

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Formulating a comprehensive elderly care policy
to deal with population ageing”
moved by Hon TANG Ka-piu
at the Council meeting of 11 June 2014**

**Motion as amended by Hon Albert HO, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG and
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che**

That, given the rapid ageing of Hong Kong’s population, the demand for elderly care services in society continues to increase, but the policy strategies to deal with demographic challenges proposed earlier by the Steering Committee on Population Policy make no mention of elderly care services in the future; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to immediately formulate a comprehensive elderly care policy, make detailed planning for elderly care services in the future and promote collaboration between the medical and welfare sectors; the contents should include:

Service planning –

- (1) based on projections on the proportion and growth of elderly population in the future, to formulate medium- and long-term planning for elderly care services in the next 10 and 20 years, and on this basis, to reserve lands for developing elderly care services and train manpower, so as to ensure that social demand for community care services and residential care services for the elderly can be met every year;
- (2) to make stronger efforts to implement projects on redeveloping residential care homes for the elderly and constructing new ones, and reserve lands in more public and private development projects for building residential care homes for the elderly, so as to shorten elderly persons’ waiting time for residential care homes and reduce the number of elderly persons who have yet to be allocated a place in residential care homes when they passed away;
- (3) based on the proportions of the elderly population in various districts, to enhance community care services, including allocating additional resources to expand the existing integrated home care services and day respite service for elders, and providing a certain number of

places for emergency support services in various districts to deal with cases of serious nature and requiring immediate assistance;

- (4) to extensively consult various sectors of society on elderly services and formulate service indicators and criteria, so as to upgrade service effectiveness;

Policy reform –

- (5) to set up an inter-departmental office of long-term care services to co-ordinate the work of various departments which are responsible for elderly welfare, elderly care and elderly services;
- (6) to immediately rename the Chinese rendition of dementia from ‘老人癡呆症’ to ‘認知障礙症’, adopt the recommendations of the World Health Organization to formulate a comprehensive priority strategy to deal with dementia, and allocate resources to set up a dedicated service unit;
- (7) to review the standardized care need assessment mechanism for elderly services, and triage elderly persons based on their actual care needs to enable them to receive suitable services as early as possible, and in turn effectively alleviate the problem of unduly long waiting time for services;
- (8) to review the requirement on the area of floor space for each resident in newly constructed residential care homes and day service centres for the elderly, so as to progressively enhance the care standard of elderly services;
- (9) focusing on the segregation of the medical and welfare sectors in elderly care services at present, to strengthen healthcare and home care services in the community, and further develop primary healthcare services, including increasing the number of elderly health centres to shorten the waiting time for elderly persons to enroll as members, providing more medical examination services in elderly health centres, and based on the proportions of the elderly population in the 18 districts, setting service quotas and maximum waiting periods for services in various districts, so as to support the care needs of elderly persons who are unable to get a place in residential care homes for the elderly, and in the three major directions of training, support and accreditation, formulate a dedicated policy on

carers of the elderly, thereby perfecting the existing long-term care policy based on ‘ageing in place’;

Manpower resources —

- (10) based on the medium- and long-term planning for elderly care services, to project the manpower demand for the services, comprehensively assess afresh the existing policy of manpower resources development for elderly and care services, including reviewing the training, remuneration packages and career prospects for frontline carers in elderly services, and, apart from considering how to enhance the standard of the relevant services on the whole, also raise the social status of the industry, so as to attract more new entrants; and
- (11) to review the bidding system for elderly service contracts to reduce cyclical wastage of manpower;

in addition, given the continuing increase in the numbers of elderly persons with disabilities and elderly persons with dementia and chronic diseases, coupled with the ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities, this Council also urges that rather than adopting age as the sole criterion, the Government should also take the needs and long-term care of elderly persons as the basis to immediately formulate a comprehensive elderly care policy; this Council also urges the Government:

Service planning —

- (12) to relaunch hostels for the elderly and build a diversified range of residential care homes to enable elderly persons to live in the community without any worry; and reserve the several bottom floors of newly constructed public housing blocks for operating small-scale residential care hostels or residential care homes for the elderly;
- (13) to implement community care for the elderly based on the concept of ‘care in the community’; compile detailed statistics on the service demands of service users in various districts for formulating five- and 10-year planning on community care services; expand meal delivery, escort for medical consultation and household cleaning services, increase the number of day service centres for the elderly and establish a central enquiry service system;

- (14) in order to resolve the problem of serious shortage of venues for community support services for the elderly at present, to conduct a study on the provision of diversified community support services and activities for the elderly, such as adventure activities for elderly persons;

Policy reform —

- (15) based on the concept of ‘care in the community’, to map out a development strategy for the retired population and formulate a comprehensive inter-departmental elderly policy on areas such as healthcare, housing, community support, financial protection, long-term care, social participation, urban construction and cultural development for elderly persons, etc., so as to provide elderly persons with suitable education and living environment;
- (16) to streamline the existing application procedures for the Dementia Supplement, including assessing afresh recipients’ eligibility for the supplement at an interval of two years; and extend the scope of the Dementia Supplement to other community care services, so that service operators have more resources to provide services to homebound Dementia patients;
- (17) to collate and analyze the case information obtained under the standardized care need assessment mechanism for elderly services, and assess and adjust the quality of existing services, so as to provide reference for planning and introducing new services in the future, enabling the Government to allocate resources more effectively; and

Manpower resources —

- (18) to conduct planning for the manpower establishment and resources for various kinds of elderly services.