

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)2012/16-17

(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Minutes of special meeting  
held on Thursday, 4 May 2017, at 9:00 am  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Chairman)  
Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Hon Alvin YEUNG  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon HUI Chi-fung  
Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung  
Dr Hon LAU Siu-lai

**Members absent** : Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick

[According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 14 July 2017, LEUNG Kwok-hung, Nathan LAW Kwun-chung, YIU Chung-yim and LAU Siu-lai have been disqualified from assuming the office of a member of the Legislative Council, and have vacated the same since 12 October 2016, and are not entitled to act as a member of the Legislative Council.]

**Public  
Officers  
attending** : Item I

Mr Donald CHEN, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2  
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr David LEUNG, JP  
Commissioner for Rehabilitation  
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr Gordon CHONG  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
(Welfare) 4  
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Miss Cecilla LI  
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration)  
Social Welfare Department

Mr FONG Kai-leung  
Assistant Director (Rehabilitation and Medical Social  
Services)  
Social Welfare Department

Dr Christina MAW  
Chief Manager (Primary and Community Services)  
Hospital Authority

**Attendance by  
invitation** : Item I

Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth

Ms TSUI Yuk-mui  
Honorary Treasurer

自強協會四輪社區聯會

馬汐曉小姐  
輪社會成員

1st Step Association

Miss NG Yan-yee  
Centre in Charge

殘疾人士及長期病患者就業關注組

Mr CHIU Ho-lam  
主席

Miss LAU Kam-fung

Mr Simon KO Chong

吳振權先生

王芷欣小姐

Mr NG Siu-lun

The Civic Party

Miss Eunice CHAU Yuen-man  
District Developer

白田關注組

Miss Felicia FU Yau  
成員

Rights of Mild Intellectual Disability Concern Group

Mr TAM Wai-yip  
Secretary

Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association Ltd.

Miss Jintana SAE SOW  
Senior Organizing Officer

Mrs LAM Chun

New People's Party

Mr TONG Hok-leung  
代表

Mr YU Kam-chung

四輪社區聯會

曾啟先生  
輪社會成員

肌肉萎縮症倡議小組

Mr YAN Chun-ki  
副會長

The Forthright Caucus

Mr YIP Kin-keung  
Representative

Department of Social Work & Social Administration,  
The University of Hong Kong

Dr Donna WONG  
香港大學社會工作及社會行政榮譽助理教授

Mr SI Wai-san

Hong Kong Parkinson's Disease Association

Ms CHAN Yin  
Treasurer

The Association of Parents of The Severely Mentally  
Handicapped

Mr LEE Chi-yung  
Chairman

香港弱智人士家長聯會（權益服務組）

Mr YEUNG Ka-keung  
Member

Ms LAM Sin-man

Ms HO Bo-ching

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress  
of Hong Kong

Miss LAI Ka-man  
Deputy Spokesperson

The Parents' Association of Pre-school Handicapped  
Children

Ms CHEUNG Kwok-chun  
Representative

**Clerk in  
attendance** : Mr Colin CHUI  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in  
attendance** : Ms Catherina YU  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Mr Roger CHUNG  
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Alison HUI  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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Action

**I. Review of Disability Allowance and the system for processing applications thereof**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)931/16-17(06) and CB(2)1287/16-17(01)]

At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)2 ("DS(W)2") briefed members on the progress of implementation of the recommendations of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Review of the Disability Allowance, in particular that of the recommendation relating to the amendments to the Medical Assessment Form ("MAF") for the Disability Allowance ("DA").

2. The Chairman invited the deputations/individuals to present their views. A total of 28 deputations/individuals expressed their views which were summarized in the **Appendix**.

Discussion

*Review of Disability Allowance*

Admin

3. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung requested the Administration to provide a paper within the current term of the Government, setting out its response to the views and suggestions on DA expressed by the deputations/individuals at the meeting. He considered that as DA recipients could not receive other social security allowances, the amount of DA should be increased to cover the recipients' high expenses of their basic necessities. Mr LEUNG enquired whether the Administration would regard DA as a separate allowance and review DA with a view to improving the living standard of persons with disabilities ("PWDs").

4. Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed dissatisfaction that DA remained unchanged for a long period and the proposed amendments to MAF were made for administrative convenience. The Administration should comprehensively review the basic needs of PWDs and provide payment at levels according to the extent of the disabling conditions.

5. DS(W)2 responded that under the "no-double benefit rule", an individual could not receive more than one social security payment at the same time. PWDs in financial need might consider applying for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA"). Disabled CSSA recipients would, depending on their disabling conditions, receive higher CSSA standard payment rates as well as various supplements and special grants. As DA was a non-contributory and non-means-tested cash allowance, the Administration had to ensure the proper use of public fund. The payment rates of DA would be adjusted annually in accordance with

established mechanism. Besides, the Administration had all along strived to enhance other support services for PWDs so as to address their special needs arising from their disabilities.

6. DS(W)2 further said that according to a consultancy study on the practices of other places on the provision of financial assistance for PWDs, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health ("ICF") was a classification system published by the World Health Organization. It was not an assessment tool. Currently, only a few countries and regions implemented the ICF system. Taiwan had prepared for the implementation of the ICF-based classification system and the effectiveness of ICF had yet to be assessed. The Administration had invited the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee to continue monitoring the adoption of ICF in neighbouring places (in particular Taiwan), with a view to exploring how to devise a set of comprehensive and widely accepted definition of disability and level of disability applicable to Hong Kong.

7. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the majority of PWDs were ineligible for DA as an applicant for DA had to be assessed as severely disabled. Pointing out that The Ombudsman recommended in its 2009 Direct Investigation Report that the reference to "100% loss of earning capacity" ("the Reference") should be removed from the eligibility criteria for DA, Dr CHEUNG considered that whether an applicant was employed or not was irrelevant to his/her eligibility for DA. He expressed concern that as the assessment criterion of "work in the original occupation and perform any other kind of work for which he/she is suited" ("the work-related criterion") was only one of the four activities in daily living for assessing whether a DA applicant would be eligible for DA, the proposed removal of the criterion would reduce an applicant's opportunity to receive DA. According to his understanding, one third of the recipients were eligible for DA since they had one of the six disabilities (i.e. organic brain syndrome, mental retardation, psychosis, neurosis, personality disorder and any other conditions resulting in total mental disablement) ("the Six Disabilities") mentioned in Part I(B) of MAF. Dr CHEUNG was worried that the removal of the Six Disabilities would result in fewer people eligible for DA.

8. While agreeing to remove the Reference from MAF, Dr LAU Siu-lai objected to the proposed removal of the work-related criterion and the Six Disabilities. She considered that given the short period of time available for the medical assessment, doctors could not easily identify persons with "invisible disabilities" with the current MAF. The removal of the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF would render some PWDs ineligible for DA. Dr LAU suggested that MAF should be more comprehensive to

facilitate assessment on patients' disabling conditions.

9. DS(W)2 reiterated that the amendments to MAF were proposed with a view to clarifying the eligibility for DA which was not related to whether the person was engaged in a paid job. The proposed amendments also sought to better assist doctors in conducting the medical assessment on DA applicants. The Administration had no intention to change the policy intent of or tighten the existing eligibility criteria for DA. Noting that some PWDs were concerned about the proposed removal of the Six Disabilities, the Administration might explore whether the reference to these types of disabilities could be retained in the revised MAF in the form of examples for doctors' reference. The Administration was willing to discuss further with the Hospital Authority ("HA") other suggestions on the proposed amendments to MAF.

*Medical assessment on and appeal mechanism for Disability Allowance*

10. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that HA doctors should not bear the primary responsibility to assess the eligibility of DA applicants. In his view, applicants' eligibility for DA should be comprehensively assessed by a team of doctors, occupational therapists, psychologists and social workers. Dr KWOK enquired whether the Administration had provided HA with adequate financial support and training for doctors responsible for conducting medical assessments. He sought information on the requirement of seniority and specialty for doctors involved in conducting medical assessments on DA.

11. Noting that DA recipients with permanent disabling conditions were subject to medical reviews for renewal of their eligibility for DA, Dr LAU Siu-lai said that such an arrangement should be reviewed so as to relieve the burden on DA recipients and doctors. Dr Pierre CHAN said that an HA doctor had to conduct a medical assessment within a short period of time and would be held accountable for not granting DA. While the doctor would consider a DA applicant's medical records and clinical conditions during medical assessment, he/she might exercise his/her discretion in deciding the eligibility of the applicant concerned. Dr CHAN considered that involvement of other professionals would increase the time of and difficulty for conducting a medical assessment.

12. DS(W)2 replied that the Administration considered it appropriate for an applicant's eligibility for DA to be assessed by a doctor. Given the nature of DA, engaging other professional bodies in medical assessment might delay the processing of applications. Issues such as resources and proportionality should also be considered.



Admin 13. Chief Manager (Primary and Community Services) supplemented that an HA doctor would, in accordance with the established criteria and guidelines under DA, exercise professional judgment to assess whether the applicant was severely disabled within the meaning of DA. HA had provided guidelines to doctors on the criteria for DA medical assessment and provided briefing and guidance to doctors (including newly recruited doctors) through various hospitals in order to strengthen doctors' understanding of the policy intent of DA, eligibility criteria and the relevant medical assessment criteria. Under the existing arrangement, HA doctors would make assessment on the basis of DA applicants' conditions at the time of medical consultation and in accordance with the established criteria using MAF. The majority of the medical assessments were done by the attending doctors. Dr KWOK Ka-ki requested the Administration to provide information on (a) the seniority and specialty of doctors involved in conducting medical assessments on DA applicants; and (b) the training provided for doctors who conducted such medical assessments.

Admin 14. In response to Mr CHAN Chi-chuen's enquiry about the procedural arrangements and waiting time under the existing appeal mechanism for DA, Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration) advised that DA applicants could appeal to the Social Security Appeal Board ("SSAB") if they were not satisfied with the decision of the Social Welfare Department on their applications. SSAB and HA would then arrange the appellant to undergo another round of medical assessment to be processed by an independent medical assessment board. Members of the medical assessment board comprised doctors from both public and private medical institutions. The appeal would be handled within six months. The Administration undertook to provide information on the number of appeals to SSAB involving DA and the outcome of the appeals in 2015-2016.

*Eligibility of hospitalized patients with disabilities for Higher Disability Allowance*

15. Dr Fernando CHEUNG criticized the Administration for reducing the amount of allowance for Higher DA recipients who had been hospitalized for more than 29 days to that of Normal DA, given that these patients had to pay for high medical expenses during their hospitalization. He considered that such an arrangement should be reviewed as DA recipients would become ineligible for the programme of Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled under the Community Care Fund.

*(At 11:24 am, the Chairman extended the meeting for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time to allow sufficient time for discussion.)*

16. The Deputy Chairman was dissatisfied about the allowance reduction arrangement for the hospitalized Higher DA recipients. He considered that PWDs had to be admitted to hospitals due to their medical needs. The Deputy Chairman urged the Administration to review such an arrangement as soon as possible.

17. Dr LAU Siu-lai said that the Administration reduced the allowance for hospitalized Higher DA recipients because it considered that PWDs would receive care during their stay at hospitals. However, due to a lack of manpower and resources, health care professionals at hospitals could not provide adequate care for patients with disabilities. Family members had to help the patients cope with their daily life in the hospitals.

18. DS(W)2 advised that DA was introduced for severely disabled persons who as a result needed substantial help from others to cope with daily life. Severely disabled persons who were in need of constant attendance would be eligible for Higher DA. Currently, if an applicant was receiving care in a residential services unit subsidized by the Government or public hospital, or boarding in a special school under the Education Bureau, he/she would only be granted Normal DA even if he/she might be eligible for Higher DA. As for existing Higher DA recipients, their allowance would be adjusted to Normal DA if they had been admitted to the aforesaid institutions for more than 29 days. In other words, if a Higher DA recipient who stayed in a public hospital for less than one month, i.e. 29 days, he/she would still be granted Higher DA. The above arrangement was to avoid double benefit. On the other hand, a wide range of community support and rehabilitation services were available to meet the various needs of PWDs.

### Motion

19. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung moved the following motion:

"本委員會強烈要求政府盡快改善目前對殘疾人士支援的政策，其中包括：

1. 就傷津醫療評估表格：
  - i. 刪除'喪失 100%賺取收入能力'的提述；
  - ii. 保留'從事原有的職業及擔任其適合的任何其他種類的工作'的評估選項；及
  - iii. 保留 B 部分所列的殘疾類別並擴大其範圍；
2. 傷殘津貼應獨立，不應與其他福利項目掛鈎；及

3. 檢討傷殘津貼制度及提升津貼金額，以改善傷殘人士的生活質素。"

(Translation)

"This Panel strongly requests the Government to improve as soon as possible the current policies on providing support to persons with disabilities, which include:

1. regarding the Medical Assessment Form for Disability Allowance ('DA'):
  - i. removing the reference to '100% loss of earning capacity';
  - ii. retaining the assessment criterion of 'working in the original occupation and performing any other kind of work for which he/she is suited'; and
  - iii. retaining the categories of disability set out in Part B and extending its coverage;
2. taking DA as a separate allowance, rather than pegging it with other welfare projects; and
3. reviewing the DA system and raising the amount of DA payment, with a view to improving the living standard of persons with disabilities."

20. The Chairman put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

21. At the invitation of the Chairman, the following deputations/individuals gave views as follows:

- (a) Mr LEE Chi-yung of The Association of Parents of The Severely Mentally Handicapped expressed concern about the arrangement of conducting medical reviews for renewal of the eligibility of DA recipients;
- (b) Mr CHIU Ho-lam of 殘疾人士及長期病患者就業關注組 was dissatisfied that the Administration relied merely on the assessment from doctors for the eligibility of DA applicants;
- (c) 王芷欣小姐 was of the view that the payment level of CSSA was inadequate for basic necessities of her daily life. She

suggested that CSSA recipients should be granted DA if they satisfied the eligibility criteria;

- (d) Mr Simon KO suggested that the Administration should take into account PWDs' various needs and situations in providing assistance for them, and complete the revision of MAF as soon as possible to facilitate doctors in conducting medical assessments on DA applicants; and
- (e) Ms LAM Sin-man said that the Administration should review DA to assess the eligibility of applicants in accordance with their degrees of disabilities. She called on the Administration to make its best efforts to facilitate PWDs in securing employment and living with dignity.

22. The Chairman summarized the views given and concerns raised by the deputations/individuals and members, and called on the Administration to consider their suggestions including the proposed amendments to MAF, eligibility criteria for DA and the appeal mechanism for DA.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response to the required information under this discussion item was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1982/16-17(01) on 1 August 2017.)*

## **II. Any other business**

23. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:49 am.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
9 August 2017

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Special meeting on Thursday, 4 May 2017, at 9:00 am**

**Review of Disability Allowance and the system for processing applications thereof**

**Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/individuals**

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
1.	Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth [LC Paper No. CB(2)1287/16-17(06)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the reference to "100% loss of earning capacity" ("the Reference") from the medical assessment form ("MAF").</li> <li>● Objected to remove the assessment criterion of "work in the original occupation and perform any other kind of work for which he/she is suited" ("the work-related criterion") from MAF, which would render some persons with disabilities ("PWDs") ineligible for Disability Allowance ("DA").</li> <li>● Objected to remove the six disabilities (i.e. organic brain syndrome, mental retardation, psychosis, neurosis, personality disorder and any other conditions resulting in total mental disablement) ("the Six Disabilities") from Part I(B) of MAF, which would render some PWDs ineligible for DA.</li> <li>● The waiting time for the appeal mechanism was too long for unsuccessful DA applicants to seek re-assessment. The Administration should make a performance pledge on the processing time of appeals.</li> <li>● The Administration should consider adding a tier to DA to provide a lower level of DA to cater for the needs of persons without one limb and persons with mild disabilities.</li> <li>● Applicants' eligibility for DA should be comprehensively assessed by a team of doctors, occupational therapists and social workers.</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should provide a monthly Transport Supplement ("TS") for DA recipients aged below 12 and aged 65 or above.</li> </ul>
2.	自強協會四輪社區聯會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It would be subjective and unclear to rely merely on the assessment from doctors for the eligibility of DA applicants.</li> <li>● The Administration should make reference to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health ("ICF") of the World Health Organization ("WHO") to develop a set of objective criteria for disability under DA.</li> </ul>
3.	1st Step Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)1333/16-17(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● The Administration should review the assessment mechanism which was conducted merely by doctors.</li> <li>● The waiting time for the appeal mechanism was too long for unsuccessful DA applicants to seek re-assessment.</li> <li>● The arrangement that the allowance for Higher DA recipients who had been hospitalized for more than 29 days would be reduced to Normal DA should be reviewed, as the recipients would become ineligible for the programme of Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled ("Special Care Subsidy") under the Community Care Fund ("CCF").</li> </ul>
4.	殘疾人士及長期病患者就業關注組 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1287/16-17(10)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related criterion from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF, which would render some persons with intellectual disabilities ineligible for DA.</li> <li>● DA should also be provided for</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>patients with chronic illness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should increase the amount of DA to \$2,500.</li> <li>● The Administration should provide Health Care Voucher for PWDs and patients suffering chronic illness.</li> <li>● DA should be reviewed annually having regard to inflation in the year concerned, so that the amount of DA is adequate for basic necessities.</li> </ul>
5.	Miss LAU Kam-fung [LC Paper No. CB(2)1287/16-17(08)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related criterion from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF.</li> <li>● The Administration should increase the amount of DA for persons suffering from Thalassaemia to cover the high medical expenses.</li> <li>● The Administration should review the arrangements, made in December 2016 for the purpose of DA assessment, about the use of external and internal mechanical devices by DA applicants.</li> <li>● Queried about the function of obtaining the Registration Card for People with Disabilities as the card holders might not be eligible for DA.</li> <li>● Expressed concern about the inconsistency of doctors in assessing the applicants' eligibility for DA.</li> </ul>
6.	Mr Simon KO Chong [LC Paper No. CB(2)1287/16-17(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF, which would render some persons with intellectual disabilities ineligible for DA.</li> <li>● The Administration should improve the arrangement of medical reviews as the long waiting time would affect the progress in establishing continued eligibility for DA.</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should complete the revision of MAF as soon as possible to facilitate doctors in conducting medical assessments.</li> </ul>
7.	吳振權先生	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expressed disappointment that the Administration had not reviewed DA for a long time.</li> </ul>
8.	王芷欣小姐 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1287/16-17(07)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should review the eligibility criteria of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities ("the Fare Concession Scheme") so that more PWDs would benefit from the \$2 concessionary fare for public transport.</li> <li>● The granting of DA and the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") should be treated separately. The payment levels of CSSA could not cater for the needs of its recipients.</li> <li>● The Administration should provide Health Care Voucher for PWDs.</li> </ul>
9.	Mr NG Siu-lun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related criterion from MAF, which would render some PWDs ineligible for DA.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF to facilitate doctors in conducting medical assessments.</li> <li>● The Administration should make reference to ICF of WHO to develop a set of objective criteria for disability under DA.</li> <li>● Applicants' eligibility for DA should be comprehensively assessed by a team of doctors, occupational therapists and social workers.</li> </ul>



No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
10.	The Civic Party [LC Paper No. CB(2)1347/16-17(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related criterion from MAF, which would render some PWDs ineligible for DA.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF to facilitate doctors in conducting medical assessments.</li> <li>● Expressed concern about the high medical expenses of PWDs.</li> </ul>
11.	白田關注組 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1287/16-17(09)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should allow DA recipients to receive other allowances, such as the Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA") and CSSA, at the same time.</li> <li>● The Administration should adjust the level of the monthly TS for DA recipients.</li> <li>● The Administration should review the arrangement for the Fare Concession Scheme (e.g. special beep sound for entering/exiting MTR gates by holders of Octopus cards for PWDs) to avoid creating negative labelling effect on patients of mental illness who did not have any physical disabilities.</li> </ul>
12.	Rights of Mild Intellectual Disability Concern Group [LC Paper No. CB(2)1287/16-17(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related criterion from MAF, which would render some persons with intellectual disabilities ineligible for DA.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF, which would render some persons with intellectual disabilities ineligible for DA.</li> <li>● DA recipients with intellectual disabilities, whose disabling conditions were permanent, should not be subject to medical reviews.</li> <li>● The Administration should review</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>DA to assess the eligibility of applicants with reference to their degrees of intellectual disabilities.</p>
13.	<p>Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association Ltd. [LC Paper No. CB(2)1333/16-17(01)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related criterion from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF.</li> <li>● The Administration should review the arrangements, made in December 2016 for the purpose of DA assessment, about the use of rehabilitation devices, such as wheelchairs, by DA applicants.</li> <li>● The Administration should make reference to ICF of WHO to develop a set of objective criteria for disability under DA.</li> <li>● Applicants' eligibility for DA should be comprehensively assessed by a team of professionals.</li> <li>● The Administration should consider adding a tier or adjusting the level of Normal DA to alleviate the financial burden of PWDs.</li> <li>● DA recipients with permanent disabling conditions should not be subject to medical reviews.</li> <li>● The arrangement that the allowance for Higher DA recipients who had been hospitalized for more than 29 days would be reduced to Normal DA should be reviewed, as the recipients would become ineligible for the programme of Special Care Subsidy under CCF.</li> <li>● The Administration should consider establishing a social insurance scheme for PWDs.</li> </ul>
14.	<p>Mrs LAM Chun [LC Paper No. CB(2)1287/16-17(05)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expressed concern about the frequency of medical reviews in establishing continued eligibility for DA for persons with intellectual disabilities. They should be given such continued eligibility.</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It would be subjective to rely merely on the assessment by doctors for the eligibility of DA applications from persons with intellectual disabilities.</li> </ul>
15.	New People's Party [LC Paper No. CB(2)1347/16-17(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should complete the revision of MAF as soon as possible to facilitate doctors in conducting medical assessments.</li> <li>● The Administration should take measures to address the public concerns about the proposed amendments to MAF.</li> <li>● The Administration should provide dental care services for DA recipients.</li> <li>● The Administration should complete the review of the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities under CCF as soon as possible after the end of the Pilot Scheme.</li> <li>● The Administration should conduct a study on poverty situation of PWDs in order to formulate a comprehensive policy on PWDs.</li> </ul>
16.	Mr YU Kam-chung [LC Paper No. CB(2)1333/16-17(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should review the payment levels and income limits of DA with reference to OALA.</li> <li>● Expressed concern about the high medical expenses of PWDs.</li> </ul>
17.	四輪社區聯會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should consider conducting a comprehensive review of DA to add a tier or adjust the level of Normal DA, with a view to covering the high medical expenses.</li> </ul>
18.	肌肉萎縮症倡議小組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should consider adding a tier to DA to provide a higher level of DA for PWDs to cover the high medical expenses.</li> </ul>
19.	The Forthright Caucus [LC Paper No. CB(2)1287/16-17(04) (revised)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>critterion from MAF, which would render some PWDs ineligible for DA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF, which would render some PWDs ineligible for DA.</li> <li>● The Administration should review the arrangements, made in December 2016 for the purpose of DA assessment, about the use of rehabilitation devices by DA applicants.</li> <li>● The arrangement that the allowance for Higher DA recipients who had been hospitalized for more than 29 days would be reduced to Normal DA should be reviewed, as the recipients would become ineligible for the programme of Special Care Subsidy under CCF.</li> </ul>
20.	<p>Department of Social Work &amp; Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)1347/16-17(03)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related criterion from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF.</li> <li>● The Administration should make reference to ICF of WHO or the Personal Independence Payment of the United Kingdom to develop a set of objective criteria for disability under DA.</li> <li>● Applicants' eligibility for DA should be comprehensively assessed by a team of doctors, occupational therapists and social workers.</li> <li>● The Administration should adopt a caring policy to support the needs of PWDs and provide community facilities for them.</li> </ul>
21.	Mr SI Wai-san	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should provide more resources to cater for the needs of PWDs.</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
22.	Hong Kong Parkinson's Disease Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● The Administration should develop a set of clear and objective criteria for doctors to assess the disabling conditions of patients with "invisible disabilities", such as patients with Parkinson's Disease.</li> <li>● The Administration should take into account the amendments proposed by deputations in reviewing MAF.</li> </ul>
23.	The Association of Parents of The Severely Mentally Handicapped [LC Paper No. CB(2)1333/16-17(05)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related criterion from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF.</li> <li>● The Administration should consider adding a tier to DA to provide a higher level of DA for PWDs to cover the high medical expenses.</li> <li>● The existing arrangement that the Higher DA for severely disabled persons boarding in special schools under the Education Bureau ("EDB") would be adjusted to Normal DA even when they stayed at homes during holidays should be reviewed. The one-month grace period given by the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") for the deduction of DA due to the hospitalization of DA recipients should be extended to 180 days.</li> <li>● DA recipients with permanent disabling conditions should not be subject to medical reviews.</li> <li>● The Administration should provide a monthly TS for DA recipients aged below 12.</li> </ul>
24.	香港弱智人士家長聯會 (權益服務組)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related criterion from MAF, which would render some PWDs ineligible for DA.</li> <li>● DA recipients with permanent disabling conditions should not be</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		subject to medical reviews.
25.	Ms LAM Sin-man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should provide more resource to cater for the needs of PWDs, e.g. employment.</li> <li>● The Administration should review DA to assess the eligibility of applicants with reference to their degrees of disabilities.</li> </ul>
26.	Ms HO Bo-ching [LC Paper No. CB(2)1333/16-17(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the work-related criterion from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF to facilitate doctors in conducting medical assessments.</li> <li>● The arrangement that the allowance for Higher DA recipients who had been hospitalized for more than 29 days would be reduced to Normal DA should be reviewed, as the recipients would become ineligible for the programme of Special Care Subsidy under CCF.</li> </ul>
27.	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The eligibility criteria for DA should be reviewed to provide clear and objective yardsticks for the assessment of disability. Professionals such as social workers should be invited in vetting the eligibility of DA applicants.</li> <li>● The Administration should promote employment of PWDs through establishing an employment quota system.</li> <li>● The rule that a person might only receive either DA or the Old Age Allowance, but not both at the same time, to avoid the receipt of double benefit should be reviewed.</li> </ul>
28.	The Parents' Association of Pre-school Handicapped Children [LC Paper No. CB(2)1347/16-17(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to remove the Reference from MAF.</li> <li>● Objected to remove the Six Disabilities from Part I(B) of MAF,</li> </ul>

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of deputation / individual</b>	<b>Views</b>
		<p>which would render some PWDs ineligible for DA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The arrangement that the allowance for Higher DA recipients who had been hospitalized for more than 29 days would be reduced to Normal DA should be reviewed, as the recipients should pay for the hospital fees from their own pocket.</li><li>● The existing arrangement that the Higher DA for severely disabled persons boarding in special schools under EDB would be adjusted to Normal DA even when they stayed at homes during holidays should be reviewed. The one-month grace period given by SWD for the deduction of DA due to the hospitalization of DA recipients should be extended to three months.</li></ul>

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