cannot be adequately cared for by their families. Currently, the Government is providing a total of 10 555 residential care places, with an overall estimated spending of over \$1 billion in 2007/08. PWDs are not subject to any means test in order to be qualified for these subvented services.

To expedite the waiting time for residential services and day services for PWDs, encouraging participation from different sectors in providing more and diversified residential care services for PWDs is essential.

To achieve this, we are adopting a three-pronged approach, as set out in the newly published 2007 Rehabilitation Programme Plan.

The Labour and Welfare Bureau has periodically kept the Panel abreast of the progress on how we encourage the development of residential services of various types and different operational modes in the market and support the development of self-financed hostels by non-government organizations (NGOs). We will continue to steadily develop residential care services for PWDs. As the Panel is aware, an additional \$33 million has been allocated for providing 490 additional residential places in 2007/08 and the Social Welfare Department is actively identifying suitable premises for such places, including vacant schools and hospitals.

Please be assured that we are sparing no efforts in providing more subvented residential places to meet the needs of PWDs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Henry Tang', written in a cursive style.

( Henry Tang )

Chief Secretary for Administration

c.c. Financial Secretary  
Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
Director of Social Welfare