

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1160/09-10  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Minutes of special meeting**  
**held on Saturday, 6 February 2010, at 9:00 am**  
**in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon WONG Sing-chi (Chairman)  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP  
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP  
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
- Members absent** : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
- Public Officers attending** : Ms Betty HO Siu-ping  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
(Welfare) 3
- Prof Alfred CHAN Cheung-ming, BBS, JP  
Vice-chairman, Elderly Commission
- Dr Lisanne KO Suk-fun  
Assistant Professor, The Nethersole School of Nursing,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Ms Mandy LAU Man-yi  
Senior Research Assistant, Department of Social Work and  
Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong

**Deputations  
by invitation** : The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong

Mr Calvin CHIU  
President

The Hong Kong Geriatrics Society

Dr Bernard KONG Ming-hei  
President

The Elderly Services Association of Hong Kong

Ms Grace LI  
Chairman

Monitoring Alliance on Elderly Policies

Ms LEE Kwai-tin  
Member

Hong Kong Association of Gerontology

Ms Stella CHEUNG Yuk-har  
Executive Director

私人院舍社會工作者同盟

Mr Richard LEE Pak-ying

Salvation Army The Carer Association

Ms CHAN Fat-chun  
Chairperson

Hong Kong Psychogeriatric Association

Dr Paulina CHOW Po-ling  
Resident Specialist of Castle Peak Hospital  
Honorary Secretary of Hong Kong Psychogeriatric Association

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Miss Grace CHAN  
Chief Officer (Elderly Service)

香港中小企國際聯盟

Ms CHAN Pong-yuen  
Vice Chairman

香港中小企國際聯盟安老工作委員會

Ms CHAN Fong-tai  
Vice Chairman

新界區私營院舍聯會

Mr CHEUNG Kin-wah  
Social Worker

Home of the Elderly Consultancy Ltd

Mr Legward WONG Cheuk-kin  
General Manager

Carers' Alliance of Dementia

Ms Judy LI  
Chairperson

Grassroots Development Centre

Mr NG Kin-wing  
Organiser

Labours' Rights Commune

Miss CHEUNG Man-wai  
Member

Mr WONG Chi-kwan

The Chinese Grey Power

Mr CHEUNG Yung-kan  
Vice-Chairman

全港私營安老院同業會

Mr CHU Kap-ning  
Deputy Chairman

民主黨勞工及福利小組

Mr LO Kin-hei

Community Care and Nursing Home Workers General Union

Ms CHUNG Wai-ling  
Chairperson

The Forthright Caucus

Mr Fernando CHEUNG  
Chairperson

Association for the Rights of the Elderly

Ms Brenda SO  
Chairperson

關注長者住宿小組

Ms Bobo HO  
Member

**Clerk in attendance** : Miss Betty MA  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in attendance** : Miss Florence WONG  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Karen LAI  
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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**I. Consultancy Study on Residential Care Services for the Elderly initiated by the Elderly Commission**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)668/09-10(03), CB(2)842/09-10(01) to (09), CB(2)885/09-10(01), CB(2)902/09-10(01) to (04) and CB(2)933/09-10(01) to (03)]

The Chairman said that the special meeting was convened to receive views from deputations on the findings and recommendations of the Consultancy Study on Residential Care Services for the Elderly (the Consultancy Study) initiated by the Elderly Commission (EC). The Chairman further said that a Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly (the Subcommittee) was appointed by the Panel to study policies and measures relating to the provision of residential care places and community care services for persons with disabilities and the elderly.

Meeting with deputations

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, 23 deputations presented their views on the Consultancy Study. A summary of the deputations' views is in the **Appendix**.

Discussions

3. Responding to the views expressed by the deputations, Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)3 (PAS(W)3) said that the objectives of the Consultancy Study were to explore how to target subsidised residential care services at elderly people most in need, to promote further development of quality self-financing/private residential care services, and to encourage shared responsibilities among individuals, their families and society in meeting the long-term care (LTC) needs of the elderly. PAS(W)3 further said that in view of the consultant's recommendation to further develop community care services, EC had decided to conduct an in-depth study on possible service enhancement. The Administration supported EC to conduct the in-depth study, and would continue to gauge views from relevant stakeholders, including the newly formed Subcommittee, on the subject matter. PAS(W)3 stressed that the Administration had not formed a position on the findings and recommendations of the Report of the Consultancy Study.

4. Noting that some deputations raised concern about the introduction of a means-test mechanism for the provision of subsidised LTC services, PAS(W)3 said that the idea was premised on the consideration that limited public resources should be allocated to people most in need, which was in line with the objective of EC. She assured members that the Administration had no intention to reduce the resources allocated for LTC services for the elderly. As for individual cases referred to by some deputations, the Administration would follow up the cases after the meeting if more details could be provided.

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5. Prof Alfred CHAN, Vice-chairman of EC, extended the apology from Dr LEONG Che-hung, Chairman of EC, for not being to attend the meeting as he was out of town. In the light of the views expressed by deputations, Prof CHAN made the following points –

- (a) in line with the overall principle of promoting user-choice and flexibility, the introduction of a voucher scheme for LTC services would enable the elderly and their family members to exercise greater choice of LTC services;
- (b) EC agreed with the consultant's recommendation to further develop community care services to address the LTC needs of elders, and was working closely with the Administration on the areas and priorities for service enhancement. EC aimed to make relevant recommendations for implementation as early as practicable; and
- (c) the introduction of a means-test mechanism for subsidised LTC services would be in line with the "users pay principle" and direct the finite public resources for the most efficient use. As there were controversies in the introduction of a means-test mechanism in the local context, further public discussion was considered necessary.

Prof CHAN stressed that EC would take into full account of views made by deputations in its further study on the matter.

6. Dr Lisanne KO of the Consultant Team advised that –

- (a) the Consultant Team had reviewed and collected a huge amount of information about the LTC policy and practices as well as conducted interviews with different stakeholders and the elderly;
- (b) referring to Table 2.6 of the Consultancy Report, the Consultant Team had conducted face-to-face interviews with more than 3 000 people aged 45 or above, including those on the Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s Central Waiting List (CWL) for subsidised residential care services and receiving community care services;
- (c) as the Consultancy Study tasked to examine the provision of residential care services, the Report had not studied in-depth the utilisation of community care services; and
- (d) the Consultant Team had not formed a position on the introduction of a means-test mechanism and voucher scheme for LTC services for the elderly.

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7. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan expressed concern about the long waiting time for subsidised residential care services and the manpower shortage in both subvented and private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). Pointing out that around 80% of the elderly on CWL for subsidised RCHE places were receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), he was of the view that the introduction of a means-test mechanism would not be effective enough to shorten the waitlisting situation. As regards the proposal to introduce a mandatory trial period for community care services before those with a "dual option" would be offered residential care services, Mr LEE envisaged that the arrangement would in fact limit the elderly to use community care services only. In his view, it was not an opportune time for adjusting the dual option arrangement.

8. PAS(W)3 advised that it was made clear in the Consultancy Report that the recommendation of adjusting the "dual option" arrangement should not be taken forward until the community care services were enhanced to such an extent that they became a viable alternative to residential care. As explained at the previous meeting, the Administration and EC would further study how the existing community care services could be further developed and enhanced before considering whether and how the dual option would be adjusted.

9. Mr Albert HO was of the view that it was the rights of elders in need of residential care services be allocated with subsidised RCHE places within a reasonable timeframe. To shorten the waiting time, elders most in need of residential care should be placed on a separate waiting list. He strongly urged the Administration to set a pledge for the waiting time for subsidised RCHE places. Mr HO wondered whether community care services could adequately cater for the LTC needs of elderly on CWL for subsidised residential care to the extent that they would no longer need residential care services. He also cast doubt on whether the community care services would be more cost effective than residential care services.

10. With reference to the service needs of demented elders, Ms Stella CHEUNG of the Hong Kong Association of Gerontology said that home care services for demented elders would be more expensive than residential care services, not to mention that the relevant home care and support services were inadequate.

11. Prof Alfred CHAN of EC said that as mentioned earlier, EC would further study the development of community care services and possible service enhancement with a view to further encouraging elders to age in place and avoid premature and unnecessary institutionalisation. He stressed that the provision of community care services would by no means replace residential care services for the elderly.

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12. Dr PAN Pey-chyou was surprised to learn from some deputations that even the service quality of some subvented RCHEs was moderate. In his view, the service quality was compromised having regard to the operation of contract RCHEs was funded by way of the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) mode of subventions and contract service fees. He asked about the measures in place to ensure the service quality of RCHEs. Dr PAN then drew members' attention that it was inappropriate to use the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES) to assess the care needs and eligibility of demented elders for subsidised LTC services because the assessment tool aimed to test the physical functioning of elders, but not their mental conditions. He called upon a review of SCNAMES. Dr PAN also asked about the rationale for limiting elders to receive either home-based or centre-based day care services.

13. PAS(W)3 said that the Administration attached great importance to the service quality and staff training of RCHEs. SWD had collaborated with the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority (HA) in organising training programmes for staff in RCHEs to enhance their knowledge and skills to take care of elders including demented elders. To alleviate the shortage of nurses in the welfare sector, SWD, in collaboration with HA, had launched classes for enrolled nurses for the welfare sector since four years ago. Tuition fees for graduates from these training courses would be waived if they worked in the welfare sector for at least two years after completing the programme.

14. PAS(W)3 further said that the Administration also provided RCHEs operating subsidised places with special supplements for providing better care for demented and infirm elders. As regards the care need assessment under SCNAMES, the applicants' impairment level based on their abilities in activities of daily living, physical functioning, communication, memory, behaviour and emotion, as well as their health conditions would be assessed with a view to identifying their care needs. The Administration would consider reviewing the assessment criteria if such needs arose. PAS(W)3 added that the Administration and EC would study the further development of community care services, including different modes of service delivery, with a view to further encouraging elders to age in place.

15. Prof Alfred CHAN of EC supplemented that HA would collaborate with The Open University of Hong Kong and launch training programmes for enrolled nurses in the coming years. The programmes would provide some 100 places, and students would be offered placements in public hospitals and RCHEs.

16. Echoing Dr PAN Pey-chyou's views, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che said that the difficulties faced by RCHEs were attributed to the implementation of LSG subvention system and the competitive service bidding under which the operation of RCHEs was subject to a very tight budget and manpower. Mr CHEUNG then sought clarification on the following –

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- (a) whether the Administration would review the outdated Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (the Ordinance) and the Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (the Code of Practice);
- (b) the new initiatives to be introduced to enhance the community care services;
- (c) reasons for the discrepancy between the elders' institutionalisation rate cited by Hong Kong Association of Gerontology (2.5%) and that in the Report of the Consultancy Study (6.8%); and
- (d) whether and how EC would gauge further views from the stakeholders on LTC services.

17. PAS(W)3 said that operators of RCHEs were required to comply with the licensing requirements and the guidelines set out in the Code of Practice. Non-compliance with the requirements could constitute to cancellation of licences. The Director of Social Welfare had from time to time revised the Code of Practice having regard to the changing service needs and the stakeholders' views. As explained earlier, the Administration was studying the scope of an in-depth study on possible service enhancement of community care services. The Administration would revert to the Panel or its Subcommittee when more details were available.

18. Dr Lisanne KO of the Consultant Team supplemented that elders' institutionalisation rate of 6.8% referred to the percentage of elders staying in both subsidised and non-subsidised RCHEs, whereas the rate of 2.5% represented the percentage of elders staying in subvented RCHEs.

19. Prof Alfred Chan of EC assured members that EC welcomed views from users of LTC services and the welfare sector, and would endeavour to gauge views through different channels and forums.

20. Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that the problem of inadequate RCHE places to meet the ever-growing LTC needs of the elderly was not something new. In addition to conducting an in-depth study on enhancement of community care services, the Administration should take concrete actions to address the problem. He made the following observations for the Administration's consideration –

- (a) given that the demand for community care services varied across districts, the Administration should allocate resources for the services having regard to the district profile and specific needs of individual districts;

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- (b) having regard to an ageing population and the fact that not all elders were suitable to age in place due to individuals' health conditions and living environment, the demand for residential care services would increase even though the community care services were further enhanced;
- (c) under the existing arrangement for CSSA payments, the home fees of most private RCHEs were pitched at the CSSA payments. To provide elders with wider choice for quality residential care services, the Administration should consider the concept of "money following elders", introduce a separate form of subsidy for needy elders to meet the higher home fees charged by quality RCHEs or allow elders and their family members to top up the difference between the CSSA payments and home fees; and
- (d) the problem of manpower shortage in RCHEs should be addressed so as to further improve the service quality of RCHEs.

21. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the issues of concern raised at the meeting would be followed up by the Subcommittee as appropriate.

**II. Any other business**

22. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:32 am.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
24 March 2010

## Panel on Welfare Services

Special meeting on Saturday, 6 February 2010

Consultancy Study on Residential Care Services for the Elderly initiated by the Elderly Commission

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
1.	The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)902/09-10(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● expressed concern about the increasing number of elders who had died while waiting for admission to residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) over the past years and urged the Administration to allocate more resources for construction of new RCHEs</li> <li>● objected to the introduction of a means-test mechanism for long-term care (LTC) services. It could not alleviate the waitlisting situation given that around 80% of the elders on the waiting list for RCHE places were on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)</li> <li>● opined that the existing community care services were insufficient to address the LTC needs of elders</li> </ul>
2.	The Hong Kong Geriatrics Society [LC Paper No. CB(2)842/09-10(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● agreed that the elders' institutionalisation rate in Hong Kong was comparatively high, and it should be reduced</li> <li>● considered that geriatricians with expertise in geriatric assessment would be in the best position to give advice on the rehabilitation and placement needs of elders. This would help reduce unnecessary and premature institutionalisation</li> <li>● supported further enhancing the community care services for elders with geriatric input and a stronger partnership between the medical and social services</li> <li>● did not support means testing for elders with genuine need of residential care</li> <li>● recommended that the Integrated Discharge Support Trial Program for Elderly Patients should be extended to all clusters from 2011 and transitional residential care services for elderly hospital discharges should be further explored and integrated as part of discharge planning</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
3.	The Elderly Services Association of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)842/09-10(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● given admission to subvented RCHEs was non-means-tested and the fact that most residents of private RCHEs were frail and infirm elders, the resources for residential care services had not been allocated to those most in need of LTC services</li> <li>● since around 80% of elders living in private RCHEs were on CSSA, the monthly CSSA payments were inadequate to meet the home fees if they needed more intensive nursing care. In this respect, the Administration should consider adopting the concept of "money following elders" and co-payment arrangements for the use of residential care services</li> <li>● in the light of the shortage of nursing and healthcare staff, the Administration should provide more resources to RCHEs for staff recruitment and attracting young people to pursue their career in the elderly services</li> </ul>
4.	Monitoring Alliance on Elderly Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● objected to introducing a means-test mechanism for provision of residential care services, irrespective of whether the financial assessment was based on a household or individual basis</li> <li>● according to a survey conducted by the Hong Kong Council of Social Services (HKCSS) in 2006, around 86% of elders lacked savings plan or long-term financial support for LTC services, and a respective 55% and 37% of elders relied on the support of family members and social security allowance. It was Government's responsibility to provide residential and community care services to meet the LTC needs of elders</li> <li>● the Alliance called upon the Administration to increase the provision of subsidised RCHE places and enhance community care services. It had put forward the proposal vide a letter jointly signed by over 7 000 elders to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare and copied to the Financial Secretary in December 2009</li> </ul>
5.	Hong Kong Association of Gerontology (HKAG) [LC Paper No. CB(2)842/09-10(05)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● considered that it was not an opportune time for introducing a means-test mechanism for the provision of subsidised residential care services for the elderly</li> <li>● urged the Administration to – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) devise long-term policy and strategic direction for LTC services for the elderly and set up a cross-departmental committee in this respect;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<p>(b) allocate more resources for increasing the provision of subsidised RCHE places to cope with the demand;</p> <p>(c) consider introducing an insurance scheme for LTC services; and</p> <p>(d) make reference to HKAG's accreditation scheme and promote the quality assurance and accreditation of RCHEs, review the licensing scheme for RCHEs and strengthen the training for nursing and healthcare staff of RCHEs with a view to enhancing the service quality of these homes</p>
6.	私人院舍社會工作者同盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Administration should seriously consider the concept of "money following elders" and introduce a voucher system for residential care services such that resources could be flexibly deployed to elders most in need</li> <li>● opined that the existing all-or-nothing subsidy for residential care services and the requirement for the elders to apply for CSSA on a household basis had discouraged elders' family members from sharing the responsibility of taking care of the elders, and the means-test mechanism would deprive the needy elders' rights from using residential care services</li> <li>● taking into account that the existing community care services were not adequate to meet the elders' LTC needs, the Administration should, in the light of the ageing population, increase the RCHE places and enhance the community care services</li> </ul>
7.	Salvation Army The Carer Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)902/09-10(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● took the view that the introduction of a means-test mechanism for LTC services should by no means affect the rights of needy elders in using the residential care services, and suggested that the Administration should consider providing different levels of subsidies in accordance with the affordability of the elders and their carers in choosing RCHEs</li> <li>● considered it inappropriate to require the "dual option" holders to use community care services before choosing residential care services given that the former was inadequate to meet the elders' LTC needs</li> <li>● to actualise the policy direction of supporting "ageing in place", the Administration should actively consider introducing a voucher scheme and carers' allowance such that the elders' and their carers could choose the types of community care services that best suited their needs</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Administration should step up inspection of RCHEs to enhance the service quality, and collaborate cross-departmental efforts in providing seamless LTC services to the elderly</li> </ul>
8.	Hong Kong Psychogeriatric Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)842/09-10(06)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● opined that under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES), elders were prioritised for admission to subsidised RCHEs based on their physical frailty. This hindered elders with mental illnesses from accessing the service</li> <li>● while supporting the recommendation of introducing a voucher system to provide elders with more choices of services, the Association urged the Administration to put in place a mechanism to assist mentally incapacitated elders to make appropriate choice of services</li> <li>● the Administration should consider allocating resources to enhance the community psychogeriatric services to better assess and manage the elders in need through a case management approach</li> </ul>
9.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) [LC Paper No. CB(2)842/09-10(07)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HKCSS urged the Administration to – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) expedite the provision of additional residential care places, enhance the community care services to elders who were waiting for admission to subvented RCHEs (e.g. extending the service hours), and increase the infirmary care supplement and dementia supplement to enable subvented RCHEs and participating homes under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) to strengthen their manpower provision in taking care of infirm and demented elders;</li> <li>(b) enhance the transparency of information relating to community care services (such as the waiting time for and scope of the services), rationalise the Day Respite Services and Enhanced Home and Community Care Services, and collaborate the medical and social services for the needy elders; and</li> <li>(c) review the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance and staffing requirements for RCHEs with a view to enhancing the service quality of RCHEs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
10.	香港中小企國際聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Administration should, in the light of the well-being of elders, consider adopting the concept of "money following elders" such that elders were given more choices on the use of residential care services</li> <li>● to enhance the service quality of RCHEs, the Administration should introduce a quality accreditation scheme, and consider providing subsidies for private RCHEs for service enhancement</li> <li>● in view of the shortage of nursing staff and healthcare workers for elderly services, the Administration should enhance public education with a view to encouraging young people to enter the field</li> </ul>
11.	香港中小企國際聯盟安老工作委員會 [LC Paper No. CB(2)842/09-10(08)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● opined that following the implementation of EBPS over the years, more and more private RCHEs had upgraded their services and participated in various quality accreditation schemes. Although the service quality might vary from one to another, most of private RCHEs were providing quality service to elders at an affordable price</li> <li>● considered that private RCHEs had played a significant role in providing residential care services to needy elders since 71% of RCHE residents were living in private homes</li> <li>● the CSSA payments were meant to meet the basic needs but not the LTC needs of the elders. Hence, the Administration should raise the CSSA payments for elderly recipients who were residing in private RCHEs requiring LTC services so as to meet the higher home fees</li> </ul>
12.	新界區私營院舍聯會 [LC Paper No. CB(2)933/09-10(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● highlighted the difficulties faced by the private operators in securing premises for provision of residential care homes, especially those for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) due to local opposition</li> <li>● considered that in the light of the ageing population and the introduction of a licensing regime for RCHDs, the demand for residential care places would be increasing, the Administration should identify vacant government premises, such as government staff quarters, vacant premises in housing estates and unused schools, for conversion into residential care homes, and consider granting concessionary rent to RCHD operators, with a view to providing sufficient and quality RCHDs</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
13.	Home of the Elderly Consultancy Ltd [LC Paper No. CB(2)842/09-10(09)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● considered that the proposed means-test mechanism could not resolve the waitlisting situation for subsidised RCHEs but prevent frail elders of middle-class families from using the service</li> <li>● the relatively high elders' institutionalisation rate in Hong Kong reflected the fact that there was great demand for residential care services</li> <li>● taking into account that the existing community care services were still under-developed, the Administration should put more efforts to enhance the services such that they became a viable alternative to residential care services</li> <li>● supported the recommendation of expanding the service scope of community care services and adopting a more diverse mode of service delivery such that private operators could also be service providers</li> <li>● urged the Administration to actively consider adopting the concept of "money following elders", increasing the CSSA payments for elders residing in private RCHEs, and introducing a grading system for RCHEs</li> </ul>
14.	Carers' Alliance of Dementia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● opined that the relatively high institutionalisation rate in Hong Kong lay with the lack of policy on support services for demented elders and their carers</li> <li>● while the community care services targeted at providing services to elders with physical problems, SCNAMES also prioritised elders based on their physical frailty. Even when demented elders were admitted to RCHEs, the services provided therein could not address their specific needs</li> <li>● the Administration should consider setting up day care centres specialising in providing support services for demented elders and their carers and putting in place an assessment tool to better assess the needs of demented elders</li> </ul>
15.	Grassroots Development Centre [LC Paper No. CB(2)902/09-10(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the crux of various problems relating to residential care services was due to a lack of retirement protection for the needy elders</li> <li>● opposed the introduction of a means-test mechanism for LTC services for the elderly</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● urged the Administration to –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) introduce a universal retirement protection scheme expeditiously such that elders could choose to age at home or use residential care services;</li> <li>(b) review policies that were contradictory to the policy direction of "ageing at home", such as the policy of requiring elders to apply for CSSA on a household basis which deterred their family members from taking care of them; and</li> <li>(c) allocate resources to relieve the waitlisting situation for subsidised RCHE places and strengthen the collaboration among the medical and social sector as well as RCHE operators in provision of residential care services for the elderly</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
16.	Labours' Rights Commune [LC Paper No. CB(2)933/09-10(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● expressed concern about the long working hours and low wage level of staff working in private RCHEs, and urged the Administration to regulate the minimum wage level and maximum working hours for RCHE staff</li> <li>● pointed out that many private RCHEs provided insufficient manpower and food with poor nutrition for the residents in order to maximise their profits by reducing operating costs</li> <li>● urged the Administration to assume the overall responsibility in providing residential care services</li> </ul>
17.	The Chinese Grey Power [LC Paper No. CB(2)902/09-10(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● expressed grave concern about the poor service quality of private RCHEs and opposed the direction of providing residential care services by private RCHEs</li> <li>● urged the Administration to construct more subvented RCHEs to cope with the demand for the services</li> <li>● objected to the proposed means-test mechanism for LTC services, the introduction of voucher system and the mandatory trial period for community care services for "dual option" users</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
18.	全港私營安老院同業會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pointed out that since 1980s, the number of private RCHEs had been increasing and they had played a significant role in providing residential care services to needy elders as reflected by the market share. The service quality of subvented RCHEs was in generally better than that of private RCHEs simply because the Government had provided subsidies for the former</li> <li>• opined that the Administration should allocate resources to, strengthen the monitoring of, and encourage competition among private RCHEs, with a view to improving the service quality of private RCHEs</li> </ul>
19.	民主黨勞工及福利小組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expressed reservation about the proposed means-test mechanism for residential care services which should be taken forward only when the community reached a consensus on the assessment criteria</li> <li>• objected to imposing a mandatory trial period for community care services on the "dual option" holders taking into account that the existing community care services were under-developed</li> <li>• considered that the quality of private RCHEs should be enhanced prior to the implementation of the voucher system for LTC services</li> <li>• while supporting the policy direction of "ageing in place", the relatively high elders' institutionalisation rate in Hong Kong showed that elders had to choose residential care service irrespective of their preference to stay at home because of inadequate support for family carers to take care of elders</li> </ul>
20.	Community Care and Nursing Home Workers General Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considered that the service quality of subvented RCHEs had been deteriorating since the inception of the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System. To save operating costs, subvented RHCEs had trimmed down the daily expenses, such as providing inferior food for residents</li> <li>• pointed out that the manpower provision for and inspection of subvented RCHEs were far from adequate, not to mention that of private RCHEs</li> <li>• objected to the introduction of a voucher system as it could not help improve the quality of RCHEs</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Social Welfare Department should gauge views from frontline staff of subvented RCHEs and take appropriate actions</li> </ul>
21.	The Forthright Caucus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>expressed regret that the Administration lacked long-term policy on residential care services and that the Consultancy Study initiated by the Elderly Commission (EC) had not addressed the crux of the issue, i.e. lack of quality RCHE services and comprehensive community care services for the needy elders. The Administration should study the need for reviewing the Code of Practice for RCHEs, strengthening training for health and care workers and support services for demented elders, and introducing an allowance scheme for family carers. This apart, the Administration should strengthen the day care services and home-based services for the elderly</li> <li>a recent survey conducted by the Baptist University showed that 70% of residents of private RCHEs were not satisfied with the service quality therein, including the environment, space and attitude of health workers, and a separate survey conducted by the Chinese University of Hong Kong revealed that the existing RCHEs could not provide quality LTC services to address the elders' needs</li> </ul>
22.	Association for the Rights of the Elderly [LC Paper No. CB(2)933/09-10(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>objected to introducing a means-test mechanism for residential care services for the elderly. This was discriminatory against elders given that there were no similar requirements for accessing family services and education</li> <li>urged EC to gauge views from the stakeholders, especially the elders, in formulating long-term elderly policy in the light of an ageing population and changing needs of elders</li> <li>opined that the Administration should make reference to overseas experience in devising a quality assessment mechanism for RCHEs and allocate resources to elderly services in accordance with their needs</li> <li>supported the introduction of a voucher system in order to enhance the quality of LTC services for the elderly</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
23.	關注長者住宿小組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● considered that the Administration should set a pledge in respect of the waiting time for subsidised RCHE places</li> <li>● cautioned that if reference was made to the Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism of Public Hospitals in devising the means-test mechanism for residential care services, only elders on CSSA and ex-civil servants would be eligible for subsidised residential care services as a result of the stringent eligibility criteria</li> <li>● the findings in the Consultancy Study report that Hong Kong had relatively high elders' institutionalisation rate was unfair</li> <li>● opined that the existing community care services was inadequate to provide timely services to needy elders</li> </ul>

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