

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services**

**Additional Provision for Social Security Recipients**

**Purpose**

This paper informs Members of the Government's proposal to provide an extra payment to recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), Old Age Allowance (OAA) (including the Guangdong (GD) Scheme hereafter), Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and Disability Allowance (DA).

**Proposal**

2. The Financial Secretary proposed in his 2016-17 Budget, as a one-off measure, the provision of an extra allowance to social security recipients, equal to one month of the standard rate CSSA payments or allowance payments under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme which includes Old Age Allowance (OAA), Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and Disability Allowance (DA). Details are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

3. For CSSA recipients, the extra payment will be equivalent to one month of the standard rates. Different standard rates are applicable to different categories of recipients (such as elderly persons, children or able-bodied adults). The following are examples of the monthly standard rates for different CSSA persons / households<sup>1</sup> –

Single elderly person (aged 60 or above)	\$3,340
Single able-bodied adult	\$2,355
A 2-member CSSA family comprising	\$6,725

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<sup>1</sup> The amounts have taken account of the 4.4% increase in CSSA standard payment rates in accordance with the established adjustment mechanism. The adjustment would take retrospective effect from 1 February 2016 and the back payment would be effected upon the passage of the Appropriation Bill 2016.

one elderly person and one 100% disabled elderly person

A 3-member CSSA family comprising one single parent and two school children \$6,520

A 4-member CSSA family comprising two able-bodied adults (one of them being a family carer) and two school children \$7,500

4. For recipients of OAA, OALA and DA, the extra payment will be equivalent to one month of the allowance. The monthly rates of allowances are as follows<sup>2</sup> –

OAA	\$1,290
OALA	\$2,495
Normal DA	\$1,650
Higher DA	\$3,300

5. It is estimated that about 1.18 million people, including 360 000 CSSA recipients, 220 000 OAA recipients, 20 000 GD Scheme recipients, 440 000 OALA recipients and 130 000 DA recipients<sup>3</sup>, will benefit from this proposal.

### **Financial implications**

6. The estimated financial implication of the one-off payments is \$2,821 million (including \$1,149 million for CSSA standard rates and \$1,672 million for allowances under the SSA Scheme). The funding proposal will be submitted to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council for approval.

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<sup>2</sup> The amounts have taken account of the 4.4% increase in the rates of allowances in accordance with the established adjustment mechanism. The adjustment would take retrospective effect from 1 February 2016 and the back payment would be effected upon the passage of the Appropriation Bill 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

## **Implementation**

7. Subject to FC's approval, the Social Welfare Department will make necessary adjustments to its computer system to implement the proposal as soon as possible.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau  
Social Welfare Department  
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