

政府總部  
勞工及福利局  
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政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT  
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28 February 2017

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 January 2017**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services held on 9 January 2017, the Panel requested the Government to provide information relating to medical fee waiver and the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme. Having consulted relevant bureau and departments, our responses are set out in the following paragraphs.

Whether the expenditure for medical fee waiver in 2015/16 which amounted to \$550 million was under the accounts of welfare or that of the Hospital Authority (HA)

While the expenditure for medical fee waiver of \$550 million is absorbed under the account of HA, the Government funding to HA caters for around 90% of HA's operating expenditure per year. It should be noted that while patients who are recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance are eligible to receive full waiver of public medical charges, other patients with financial difficulties in paying the public medical charges can also apply for medical fee waiver.

Number of successful applications for LIFA by non-Chinese speaking households and ethnic minorities

The LIFA Scheme has been implemented since 3 May 2016. As at 17 February 2017, the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency has received around 59 000 applications, amongst which over 45 300 were approved. Of the approved applications, 1 073 were from families of ethnic minorities. The ethnic groups of these families include Pakistani (49%), Nepalese (10%), Indian (10%), Filipino (10%), and others which comprise small percentages of other ethnic groups such as Thai, Indonesian, Bangladeshi etc.

Yours Sincerely,



(Ms Eugenia CHUNG)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare