

**Extract from the Report of the Subcommittee on Review of the
Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme
of the Panel on Welfare Services
(LC Paper No. CB(2)871/07-08)**

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Recommendations of the Subcommittee

62. The Subcommittee recommends that the Administration should –
- (a) conduct a comprehensive review of the CSSA Scheme expeditiously, including the items which should be classified as basic needs for the purpose of inclusion in the CSSA standard rates, with a view to ensuring that the different standard CSSA rates are adequate to meet the essential needs of different categories of recipients, in particular children and elderly on CSSA;
 - (b) relax the DE arrangements under the CSSA Scheme;
 - (c) review the adjustment methodology and set up a committee (comprising members from the community, academics and CSSA recipients) to examine the establishment of a new mechanism for determining CSSA rates so as to ensure that the rates would be adequate to meet the needs of CSSA recipients;
 - (d) make adjustment to the CSSA standard payment rates ahead of the annual adjustment cycle at times of high inflation according to the latest month of SSAIP;
 - (e) relax the residence requirement for applying for CSSA. Most members also suggest that the Administration should consider removing the seven-year residence requirement;
 - (f) conduct a review of the operation of the discretionary mechanism in respect of the residence requirement;
 - (g) review and relax the policy of requiring CSSA applicants, especially the elderly applicants, to apply for CSSA on a household basis; and
 - (h) allow CSSA recipients on dental grant to receive dental treatment and emergency dental services at the same designated dental clinics.
63. The Subcommittee also recommends that the Panel should follow up the above with the Administration.

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