

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES**

**Supplementary Information on the Community Care Fund
Elderly Dental Assistance Programme**

At the Panel meeting on 26 January 2015, Members requested the Administration to provide information on :-

- the number of elderly persons, broken down by age, who were aged between 70 and 79 and were eligible for the Community Care Fund Elderly Dental Assistance ("EDA") Programme if the age limit for EDA Programme was lowered from 80 to 70.

The Administration's response is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

2. The Community Care Fund launched the EDA Programme in 2012 to provide free dentures and related dental services for elders on low income who are users of the home care service or home help service schemes subvented by the Social Welfare Department.

3. To enable more needy elders to benefit from the EDA Programme, the Commission on Poverty (CoP) agreed to expand the Programme to cover elders who are Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) recipients. In view of the large number of elders involved (over 410 000 OALA recipients as at end-December 2014), the CoP also agreed that expansion of the EDA Programme to cover this target group should be implemented by phases, starting with those aged 80 or above in the first phase (involving around 130 000 elders).

4. We will closely monitor the take-up rate (which will be affected by many factors like the number of participating dentists and the response of eligible elders) after implementation of the Expanded Programme. When the demand from the 80+ age group starts easing, the CoP will consider extending the EDA Programme to other age groups of OALA recipients.

5. As at end-December 2014, there were over 170 000 OALA recipients aged between 70 and 79, broken down as follows –

Age	Number of OALA Recipients
79	16 021
78	16 508
77	17 378
76	17 970
75	16 857
74	16 824
73	15 194
72	16 791
71	17 716
70	20 284
Total:	171 543

**Home Affairs Bureau
Food and Health Bureau
Social Welfare Department
February 2015**