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勞工及福利局
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LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices
Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.: LWB T4/18/29

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

22 July 2019

Ms Wendy JAN
Clerk to Panel on Welfare Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Jan,

**Measures to Encourage Employment under
the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme**

I refer to the email from the Secretariat of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services to the Labour and Welfare Bureau dated 6 June 2019. Further to our briefing at the Panel meeting on “Review of Measures to Encourage Employment under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme” on 10 June 2019, we would like to give a summary response to the questions raised in the email as follows –

- (1) The Government adjusted the eligible age for elderly CSSA and
- (2) persons aged 60 to 64 who have received elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019 are “grandfathered” and not affected by the adjustment. The CSSA payments to the recipients who are disabled or in ill-health are not affected either. As for able-bodied persons aged 60 to 64 applying for CSSA after the

implementation of the new arrangement, they will be granted, in addition to the standard rates and special grants applicable to able-bodied adults, an Employment Support Supplement at a fixed rate of \$1,060 per month (i.e. the difference between the respective monthly CSSA standard rates applicable to singleton able-bodied elderly recipients and singleton able-bodied adult recipients), with a view to encouraging them to join the labour market and remain in employment.

As we have stated at the Panel meeting on 10 June 2019, there were about 1 100 CSSA recipients reached the age of 60 from the effective date of the new arrangement (i.e. 1 February 2019) to end-May 2019, among which about 70% were in ill health or with disabilities. There were also about 800 new CSSA applicants aged 60 to 64 during the same period, among which about 300 were disabled or in ill-health. They will be provided with standard rates higher than those applicable to able-bodied adult recipients subject to their fulfillment of eligible criteria for CSSA. As for the remaining applicants, some of them are undergoing medical assessment for determining their health condition.

To tie in with the adjustment of the eligible age for elderly CSSA from 60 to 65, SWD has been inviting able-bodied adult CSSA recipients aged 60 to 64 to join the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS) to receive one-stop integrated employment support services provided by non-government organisations operating the programme, which include meeting with participants regularly to provide employment advice, assisting them in developing personalised action plans to seek employment, offering personalised training, providing social worker support services where necessary, etc. For participants who have successfully secured employment, post-employment support services for at least three months will be provided to encourage them to remain in employment. As for able-bodied adult recipients aged 60 to 64 who choose not to join the IEAPS, their CSSA payments will not be affected under the existing arrangement.

- (3) The Government has pledged to review measures to encourage employment under the CSSA Scheme in 2019, which include and
(4) the disregarded earnings arrangement, supplements and special grants, as well as the arrangements for providing employment

support services under the CSSA Scheme (including arrangements applicable to able-bodied recipients aged 60 to 64 who choose not to join the IEAPS). The review is now underway. The Government will carefully examine the relevant issues, and endeavors to complete the review by the end of 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derrick Chow', is positioned above the typed name.

(Derrick CHOW)
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c.

Director of Social Welfare (Attn: Miss Rita LAU)