

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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23 December 2019

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

Dear Ms JAN,

At the Policy briefing of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services held on 1 November 2019, Members requested the Government to provide information on various policy areas. On matters which are relevant to the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau, relevant information is set out at Annex.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Cheung', written in a cursive style.

( Ms Rebecca CHEUNG )  
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c. Commissioner for Labour (Attn.: Mr. Charles HUI)

**(a) The distribution of the additional 2 000 service quota provided within 2019 among the 34 service teams under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services**

The Government has determined the distribution of the additional 2 000 service quota provided within 2019 among the 34 service teams under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) after considering various factors, including the supply of service in individual districts, service boundary coverage and operational conditions of the existing 34 service teams and the overall condition of home care services provided for frail elders, etc.

**(b) The effectiveness of support measures provided by the Labour and Welfare Bureau and related body for persons aged between 60 and 64**

On the training for mature persons, the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) currently offers around 700 training courses straddling 28 industry categories and generic skills training for eligible persons aged 15 or above (including those aged 60 to 64). In 2018-19, the number of persons aged between 60 and 64 enrolled in the ERB training courses was around 19 000, comprising around 15% of the total enrollment. To further unleash the potential workforce of the mature population aged 50 or above, the ERB has launched various special programmes for “Post-50” since June 2019. Entrusted by the Government, the ERB has recently launched the one-off “Love Upgrading Special Scheme”, providing training courses and special training allowance to employees affected by the recent economic downturn (including those aged between 60 and 64) to pursue self-enhancement.

Separately, a series of enhancement measures of the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) have been implemented since 1 April 2019, including doubling the CEF subsidy ceiling to \$20,000 per applicant, raising the upper age limit for applicants to 70, expanding the scope of the CEF courses, etc. Anyone who once opened a CEF account is also eligible for the enhancement measures. The Government will later further expand the scope of the CEF courses to cover eligible online courses provided by local course providers, with a view to providing the public with more diversified channels of continuing learning.

Besides, in order to encourage employers to hire elderly job seekers and provide them with the required on-the-job training (OJT) at the initial stage of employment, the Labour Department (LD) has enhanced the Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-aged (EPEM) in September 2018 and increased the OJT allowance payable

Labour Department (LD) has enhanced the Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-aged (EPEM) in September 2018 and increased the OJT allowance payable to employers for engaging each job seeker aged 60 or above from the original ceiling of \$3,000 per month for three to six months to a maximum of \$4,000 per month for six to 12 months. According to the post-enhancement statistics, there has been a discernible increase in the number of placements eligible for joining the EPEM, particularly those involving job seekers aged 60 or above. From September 2018 to September 2019, the LD has recorded 3 283 placement cases eligible for joining the EPEM, of which 463 cases involved job seekers aged 60 to 64, representing an increase of 97% over the corresponding period in the preceding year.

On cash assistance, able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients aged between 60 and 64 are covered by the CSSA Scheme under the category of able-bodied adult. Apart from receiving standard rates and special grants applicable for able-bodied adults, they may also benefit from the Disregarded Earnings (DE) arrangements under the CSSA Scheme so as to encourage employment. The Government has also put in place the Employment Support Supplement currently at \$1,060 per month per person to better support able-bodied recipients aged between 60 and 64 to join the labour market and remain in employment. Meanwhile, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) invites able-bodied recipients aged between 60 and 64 to join its employment support programmes on a voluntary basis, so as to provide them with tailored and targeted employment support. In order to further encourage able-bodied CSSA recipients to remain in employment and ensure that the CSSA Scheme could continue to serve as a safety net of last resort, the Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address has announced a series of improvement measures on the CSSA Scheme, which include raising the maximum level of the DE by 60% from \$2,500 per month to \$4,000 per month, enhancing various employment support services to increase the employability of and employment opportunities for CSSA recipients, extending various supplements and special grants to eligible CSSA recipients who are under the category of able-bodied adult, and increasing the rent allowance for different household sizes. The above measures would benefit able-bodied recipients aged between 60 and 64.

Having regard to the aforementioned improvements under the CSSA Scheme and to preserve the relativity and balance between the economic position of Working Family Allowance (WFA) and CSSA-receiving households, the Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address also announced that all payment rates of WFA would be increased. Of these, the working-hour linked household allowance of the Scheme will be increased by 16.7% to 25%. This pro-family and pro-employment scheme will also benefit eligible persons aged between 60 and 64 who are in employment.

Separately, there are 210 subvented elderly centres (including 41 District Elderly Community Centres and 169 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres) in Hong Kong providing a wide range of services for elderly persons aged 60 or above and their carers. In addition, needy elderly persons aged 60 or above living in the community may apply for the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Ordinary Cases). They may also apply for Emergency Placement and Residential Respite Service for the Elderly in times of need.

Elderly persons aged 60 or above assessed to be in the state of moderate or severe level of impairment by the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services may apply for home-based EHCCS and IHCS (Frail Cases), centre-based day care services or residential care services subsidized by the Government. They may also use Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly (CCSV) for home-based and/or centre-based services and Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly for residential care services according to the eligibility criteria of the two pilot schemes.

The Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address announced that another 1 000 vouchers under CCSV will be provided in 2020-21 to bring the total to 8 000; and an additional 3 000 service quota under IHCS (Frail Cases) will be provided within 2020 and 2021 to support ageing in place for elderly persons.

**(c) On matters concerning strengthening training for home-based child carers.**

To enhance the service quality of the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP), additional provision will be provided to increase professional and supporting staff to strengthen training for home-based child carers commencing in January 2020, and the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers will be raised to encourage more volunteers to serve as child carers. All newly in-service and recruited home-based child carers will be required to attend the training course which includes contemporary child care skills and knowledge for infant/children. In 2019-20 (as at June 2019), there are 1 808 home-based child carers under the NSCCP. The SWD will keep in view the progress and effectiveness of the training.