

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(3) 80/11-12

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Tel : 3919 3300

Date : 27 October 2011

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 9 November 2011

**Motion on
“Comprehensively reviewing the Disability Allowance scheme”**

Hon WONG Kwok-hing has given notice to move the attached motion on “Comprehensively reviewing the Disability Allowance scheme” at the Council meeting of 9 November 2011. The President has directed that “it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in” on the Agenda of the Council.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

Motion on
“Comprehensively reviewing the Disability Allowance scheme”
to be moved by Hon WONG Kwok-hing
at the Council meeting of 9 November 2011

Wording of the Motion

That Hong Kong’s existing Disability Allowance (‘DA’) scheme was formulated in 1973 and, after some 30 years of operation, the protection provided by the scheme has become outdated; some people with disabilities (‘PWDs’) (such as people with loss of one limb) are even not entitled to the allowance and not issued with the Registration Card for People with Disabilities because the scheme was inflexible, thus rendering them unable to enjoy MTR half-fare concessions for PWDs; in this connection, this Council urges the Administration to comprehensively review the DA scheme, so as to meet the needs of society today; the relevant review should include:

- (a) to review the criteria for the granting of DA, including granting an allowance proportionate to the degree of disability of the applicant;
- (b) to consider including professional social workers’ ‘whole-person assessment’ as one of the criteria in the vetting and approval process, rather than relying solely on medical practitioners for determining applicant’s eligibility or otherwise based on the degree of disability of the applicant;
- (c) to review the Medical Assessment Form and the checklist used for assessing a DA applicant’s degree of disability, and clearly specify the definition of and criteria on ‘visceral diseases’;
- (d) to comprehensively review the definition of ‘severely disabled’ under the existing DA scheme, and relax the criteria in the First Schedule to the Employees’ Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282 of the Laws of Hong Kong), i.e. a degree of disability broadly equivalent to a 100% loss of earning capacity, so as to strengthen the protection of PWDs; and

- (e) to comprehensively review the applicability of the various public transport concessions available at present to PWDs and the payment arrangements.