

**立法會**  
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**Panel on Health Services**

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 28 October 2013**

**AIDS Trust Fund**

**Purpose**

This paper summarizes the concerns of the members of the Panel on Health Services ("the Panel") on the AIDS Trust Fund ("ATF").

**Background**

2. ATF was established on 30 April 1993 with a capital commitment of \$350 million. The Fund provides (a) ex-gratia payments for persons infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus ("HIV") through the transfusion in Hong Kong of blood products prior to August 1985; (b) financial support for medical and support services for HIV-infected patients to augment the existing services provided by the Hospital Authority and the Department of Health ("DH"); and (c) financial support for publicity and public education activities on prevention of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome ("AIDS").

3. ATF is administered on the advice of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund, which is appointed by the Chief Executive. Three Sub-Committees are set up under the Council to consider funding applications for the above three areas. There are two types of funding support for (b) and (c) above, namely, programme fund for activities designed to be run for longer term or repeated in cycles, and project fund for one-off activities designed to be completed within one year. There is no pre-set ceiling for grants allocated under the programme fund, whereas the grant ceiling of each project under the project fund is \$0.5 million. During the period from 2007-2008 to 2012-2013, there were a

total of 183 applications for the programme and project funds, of which 101 were granted funding support and 82 were rejected. Details of the statistics on programmes and projects supported during the period are in **Appendix I**. As at 31 March 2012, the balance of ATF was \$89.4 million.

### **Deliberations of the Panel**

4. The Panel held a meeting in March 2007 to discuss the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. The deliberations and concerns of members on ATF are summarized below.

5. Concern was raised about whether the funding allocation of ATF was following closely the changing needs arising from the prevalent epidemic in Hong Kong. The Administration advised that an Advisory Council on AIDS ("ACA") was formed in 1990 to advise the Government on policies relating to the prevention, care and control of HIV infection and AIDS in Hong Kong. One of its key tasks was to recommend a set of five-year HIV/AIDS strategies for Hong Kong. The five identified priority areas for action for 2007-2011 included: (a) scaling up targeted HIV prevention in risk populations with men having sex with men being the most pressing priority; (b) mobilizing an effective community-based response with prioritization of resources to the areas of need and the provision of adequate technical support; (c) enhancing surveillance and HIV testing; (d) sustaining access to quality treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS; and (e) interfacing with Mainland China and nearby regions for an effective response. The Council for ATF would take into account ACA's latest recommended HIV/AIDS strategies in considering applications for the programme and project funds.

6. Members were further advised that in response to the local epidemic, ATF had been and would set aside additional funds to support community-based programmes or projects. For instance, a two-year Special Project Fund devoted to HIV prevention for men who had sex with men was launched on 1 December 2006. A sum of \$9 million from ATF had been apportioned to the Special Project Fund for the financial years of 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

7. There were views that financial support of ATF should be targeted at medical and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS, training for frontline AIDS workers, and public education for youth and students on the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

8. According to the Administration, supporting community-based programmes and grants on HIV/AIDS publicity and public education targeting the youth had all along been one of the priority funding areas of ATF. In addition, DH had launched a website in collaboration with Radio Television Hong Kong on educating young people the importance of practising safe sex. Outreach teams would also visit schools to promote safe sex regularly.

### **Recent development**

9. ACA promulgated the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012-2016 in March 2012. Based on the Strategies, ATF will accord higher funding priorities to programmes targeted at the five high risk groups, namely, men who have sex with men, male clients of female sex workers, injecting drug users, sex workers and people living with HIV, and tie in with the following priority areas as identified by ACA -

- (a) scale up HIV prevention in priority communities including men having sex with men, male clients of female sex workers, injecting drug users and sex workers;
- (b) maintain holistic and quality HIV treatment, care and support;
- (c) foster an environment which supports safer sex, harm reduction and anti-discrimination;
- (d) drive strategically informed and accountable interventions; and
- (e) enhance partnership and capacity for an effective response within Hong Kong and the nearby region.

### **Relevant papers**

10. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in **Appendix II**.

**Statistics on programmes and projects supported by the AIDS Trust Fund  
during the period from 2007-2008 to 2012-2013**

**Number of approved applications**

Category	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	Total
Medical Support and Services	2	2	9	6	6	7	32
Publicity and Public Education	6	7	8	3	10	8	42
Special Project Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	22	4	1	-	-	-	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>101</b>

**Number of rejected applications**

Category	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	Total
Medical Support and Services	1	4	6	6	6	11	34
Publicity and Public Education	2	3	11	5	4	2	27
Special Project Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	17	4	-	-	-	-	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>82</b>

**Amount granted by at-risk group (HK\$'000) <sup>(2)</sup>**

Target group of applications	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	Total	Percentage
Cross-border travelers	0	3,294	0	0	4,142	0	7,436	5%
Commercial sex workers and clients	2,617	4,837	3,185	4,539	8,717	3,196	27,092	18%
Men who have sex with men	7,646	8,352	7,443	0	12,677	11,651	47,769	31%
Injecting drug users	2,916	2,450	0	3,402	2,377	0	11,144	7%
People living with HIV/AIDS	0	8,588	1,547	336	10,670	1,096	22,239	15%
Research	2,468	259	4,465	3,458	1,345	3,648	15,643	10%
Others	2,844	6,555	65	3,278	9,176	74	21,992	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,490</b>	<b>34,335</b>	<b>16,706</b>	<b>15,013</b>	<b>49,105</b>	<b>19,666</b>	<b>153,315</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: (1) Upon its expiry in August 2008, Special Project Fund has been subsumed under Medical Support and Services and Publicity and Public Education application.

(2) Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

Source: Website of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund at <http://www.atf.gov.hk>

**Relevant papers on the AIDS Trust Fund**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>
Panel on Health Services	12.3.2007 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a> <a href="#">CB(2)2437/06-07(01)</a>

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