

(Translation)

**Motion on  
“Strengthening the support for  
persons suffering from dementia and their carers”  
moved by Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou  
at the Council meeting of 22 February 2012**

**Motion as amended by Hon WONG Sing-chi, Dr Hon Joseph LEE and  
Hon Alan LEONG**

That, given that dementia (also known as ‘腦退化症’ or ‘癡呆症’ in the Chinese rendition) is a disease suffered by many people and it has wide-ranging effects and exerts heavy caring pressure on their family members; although the Chief Executive had respectively mentioned in the Policy Addresses for 2010-11 and 2011-12 that the services for persons suffering from dementia would be improved and increased, the situation has not shown any concrete improvements; with population ageing, the number of persons suffering from dementia in Hong Kong has continued to increase, but the Government all along lacks a long-term and comprehensive policy, and the support and resources provided are not sufficient to cope with the relevant demand, thus making such persons unable to receive appropriate treatment and care; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to:

- (a) co-ordinate the complementarity and collaboration between healthcare and welfare services, and formulate an inter-departmental, long-term and comprehensive policy to address the problem of dementia;
- (b) provide timely diagnosis, assessment, treatment and follow-up services for persons suffering from dementia, and set up and subsidize day care, assessment and support centres providing services specifically for persons suffering from dementia, so as to enable those persons in need to receive appropriate care;
- (c) immediately set up care and attention homes for people suffering from dementia, design and set up dedicated and comprehensive care services and ancillary facilities for such homes, and at the same time increase the service quota of residential care homes for the elderly and day care centres for the elderly as well as extend their service hours and increase their manpower, so as to shorten the waiting time of users and serve as a buffer;
- (d) introduce a carer empowerment programme and establish integrated community support services for strengthening carers’ practical caring

- skills and providing appropriate support, and introduce a carer allowance and emotional counselling services to strengthen the financial and mental support for family members and carers of persons suffering from dementia;
- (e) in establishing care and attention homes for people suffering from dementia and residential care homes for the elderly, introduce a multi-tiered care model for their environments and designs, so as to cater for different needs of persons suffering from varying degree of dementia;
  - (f) establish a database on persons suffering from dementia to facilitate more in-depth studies and statistical analyses on the conditions of such patients, and promptly assist them in receiving appropriate help when necessary;
  - (g) provide training to the relevant professionals to enhance their professional knowledge of treating, diagnosing and handling, etc. persons suffering from dementia; and
  - (h) enhance education for the whole community in relation to brain health and dementia so that the public may make prevention, and further strengthen the relevant primary healthcare services with a view to detecting persons suffering from dementia in the community at an early stage, facilitating early treatment of the disease and easing patients' conditions;
  - (i) set up support centres for people suffering from dementia in the 18 districts to provide counselling, emotional support and referral services, etc., assist and support carers in respect of their needs for long-term care, provide health education and organize social functions and recreational activities, etc., so as to enable the patients and carers to stay in touch with the community;
  - (j) establish outreach service teams comprising medical practitioners, community nurses and social workers, etc. to pay regular visits to patients receiving home care as well as follow up their conditions and keep contacts with them proactively, so as to expeditiously provide appropriate assistance to patients and carers in need; and
  - (k) set up integrated clinics with multidisciplinary services, and having regard to different needs at different times of persons suffering from dementia who also suffer from other diseases or even chronic diseases, put forward appropriate treatment proposals, so as to reduce patients' need to visit different hospital departments.