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LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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20 August 2019

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

Dear Ms JAN,

Thank you for your letter of 24 June, relaying Hon SHIU Ka-chun's questions regarding the updating of the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES). I am authorised to reply as follows.

#### Progress of the updating of the SCNAMES

Supported by the Lotteries Fund, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) commissioned the Sau Po Centre on Ageing (CoA) of The University of Hong Kong in November 2013 to implement a project on the Enhancement of the Infrastructure of Long-term Care in Hong Kong (the Project). The CoA will update the existing assessment tool, namely the interRAI-HC version 2.0 which has been in use for nearly 20 years, to version 9.3, so as to more effectively assess today's long-term care (LTC) needs of the elderly. The CoA will also update the service matching mechanism to enable SWD to better demarcate the various LTC needs of the elderly, including community care services (CCS) and residential care services (RCS).

In the course of the development of the updated assessment tool and service matching mechanism, the CoA has engaged various stakeholders through different means. From 2015 to 2017, the CoA conducted seven

sharing sessions to collect views from over 2 000 service providers and other stakeholders, and collected and analysed a vast amount of data in order to verify and ensure that the updated assessment tool can more accurately cater for and reflect the LTC needs of the elderly in Hong Kong.

Furthermore, since February 2019, SWD has been seeking views of different stakeholders on the preliminary proposals for the updating of the SCNAMES, including the non-governmental organisations providing elderly services, the Specialised Committee on Elderly Service of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Steering Group of the Project on Enhancement of the Infrastructure of Long-term Care in Hong Kong (the Steering Group) which is responsible for overseeing and steering the Project, the Elderly Commission, District Elderly Community Centres / Neighbourhood Elderly Centres, concern groups of elderly services / carer services, etc.

The consultation is still underway at the moment, which is expected to be completed by the second half of this year. The CoA will, having regard to the views of the stakeholders, examine in detail how to refine the SCNAMES, and will submit a report on its final recommendations to the Steering Group for consideration. We will also report to the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services.

#### Arrangements for allocation of services

Under the updated SCNAMES being proposed, if the elderly are assessed to match with RCS when they apply and wait for allocation of subsidised RCS, they can also wait for allocation of and receive subsidised CCS in parallel. Under such circumstances, the status in respect of their application for subsidised RCS can be changed to 'inactive'. If their health conditions suddenly deteriorate, or their families and the community services can no longer provide them with adequate care, they can at any time request to reinstate their application status for subsidised RCS to 'active' without the need to wait for allocation of the services afresh, i.e. the original order of their wait for allocation of RCS will not be affected. Such arrangement seeks to provide assistance to enable the elderly who are willing to stay in the community to continue living in the community according to their wish. This arrangement is same as that under the existing mechanism.

On the other hand, if the elderly are assessed to match with CCS under the updated SCNAMES being proposed, and their health conditions suddenly deteriorate while applying and waiting for allocation of subsidised CCS, they can at any time be matched with the RCS option upon reassessment. If the health condition of the elderly already receiving CCS deteriorate, they can also be matched with the RCS option afresh upon reassessment. In other words, the updated SCNAMES being proposed seeks to ensure accurate assessment of different care service needs of the elderly and timely provision of required care services matched for them, and would not cause additional hurdle or delay to service users.

### Assessment of CCS

The updated assessment tool interRAI-HC version 9.3, same as the existing assessment tool, will also collect information on the environmental conditions of the home of the elderly and daily care support for them (including the conditions of their carers), etc, so that the social workers responsible for their cases and medical specialists concerned can develop suitable care plans or home enhancement plans for the elderly, and provide them with or refer them to appropriate community care and other related services.

Yours sincerely,



(Desmond WU)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c. Director of Social Services (Attn: Mr TAN Tick Yee)