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By fax and email

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30 December 2013

Mr Colin CHUI  
Clerk to Subcommittee on Poverty  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(Fax No.: 2509 0775)

Dear Mr Chui,

**Subcommittee on Poverty  
Meeting on 9 July 2013**

At the meeting of the Subcommittee on Poverty held on 9 July 2013, the Administration was requested to provide information on –

- (a) the number of students enrolled in the vocational English courses under the Vocational English Enhancement Programme (VEEP); and
- (b) the numbers of applicants who had been offered 75% and 100% of subsidies to meet application fees under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mechanism.

For (a), as at 30 November 2013, a total of 54 classes were launched and 1 097 learners enrolled in the vocational English courses since the launch of VEEP in April 2011.

As for (b), Members may wish to know that before the enhancement of the Qualifications Framework Support Schemes (QFSS) in July 2011, practitioners were required to attend a course recognised under the Qualifications Framework (QF) before they could apply for 100% reimbursement of RPL assessment fees with a ceiling of \$1,000 for each applicant.

After the enhancement of QFSS in July 2011, the reimbursement of RPL assessment fees will be made to the practitioners by two stages. Upon successful completion of the RPL assessments, he/she could apply for a reimbursement of 75% of the RPL assessment fees. If he/she has duly completed any one training course recognised under QF afterwards, he/she could apply for reimbursement of the remaining 25% of the RPL assessment fees. The reimbursement (up to 100% of RPL assessment fees) is subject to a maximum ceiling of \$3,500 for each applicant.

With the enhancement of QFSS in July 2011, the number of clusters successfully recognised under the RPL mechanism with reimbursement has risen from 712 to 8 665. The ratio of RPL clusters receiving reimbursement has also increased from 12.0% before enhancement to 75.0% after enhancement. Details on the number of application and reimbursement under the RPL mechanism in terms of clusters as at 30 November 2013 are set out in the table below –

Number of clusters	Before	After	Total
	QFSS Enhancement		
Applications for assessment under the RPL mechanism	6 089	10 945	17 034
Successfully recognised under the RPL mechanism and eligible for reimbursement	5 931	10 611	16 542
Already received reimbursement	712 (12.0%)	7 953 (75.0%)	8 665
<i>Number of clusters with 100% reimbursement</i>	712	99	811
<i>Number of clusters with 75% reimbursement</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	7 854	7 854
Reimbursement being processed	<i>Not applicable</i>	190	190

It is worth noting that for applicants who have already received the maximum ceiling of reimbursement for previous RPL application(s), he/she would not be entitled to further reimbursement for subsequent RPL application(s). Also, given the need to complete a training course recognised under QF before a RPL qualification holder can apply for the remaining 25% reimbursement, there may be a time gap in between successful completion of the RPL assessments and submission of the 25% reimbursement applications.

Yours sincerely,



( Ms Pecvin Yong )  
for Secretary for Education