

**For information
on 6 April 2009**

LEGCO PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES

Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation

Internet Access for School Attending Child Recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme

Purpose

This paper provides additional information regarding access to the Internet for school attending child recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, including the Computer Recycling Programme and the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) on CSSA households in 2009-2010, as requested by Members at the meeting of the Subcommittee held on 5 March 2009.

Computer Recycling Programme

2. The Education Bureau (EDB), in partnership with the Environmental Protection Department, launched a “Computer Recycling Programme” in February 2009 for needy students of primary and secondary school. Students in receipt of CSSA under the Social Welfare Department (SWD) or the School Textbook Assistance Scheme under the Student Financial Assistance Agency are eligible. The programme will last for two years. Under the programme, each successful applicant will be provided with a refurbished computer together with one-year free Internet access service. The EDB is also negotiating with the designated Internet service providers to offer the beneficiaries under the programme a favourable service plan for a further two years after the initial year of free service. EDB has reserved \$25 million for the purpose. The Administration will monitor the implementation closely, and will seek additional funding if necessary.

HES on CSSA Households

3. The HES on CSSA Households has been conducted every five years since 1974-75 (formerly known as the HES on Public Assistance Recipients). The objective of the survey is to collect up-to-date expenditure patterns of CSSA households so as to update the weighting system of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP), i.e. rebasing. Through regular rebasing, the SSAIP can more accurately reflect the impact of price changes experienced by CSSA households.

4. A new round of HES on CSSA Households will be conducted between October 2009 and September 2010. All CSSA cases with at least one eligible member receiving the standard rate and living in local domestic households will be covered in the survey. A random sample of CSSA households from various geographical areas and categories of households will be drawn by the SWD based on their administrative records. The target sample size for this survey round is 1 600 CSSA households. During the data collection stage, the HES on CSSA households will collect information on the expenditure on all commodities and services (including Internet access charges) consumed by CSSA households.

5. Members are invited to note the contents of the paper.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
Education Bureau
Social Welfare Department
March 2009**