



# “Your Health Your Life” Healthcare Reform Consultation

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## Report on First Stage Public Consultation

Food and Health Bureau  
February 2009



# Summary of Views Received

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# Summary

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- The report summarises the views received from the first-stage public consultation on healthcare reform from March to June 2008
  - Over 20 LegCo and DC meetings
  - Some 130 briefings, seminars and forums
  - Over 4,900 written submissions from individuals and organisations
  - 4 surveys and focus groups conducted by independent consultants
  - Commentaries and views expressed in the media



# Summary – General Responses

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- Broad recognition of imminent need to reform
- Broad consensus on service reform proposals
- Majority agree the need to address healthcare financing
- Despite different views on how to reform financing arrangements
- Most agree to continue deliberation to ensure the sustainability of the healthcare system



# Summary – Responses to Service Reform Proposals

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- Enhance Primary Care Service
  - Support enhancing existing primary care with greater emphasis on preventive care
  - Healthcare professions broadly support with different views on the delivery models
  - Recognise the need to improve primary care through making use of community networks
- Promote PPP in Healthcare
  - Support direction to provide more cost-effective and choices of services
  - Need proper monitoring and transparency of PPP models
  - Healthcare professions generally support, though concern about interference with existing private healthcare market



# Summary – Responses to Service Reform Proposals

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- Develop Electronic Health Record Sharing
  - Support facilitating collaboration among professionals and enhancing efficiency and quality of care for patients
  - Need stringent controls over data privacy and security
  - Healthcare professions support Government to lead and fund to develop eHR sharing as an infrastructure
- Strengthen Public Healthcare Safety Net
  - Support strengthening existing safety net
  - Concern over the existing mechanisms of drug formulary and self-financed drug items
  - Support concept of personal limit on medical expenses



# Summary – Financing Reform

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- General recognition of ageing problem
- Near two-thirds recognise the need to reform existing financing arrangement
- Though more than 10% support maintaining existing financing arrangement
- Divergent views on how to change the existing financing arrangements
- No mainstream consensus on the six supplementary financing proposals
- Some general themes emerged (see below)



# Summary – Financing Reform

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- Different views on need for financing reform
  1. Agree govt funding alone insufficient for service and reform
  2. Consider existing system works well with increase govt funding
  3. Question the projection of healthcare expenditure and the efficiency of current healthcare system
- Govt funding and taxation as financing (item 2 above)
  1. Increase govt expenditure and use fiscal reserve, or reduce other public spending to fund healthcare
  2. Increase existing tax or broaden tax base to fund healthcare
  3. Poll result: least support from the public for tax (42% oppose vs 35% support) among other proposals





# Summary – Financing Themes

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- **Individual vs Communal:** general preference for individualised proposals above safety net
- **Voluntary vs Mandatory:** reservation against mandatory while recognizing its advantages
- **Risk Pooling vs Savings:** higher income favour more risk-pooling over savings
- **Equity vs Two-tier:** value equitable access but prefer choice above basic level



## Summary – Financing Themes

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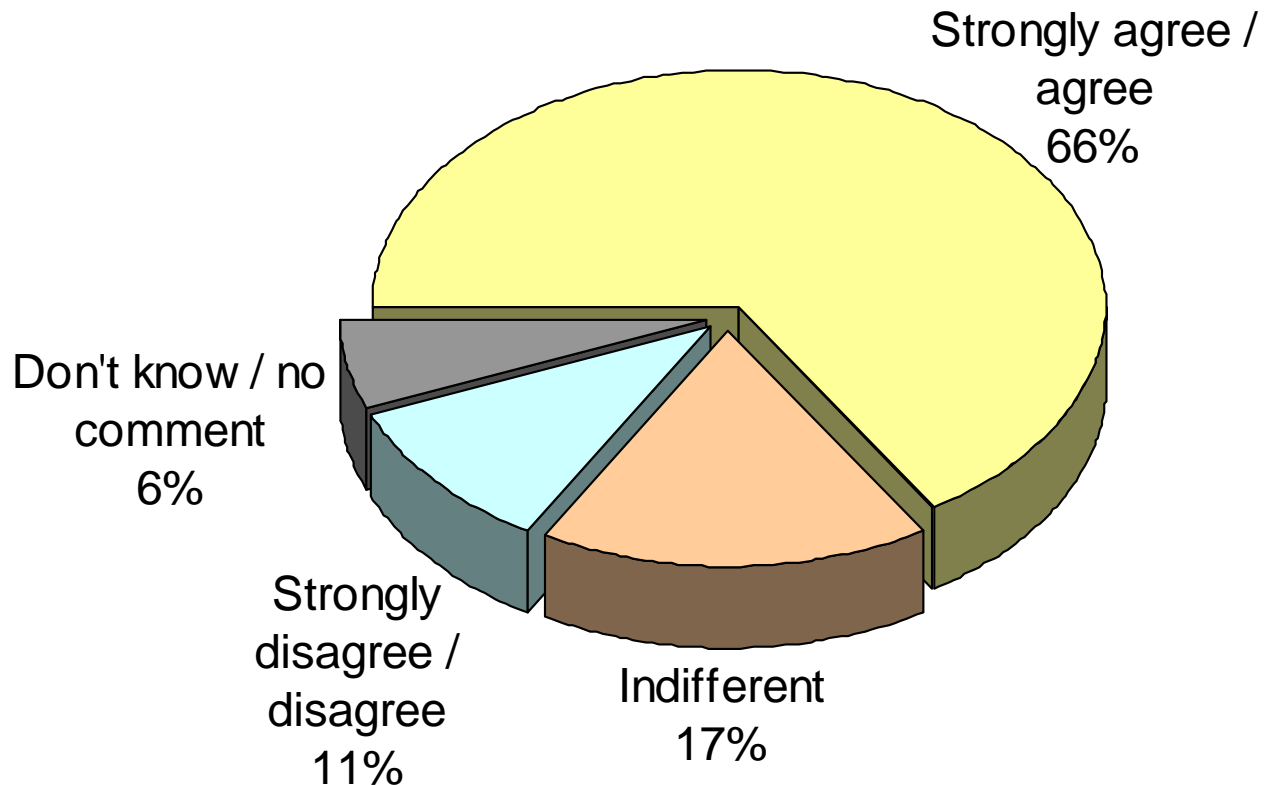
- **Role of employers and employees:** expect employers and employees to share contribution
- **User fee increase:** fair amount of support provided sufficient protection by safety net
- **Income level for contribution:** few responses, many consider \$10,000 or \$15,000 too low
- **Financial sustainability:** few responses address long-term financial sustainability



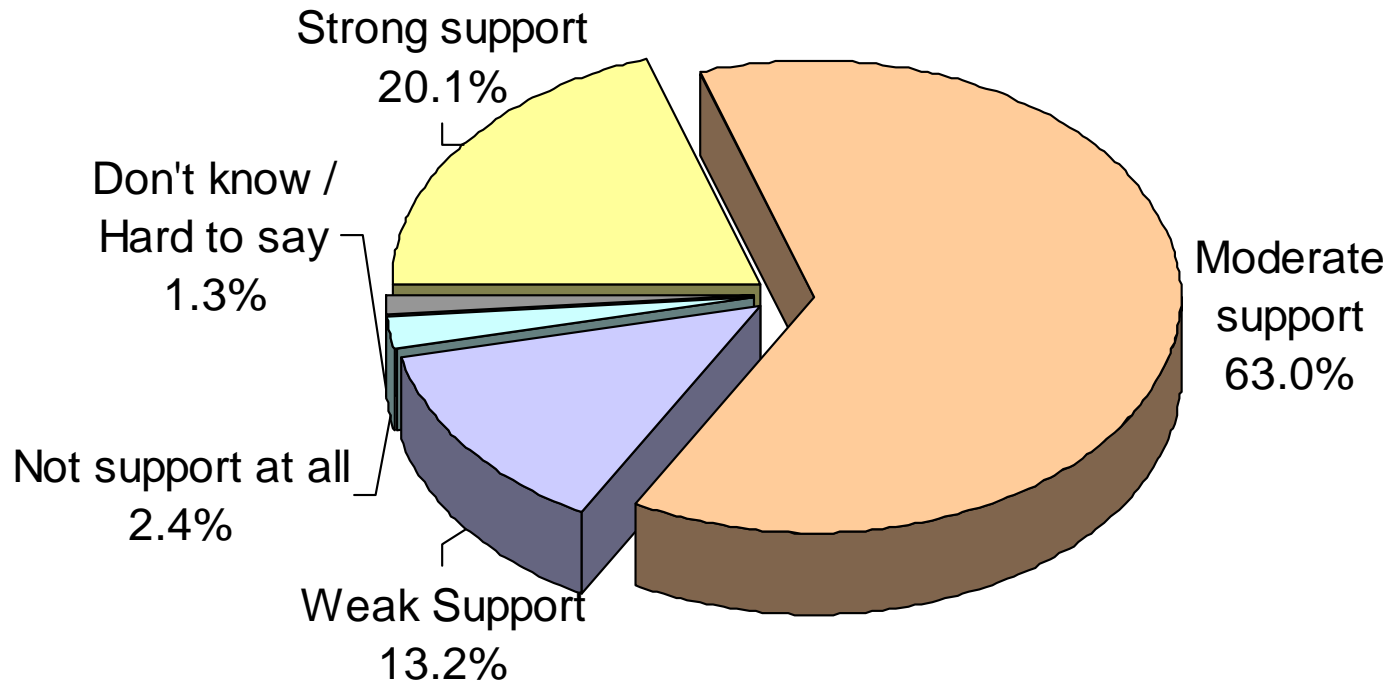
# Summary of Surveys

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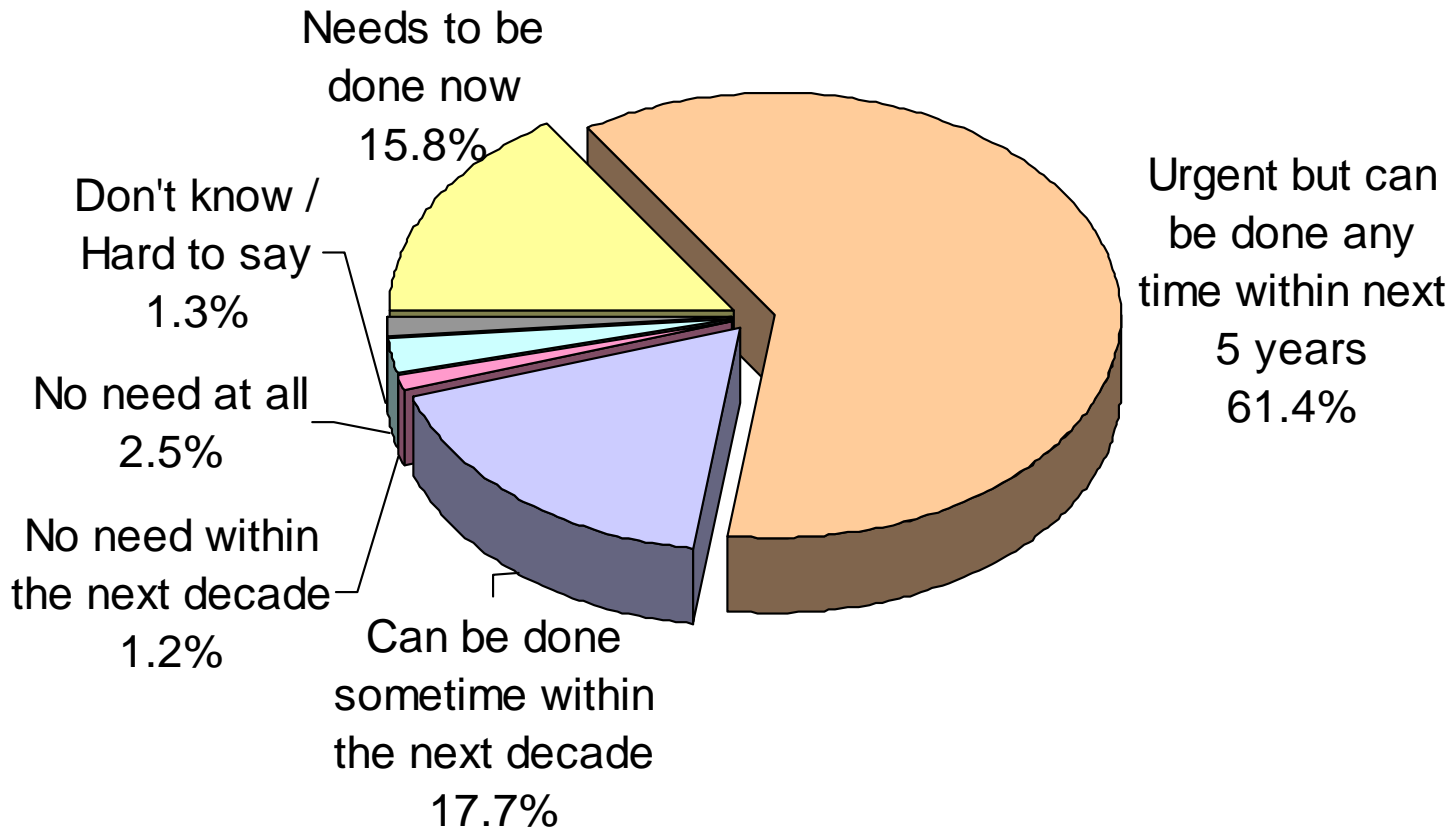
# Need to Reform Healthcare System



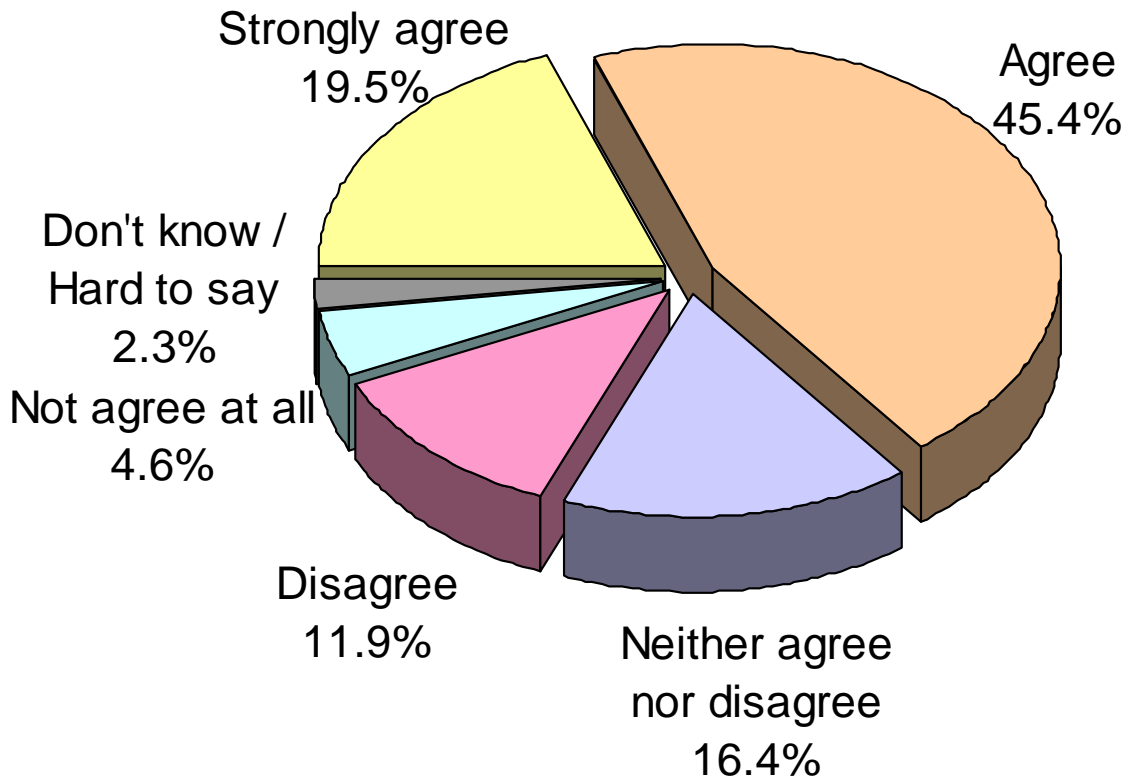
# Support for Service Reforms



# Urgency for Service Reforms

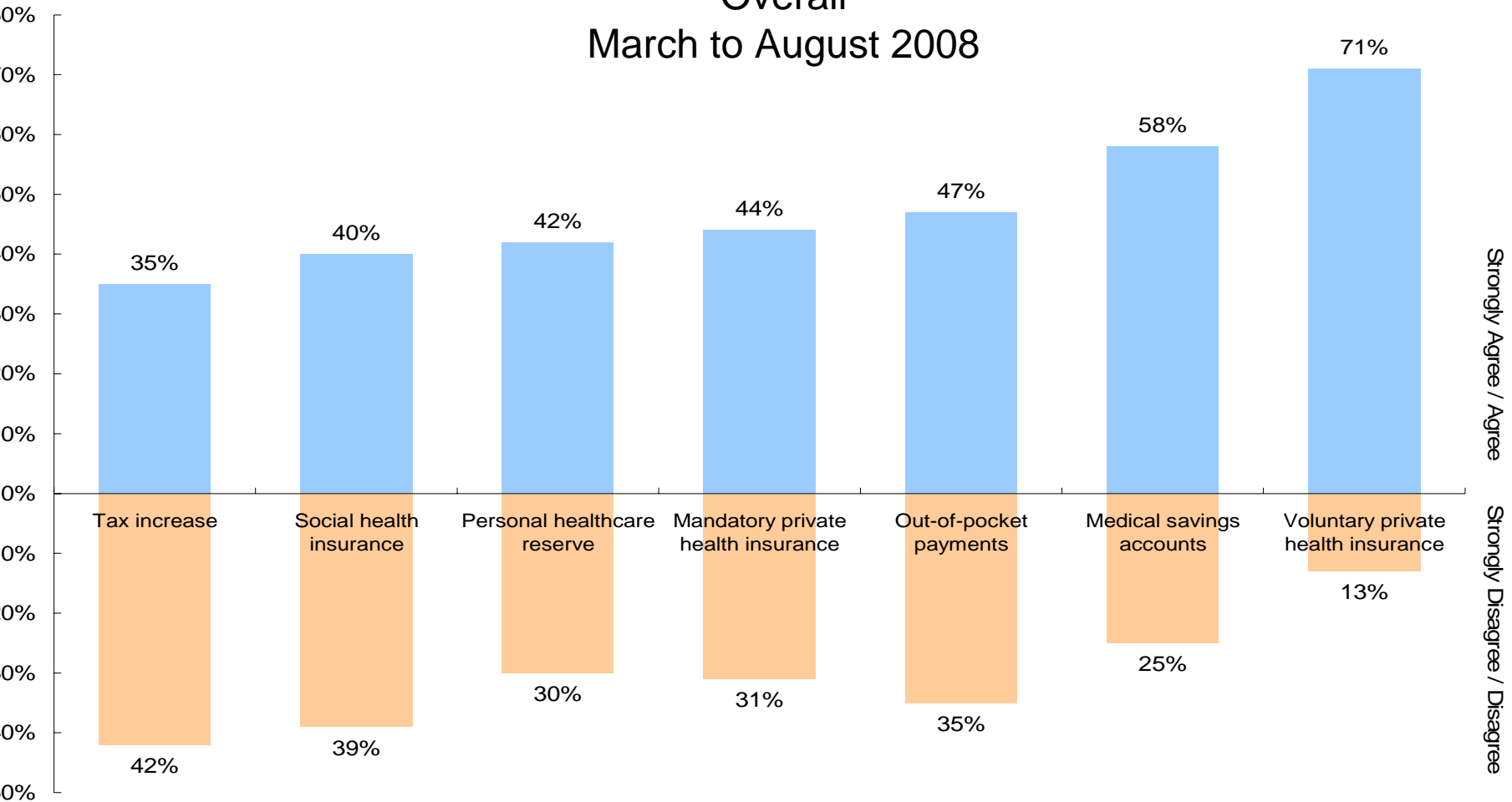


# Government Funding Alone Insufficient for Service Reform



# Polls on Healthcare Financing

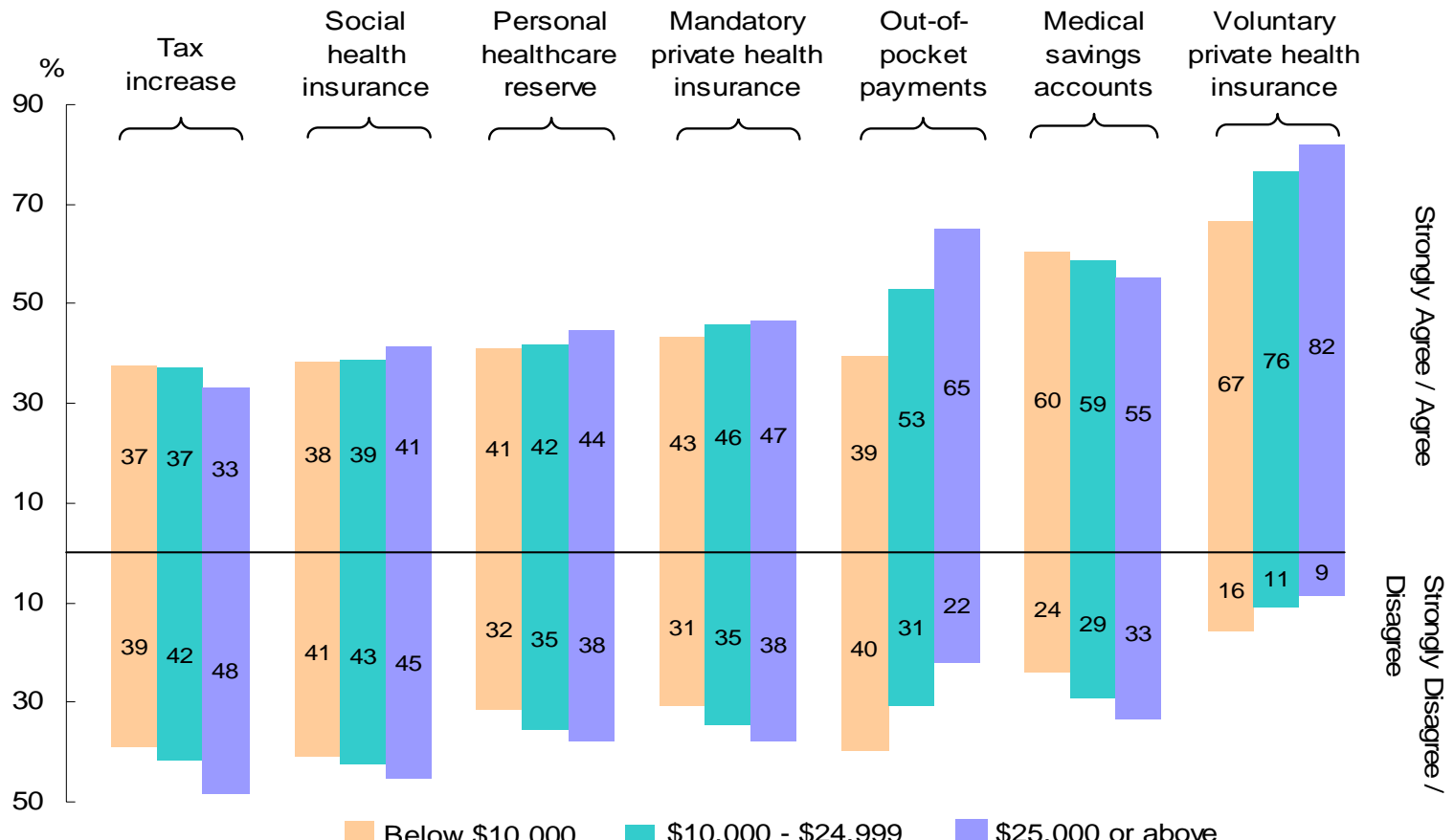
Overall  
March to August 2008





# Polls on Healthcare Financing

By monthly personal income ( working population only )  
March to August 2008





# Way Forward

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# Way Forward – Implement Service Reforms

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- Make best use of increase in healthcare funding over next few years to implement service reforms
- Enhance Primary Care Services
  - Primary Care Working Group and Task Forces
    - Develop basic models for primary care services
    - Establish a Primary Care Directory
    - Explore the concept of Community Health Centre
  - Implement Pilot Projects
    - Chronic disease management programmes
    - Elderly health care voucher, influenza vaccination subsidisation
    - Enhance primary care for individuals through subsidisation



# Way Forward – Implement Service Reforms

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- Promote PPP in Healthcare
  - Purchase private service to follow up public SOPD patients
  - Invite private sector to submit hospital development proposals
- Develop Electronic Health Record Sharing
  - Govt to set up dedicated office to lead the development
  - Collaborate with healthcare professions for 10-year development of territorial-wide eHR infrastructure
- Strengthen Public Healthcare Safety Net
  - Reduce waiting time and queue through PPP
  - Inject \$1 billion into Samaritan Fund
  - Explore personal limit on medical expenses



# Way Forward – Continue to Explore Healthcare Financing

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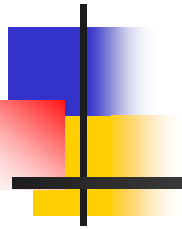
- Notwithstanding economic downturn, need to continue exploring healthcare financing
- Majority of public agree to continue exploring healthcare financing
  - Two Rounds of Polls by consultant in Dec 08 and Jan 09
  - 71% and 74% respectively agree Govt to continue consulting the public on healthcare financing next year
  - 82% and 84% respectively agree to continue consultation if implementation could be deferred to after the economy recovers



# Way Forward – Continue to Explore Healthcare Financing

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- Directions for financing –
  - Better and wider choices above safety net
  - Step-by-step approach – proposals by stages
  - Standardized & incentivized arrangements with flexibility for different age/income groups
  - “Money-follows-patients” with quality assurance
  - Keep \$50b pending decision on supp. Financing
- First half of 2009 - second stage consultation



Thank You