

**For discussion on  
9 May 2011**

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services**

**Enhanced support for elders, persons with disabilities and in ill-health under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, and additional provision for social security recipients**

**Purpose**

This paper seeks Members' views on the Administration's proposals to –

- (a) enhance the support for elders, persons with disabilities and persons in ill-health under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme; and
- (b) provide an extra allowance to CSSA recipients, equal to one month of the standard rate CSSA payments; and an extra allowance to Old Age Allowance (OAA) and Disability Allowance (DA) recipients, equal to one month of the allowances.

**The proposals**

***Enhance the support for elders, persons with disabilities and persons in ill-health under the CSSA Scheme***

2. The Financial Secretary proposed in the 2011-12 Budget to raise the standard rates under the CSSA Scheme for adult recipients aged below 60 who were either persons with disabilities or in ill-health, to the same level as those for elderly CSSA recipients in similar health conditions. This will more effectively help the recipients concerned meet their special needs arising from disabilities and poor health conditions. This proposal is expected to benefit about 55 000 people. The payment levels before and after the adjustment are at **Annex**.

3. Besides, the Community Living Supplement (CLS) under the CSSA Scheme is at present payable only to CSSA recipients who are 100% disabled (i.e. severely disabled) or in need of constant attendance, and are not living in institutions. The Financial Secretary proposed to extend the coverage of CLS to include CSSA recipients who were either persons with disabilities at non-severe levels or in ill-health or elders, and who were not living in institutions. They also have special care needs and would benefit from the additional assistance. The amount of the monthly CLS will also be increased from the existing \$120 to \$250 to better support the recipients' stay in the community. The enhanced CLS is expected to benefit about 190 000 people, including about 130 000 new beneficiaries.

***Provide an extra allowance to recipients of CSSA, OAA and DA***

4. To help ease the pressure of inflation and rising prices on people's livelihood, the Financial Secretary also proposed to provide an extra allowance to CSSA recipients, equal to one month of the CSSA standard rate payments; and an extra allowance to OAA and DA recipients, equal to one month of the allowances.

5. Different CSSA standard rates are applicable to different categories of recipients (such as elderly persons, children or able-bodied adults). These recipients will receive an additional one-off payment equivalent to one month of the standard rate to which they are applicable. Set out below are examples of the standard rate payment for CSSA households of different composition –

Single person able-bodied elder	:	\$2,680
Single person able-bodied adult	:	\$1,890
A 2-member CSSA household comprising one able-bodied elder and one 100% disabled elder	:	\$5,400
A 3-member CSSA household comprising one single parent and two able-bodied school children	:	\$5,235
A 4-member CSSA household comprising two able-bodied adults (one of them being a family carer) and two able-bodied school children	:	\$6,015

6. OAA and DA recipients will receive one additional month of the allowance, the current rates of which are as follows –

OAA	:	\$1,035
Normal DA	:	\$1,325
Higher DA	:	\$2,650

7. We estimate that about 1.1 million people (including 460 000 CSSA recipients, 510 000 OAA recipients and 130 000 DA recipients) will benefit from the extra one-month payment.

### **Financial implications**

8. The proposal in paragraph 2 above to raise the standard rates for adult CSSA recipients aged below 60 with disabilities or in ill-health is expected to involve an additional recurrent expenditure of about \$328 million. The proposals in paragraph 3 concerning CLS are expected to involve an additional recurrent expenditure of about \$590 million.

9. The estimated financial implication of the one-off payments in paragraphs 4 to 7 above is about \$1.94 billion (including \$1.19 billion for CSSA, \$0.54 billion for OAA and \$0.21 billion for DA).

10. With Members' support, we will submit the funding proposals to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council for approval before July this year.

### **Implementation**

11. Subject to FC's approval, the Social Welfare Department will make necessary adjustments to its computer system to implement the proposals.

12. As the proposals involve different computer programmes, the time required for system adjustment also differs. We will try our best to effect the additional one-off payments to CSSA, OAA and DA recipients first in July this year; and then the proposal to increase the standard rates

for adult CSSA recipients aged below 60 with disabilities or in ill-health in August this year; followed by the proposal to increase the monthly rate, and extend the coverage, of CLS in October this year.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau**  
**Social Welfare Department**  
**May 2011**

**Annex**

**Standard rates for adult Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients aged below 60 with disabilities or in ill-health**

Health condition	Before the increase		After the increase	
	Single person (\$)	Family member (\$)	Single person (\$) (% change)	Family member (\$) (% change)
Ill-health/ 50% disabled	2,275	2,060	2,680 (17.8%)	2,530 (22.8%)
100% disabled	2,840	2,450	3,245 (14.3%)	2,870 (17.1%)
Requiring constant attendance	4,145	3,770	4,570 (10.3%)	4,190 (11.1%)