

政府總部
勞工及福利局
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政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices
Tim Mei Avenue
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17 April 2015

Mr Colin CHUI
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Welfare Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chui,

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services
Follow-up Actions for Meeting on 9 March 2015**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services held on 9 March 2015, some Members have requested the Government to provide further information on Disability Allowance (DA) and its review. Our responses are as follows.

Decision of the Social Security Appeal Board on DA applications

From 2010-11 to 2014-15 financial years, the Social Security Appeal Board (SSAB) ruled on a total of 1 344 appeals on DA applications. The SSAB confirmed the decision of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in 961 (72%) cases and varied SWD's decision in 383 (28%) cases. The breakdowns are set out at **Annex I**.

Means-testing arrangements for assistance programmes for persons with disabilities in places outside Hong Kong

The requisite information, provided by the consultancy team, is at **Annex II**.

Medical assessment form under DA

At the Panel meeting on 9 March, the Chairman suggested the Government to brief Members belonging to different political parties on issues relating to the medical assessment form, and revert to the Panel thereafter. The Labour and Welfare Bureau and SWD are now following up with the Chairman's suggestion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Stella Chang', written in black ink.

(Miss Stella CHANG)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Decision of the SSAB on DA Applications

Financial year	Number of cases under which SWD's decisions were confirmed		Number of cases under which SWD's decisions were varied		Total
2010-11	161	69%	73	31%	234
2011-12	213	73%	80	27%	293
2012-13	181	68%	87	32%	268
2013-14	196	75%	67	25%	263
2014-15 (As at end of February 2015)	210	73%	76	27%	286
Total	961	72%	383	28%	1 344

**A Study on the Practice outside Hong Kong on Financial Assistance for Persons with Disabilities:
Means-testing Arrangements¹ for Major Financial Assistance Programmes² outside Hong Kong**

Place	Australia			The United States	Taiwan
Assistance programme	Disability Support Pension (DSP)	Sickness Allowance (SA)	Carer Payment (CP)	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Life Subsidy for People with Disabilities (LS)
Qualifying age	Aged 16 or above and until retirement age ³	Aged 22 or above and until retirement age ³	Aged 16 or above	All ages	All ages
Nature of assistance	Income replacement				
Funding source	Taxation				
Individual assessment	✓ ⁴	✓ ⁴	✓ ⁶	✓ ⁴	Not applicable
Couple assessment	✓ ⁵	✓ ⁵	✓ ⁶	✓ ⁵	
Family assessment	Not applicable				✓ ⁷

¹ All programmes mentioned in this Annex are both income and asset tested.

² Only include means-tested programmes. The major assistance programmes of the United Kingdom and Macao covered in the consultancy study are non-means-tested.

³ The current retirement age in Australia is 65 years old. The retirement age would increase from 65 years old to 65 years and six months from 1 July 2017, and increase by six months every two years thereafter until it reaches 67 years old.

⁴ If an applicant is single (i.e. not married or divorced), only the financial situation of the applicant would be assessed under the DSP and SA in Australia, as well as SSI in the United States, while the financial situation of his/her family member(s) would not be taken into consideration.

⁵ If an applicant is married, his/her financial situation together with that of his/her spouse (regardless of whether they are living together) would be assessed under the DSP and SA in Australia, while the financial situation of other family member(s) would not be taken into consideration. Under the SSI in the United States, if an applicant is married, his/her financial situation together with that of his/her spouse who is living together would be assessed, while the financial situation of other family member(s) would not be taken into consideration. Separately, the SSI in the United States is applicable to all ages. For a child applicant, SSI would assess the financial situation of the applicant and his/her parent(s) or guardian who is/are living together, while the financial situation of other family member(s) would not be taken into consideration.

⁶ The CP in Australia assesses the financial situation of the carer (i.e. the applicant) and the care receiver respectively. For the carer, only his/her financial situation would be assessed regardless of whether he/she is married. As regards the care receiver, if he/she is single (i.e. not married or divorced), only his/her financial situation would be assessed; if the care receiver is married, his/her financial situation together with that of his/her spouse (regardless of whether they are living together) would be assessed. If the care receiver is a child, his/her financial situation together with that of his/her parent(s) or guardian who is/are living together would be assessed.

⁷ Under LS in Taiwan, the relevant authority would assess the financial situation of the applicant and all his/her family member(s) living together.