

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-001

Question Serial No.

0002

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Why does the enrolment rate of private homes (bought place and enhanced bought place) remain 97% for three consecutive years since 1998-99?

Asked by : The Hon LEE Kai-ming, SBS, JP

Reply : In the normal course of operation of any residential care homes for the elderly, casual vacancies would arise as there is turnover of residents and some residents would now and then be admitted to hospitals for acute care treatment. To minimize the casual vacancies, we have streamlined admission procedures e.g. to conduct medical check on prospective residents in advance so that there is always a small pool of applicants ready for admission. An average enrolment rate of 97% for residential care homes is considered reasonable.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-002

Question Serial No.

0003

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : The cost per place per month for private homes (enhanced bought place) for 2000-01 (estimate) is \$6,268. Why can't we lower the cost to the level of 1998-99 (i.e. \$6,100)?

Asked by : The Hon LEE Kai-ming, SBS, JP

Reply : Under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme, there are two categories of unit purchase prices as there are two sets of space and staffing standards, i.e. EA1 and EA2 which are further sub-divided into unit prices for urban areas and New Territories respectively. The unit price ranges from \$5,437 per month for EA2 (NT) to \$7,093 per month for EA1 (Urban). In 1998-99 we only purchased EA2 places mainly in the NT resulting in an average of \$6,100 per place per month. However in 2000-01 we plan to purchase a higher proportion of EA1 places in both urban and NT areas resulting in a higher average price of \$6,268 per month. We are reviewing the unit prices in the light of the current operating costs for such places.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-003

Question Serial No.

0004

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01, what is the staff deployment in providing additional assistance to able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients to help them overcome barriers to work and become self-reliant? What is last year's establishment in this area?

Asked by : The Hon LEE Kai-ming, SBS, JP

Reply : We plan to expand the Support for Self-reliance Scheme in 2000-01 to help able-bodied CSSA recipients and applicants to become self-reliant. The actual number of additional posts required is being finalized and proposals in this regard will be submitted to the Finance Committee shortly. In 1999-2000, SWD had created 220 additional posts under the social security programme. Apart from implementing the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, the additional staff are required to meet increase in demand and strengthen fraud prevention and investigation efforts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-004

Question Serial No.

0005

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : (a) Please elaborate how one can 'better focus efforts to combat fraud'.

(b) Please list out both last year's and this year's staff establishment and funding allocation of the Special Investigation Teams (SITs).

Asked by : The Hon LEE Kai-ming, SBS, JP

Reply : (a) The rapid increase in social security cases in recent years has increased the potential for fraud. The Department will apply management policies and procedures systemically to identify, analyse, manage and monitor the risks involved in administering the social security schemes. In 2000-01, all fraud investigation work will be centralized in the SITs by redeploying the relevant staff from the various Social Security Field Units. The SITs will also refocus their work by conducting more random checks on cases in high risk categories identified in past investigations e.g. claims for reimbursement of rents, claims on marital status, etc. With approval from the Privacy Commissioner, the Department will conduct data matching with relevant Government departments to assist in detecting any irregularities in CSSA cases.

(b) In 1999-2000, there are two SITs responsible for fraud investigation and random checking. Each of the SITs is staffed by 1 Social Security Officer I, 14 Senior Social Security Assistants and 2 Clerical Assistants. There will be no change in the establishment of the SITs in 2000-01. The funding allocation for SITs for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is \$12.9m and \$14m respectively. The increase is due to additional administrative

cost mainly as a result of increased data matching and full year effect of posts created in 1999-2000.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-005

Question Serial No.

0006

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : There is no increase in the child custody service and family caseworkers for 2000-01 (plan) compared with the 1999-2000 (estimate). Why?

Asked by : The Hon LEE Kai-ming, SBS, JP

Reply : In the three years ending March 2001, the number of child custody workers will be increased by 15, from 18 to 33. Moreover, with the introduction of family mediation service in the Judiciary, an alternative solution will be provided for divorcing couples to reach mutually acceptable agreements, including child custody. As a result, the number of such cases referred by the Judiciary to the Social Welfare Department is expected to stabilize in 2000-01.

For the three years ending March 2001, the number of family caseworkers will be increased by 55, from 706 to 761. Since October 1998, all family caseworkers are required to implement caseload management to monitor intake and closure of cases, and to ensure that only those cases genuinely in need of social work input will remain in the caseload. As a result, the existing manpower should be able to meet genuine demand.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-006

Question Serial No.

0007

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : The estimated increase in child protection cases for 2000-01 is 308 compared to last year's, but there will only be seven more workers. Can they cope with the workload? Can additional manpower be provided when necessary?

Asked by : The Hon LEE Kai-ming, SBS, JP

Reply : The 308 cases quoted refer to the estimated increase in the number of cases to be served in 2000-01. The provision of 7 additional workers, bringing the total to 55, is calculated by reference to the estimated caseload (having excluded the estimated number of closed and transferred-out cases) handled per worker on average in 2000-01. This will be able to cope with the estimated increase in the number of cases. We will monitor the situation closely and redeploy resources to cope with the demand, where necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-008

Question Serial No.

0084

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Regarding the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme

(a) In terms of the reasons for application for assistance, how many CSSA applicants fall in the following categories in 1999-2000?

- A) Unemployed
- B) Chronic illness
- C) Battered women
- D) Single Elderly
- E) Street sleepers

(b) It is estimated that the number of CSSA applicants will keep increasing in 2000-01. Why? Which category of cases will have the highest percentage of increase? What countermeasures do the Government have?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (a) A breakdown of the average number of CSSA cases by category for the period from April 1999 to February 2000 is as follows:

<u>Nature of cases</u>	<u>Average no. of cases</u> (Apr 99 to Feb 2000)	<u>Average no. of eligible recipients</u>
Old age	131 000	157 000
Permanent disability	12 000	16 000
Temporary disability/ill health	22 000	40 000
Single parent	26 000	70 000
Low earnings	8 000	30 000
Unemployment	30 000	60 000

Others	4 000	6 000
Overall	233 000	379 000

Similar data are not available in respect of other classifications given in the question.

- (b) The CSSA caseload and expenditure grew rapidly almost throughout the 1990's, until implementation of the Support for Self-reliance Scheme in June 1999. Although both the CSSA caseload and expenditure have stabilized since June 1999, it would not be appropriate for budgetting purpose to adopt the trend in the past few months as the basis for estimating the caseload and expenditure in 2000-01. With a high unemployment rate and an ageing population, we have adopted a prudent approach in making an additional financial provision of \$1.5b in next year's budget. As the CSSA caseload is projected on an overall basis, there is no breakdown for the increase by category of cases.

In 2000-01, additional resources amounting to \$200m have been earmarked to extend the Support for Self-reliance Scheme to cover all new and unemployed cases and to provide a range of support services to facilitate self-reliance for the unemployed, single parents, low income earners, new arrivals and able-bodied cases. Detailed proposals will be put to the Finance Committee for approval shortly.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>17 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-009

Question Serial No.

0085

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : As regards the additional provision of 5 day care centres for the elderly, 803 care and attention home places and 257 nursing home places, please state in detail the distribution of these centres/places in various districts, and the number of places to be provided in the respective district.

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The additional 5 day care centres are located in Western District, Mongkok, Homantin, Kwun Tong and Tuen Mun respectively. As regards the C&A and nursing home places, we plan to provide –

- (a) most of the additional 803 care and attention home places in Homantin (about 450) and Mongkok (about 100). The remaining 250 or so places will be provided in Tsuen Wan, Sha Tin, Yuen Long, Tai Po and Wong Tai Sin. The exact distribution of these places will be subject to consultation with individual home operators having regard to the detailed design and configuration of the care homes; and
- (b) 257 additional nursing home places by increasing the capacity of the six existing nursing homes which are located in North District (54), Tuen Mun (35), Tsuen Wan (44), Tseung Kwan O (20), Wong Tai Sin (60) and Kowloon Bay (44).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-010

Question Serial No.

0086

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) Demented elderly are on the increase in Hong Kong. What is Government's provision for support services to the demented elderly and their families in the next financial year? Please give the details.
- (b) Will the Government allocate additional resources for the setting up of facilities to provide medical as well as day respite services especially for the demented elderly? If so, how many places will be provided and in what districts will they be available? If not, why?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) It is estimated that about 4% of the elderly in Hong Kong are suffering from moderate to severe dementia. Many of them are cared for at home by their family members. A wide range of home/community care and support services such as home help and home care teams, day care centres, residential and day respite services and carers' support centres are available to serve the frail elderly, including the demented elderly and their family members. Elderly people requiring more intensive personal and nursing care, including those who are demented, may apply for residential care services e.g. nursing homes, care and attention homes. Indications are that a good proportion of the service users of various types of care and support services are demented elderly people or their families.

At the same time, pilot schemes have been launched to set up dedicated dementia day care centres and dementia units attached to residential care homes to try out the effectiveness of providing specialized facilities and training for the demented elderly. Provisions for these pilot schemes amount to \$13.2m in 2000-01. Since November 1998, the Government has paid dementia supplement to subvented residential care homes to enable the service operators to employ additional staff to provide better care and training for the demented residents. The provision for dementia supplement in 2000-01 amounts to \$15.6m.

In addition, \$443,000 will be provided for organizing training to equip elderly care workers with the necessary skills and knowledge in caring for the demented elderly in 2000-01.

- (b) A 3 year pilot project (from October 99 to September 2002) is financed by a Lotteries Fund grant to provide day respite service for frail and demented elderly in 12 day care centres, each with three day respite places. The distribution of these 36 respite places is as follows:-

District	Day respite centres	<u>places</u>
Eastern/Wanchai	2	6
South	1	3
Sham Shui Po	2	6
Wong Tai Sin	1	3
Kwun Tong	2	6
Shatin	2	6
Tai Po/North	1	3
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Total:	<u>12</u>	<u>36</u>

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-011

Question Serial No.

0099

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : When preparing the estimate, has the Government taken new arrivals of the coming year into account and allocated additional resources to provide more day nurseries, foster care places and family services? If not, why?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The increase in the new arrival population is taken into account in the planning of all welfare services including day nurseries, foster care and family services.

We will provide 706 additional aided day nursery places in 2000-01. As for foster care service, the existing provision is adequate to meet the demand.

For the three years ending March 2001, the number of family caseworkers will be increased by 55, from 706 to 761. Since October 1998, all family caseworkers are required to implement caseload management to monitor intake and closure of cases, and to ensure that only those cases genuinely in need of social work input remain in the caseload. As a result, the existing manpower should be able to meet genuine demand.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-012

Question Serial No.

0100

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : At present, residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) are almost full with an enrolment rate of 97%. In view of the increasing ageing population in the territory, has the Government allocated additional resources for providing more places in RCHE? If not, why?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : We propose to allocate an additional amount of \$143m to provide about 2,500 additional residential care places for the elderly in 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>16 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-013

Question Serial No.

0101

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Given the increasing number of single elderly and the elderly who have to stay home alone in daytime, has the Government allocated additional resources for upgrading the home help service to meet the needs of the community? If not, why?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2000-01, an additional \$34.9m will be allocated for provision of additional home/community care services for the elderly living at home. The additional services to be provided include five day care centres, three support teams, three multi-service centres (including six social centres and two home help teams) and four social centres for the elderly.

On the other hand, the Government has earmarked \$64m for provision of additional home/community care and support services for the elderly in 2000-01. The Government has commissioned a consultancy study to review the existing community care and support services for the elderly with a view to enhancing the quality and cost-efficiency of the services and identifying ways to improve the interface between different types of home, community and residential care services. The study will be completed in July 2000. The modus operandi of these additional home/community care services will be finalized following completion of the study.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-014

Question Serial No.

0110

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) What is the total operational cost of the "Support for Self-reliance" Scheme since its implementation? What percentage does it represent in the total expenditure of the CSSA Scheme?
- (b) Since the implementation of the "Support for Self-reliance" Scheme, how many participants have succeeded in gaining employment? How many people have left the CSSA Scheme? How many people have their assistance terminated because of refusal to join the Scheme?
- (c) Will the Government continue to operate the "Support for Self-reliance" scheme in 2000-01? If yes, what will be its planned expenditure?
- (d) Will the Government increase funding to strengthen the job searching and employment support services under the Scheme? If not, please account for the reason?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) No separate operating account is kept for the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme, because other than the posts created for the scheme in 1999-2000, we have also deployed other manpower resources to provide assistance to participants of the scheme.
- (b) Of the total 14424 unemployed CSSA recipients enrolled on the SFS Scheme between 1 June 1999 and 29 February 2000, 1130 participants have successfully found paid jobs and 436 of them left the CSSA Scheme altogether as a result. Another 2964 participants withdrew from the SFS Scheme after enrolment and leave the CSSA Scheme voluntarily. In addition, 1513

unemployed CSSA recipients have their cases terminated because they refused to join the SFS Scheme.

- (c) The Government will continue to operate the SFS Scheme in 2000-01. In fact, the programme will be extended so that assistance will be available to all employable able-bodied CSSA recipients. For the reason explained in (a), there is no separate provision for the SFS Scheme.
- (d) As part of the Promoting Self-reliance Strategy, additional funding (more than \$50m) has been earmarked to provide additional employment assistance and support services for the unemployed, single parent and low earning CSSA cases. These additional support will include extension of the Active Employment Assistance programme to cover all CSSA unemployment cases and low-earning cases who are not working full-time; provision of employment assistance to single parents and low earning cases who are already working full time; commissioning NGOs to provide to the unemployed tailor-made employment assistance e.g. intensive counselling, job-matching, training, job attachment, etc.; and co-operation with Labour Department (LD) and the Employees' Retraining Board to match employable CSSA recipients with vacancies available in the Local Employment Service of LD.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-015

Question Serial No.

0125

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) What is the regional distribution of the 5 newly-established Integrated Teams?
- (b) Will the Government provide additional resources to districts (e.g. New Towns like Tuen Mun) where youth problems are relatively serious in order to improve the situation? If not, please account for the reason.

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) In 2000-01, we plan to form five integrated teams (IT), one each in Wong Tai Sin, Shatin, Yau Tsim Mong, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun Districts.
- (b) To address the youth problems in specific districts, the Social Welfare Department is adopting a strategic needs assessment approach to deploy resources to districts where youth problems are relatively more serious. Existing resources are being pooled to form more new ITs and to expand existing ITs to meet the changing needs of young people. For districts with more youth problems, the total number of ITs (existing and new) to be provided in 2000-01 is as follows :-

<u>District</u>	<u>No. of IT</u>
Shatin	5
Tai Po/North	7
Yuen Long	3
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	5
Tuen Mun	4

The current provision of children and youth centres/integrated teams has already met about 98% of the demand over the territory. The Administration will continue to step up efforts to refocus its existing resources to the most needy areas.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Andrew K.P. Leung

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-016

Question Serial No.

0126

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What criteria does the Government use to determine which schools should first implement the recommendations of "one social worker for each school"? What is the regional distribution of the 76 additional school social workers?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The allocation of school social workers units (SSWUs) takes into account the availability of the resources to be pooled by the non-governmental organizations (NGO) and the pairing up of the schools with the school social work operating organizations at a neighbourhood level. These SSWUs are incorporated into integrated teams or linked up with children and youth centres in the vicinity.

Originally, only 76 additional SSWUs were planned to be created. As a result of the strong support and co-operation of the participating NGOs, this number has increased to over 100. The regional distribution of the SSWUs is not yet known at this stage as SWD is still discussing with NGOs and schools concerned.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-017

Question Serial No.

0154

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) What is the estimated provision required for implementing the Computerised Social Security System?
- (b) How would the implementation of the system help in improving the efficiency in serving CSSA cases and what are the annual savings in expenditure?
- (c) What is the expected lifespan of the system?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) On 28 November 1997, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$224.7m for implementing the Computerised Social Security System (CSSS).
- (b) The CSSS provides on-line functions for data input, retrieval, processing and comprehensive management information. It will result in speedier processing of applications, reduced waiting time and fewer return visits for customers. The system will also help enhance accuracy of processing and provide a more efficient case auditing mechanism. Furthermore, it will provide management information more speedily for policy analysis and projection of social security expenditure. The estimated annual realisable savings after implementation of the CSSS will amount to \$38.5m.
- (c) The hardware and software of the system can be upgraded to cope with future increases in workload. Also, the contractor has committed to provide maintenance service and technical support for at least ten years. The system should therefore have a life span of ten years under normal circumstances.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Andrew K.P. Leung

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-018

Question Serial No.

0155

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) The government has indicated that 39 posts will be deleted after the Computerized Social Security Scheme (CSSS) is installed. What posts will be deleted? When will the posts be deleted?
- (b) The trade unions have indicated that there is currently a shortage of Social Security Assistants (SSAs) who therefore have to undertake several jobs at the same time. It is envisaged that the implementation of CSSS will improve the situation. However, in view of the lengthy time required in installing the system and the increasing number of CSSA applicants, will the Government consider allocating additional resources for employing more SSAs in order to improve the efficiency in serving CSSA cases and to solve the problem of staff shortage. If not, why?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The CSSS will be operational in October 2000. To make the best use of the enhanced computer system, the Social Security Section of SWD will streamline its work process and improve quality of service to its clients. There will be a net reduction of 39 posts in the Section. Most of them are supporting posts in the clerical grade. These posts will be deleted upon implementation of the CSSS in October.
- (b) The total number of new CSSA applications actually dropped by 32% in 1999-2000 (up to February 2000) compared with the same period in 1998-99. The total CSSA caseload has also dropped by 2% since June 1999. The above has to a great extent, reduced the work pressure on the SSA grade. Meanwhile, the Department will continue to streamline the work procedures, implement the CSSS and discuss with the SSA Grade to identify ways to alleviate their work pressure further.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-019

Question Serial No.

0156

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Social workers at children's homes are concerned that the intake of child illegal immigrants (IIs) in boys' homes poses a threat to the safety of social workers and local residents there and thus causes security problems. Will the Government consider allocating more resources to upgrade the security measures of boys' homes, strengthen support to the social workers, and to deal with child IIs separately in order to solve the problem?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : One Workshop Instructor III and two Social Work Assistant posts have been added to each of the establishment of Begonia Road Juvenile Home (BRJH) and Pui Chi Boys' Home (PCBH) since September 1999 and January 2000 respectively to provide separate programmes for local and II residents. Staff from other service units in the relevant regions have been mobilized to provide additional support when required. Meanwhile, the Civil Aid Service has agreed to arrange officers to help maintain order and discipline whenever required in PCBH. As for BRJH, private security guards will be employed as necessary.

As a long-term solution, the Administration is examining the suitability and feasibility of accommodating minor IIs in a separate facility.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>16 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-020

Question Serial No.

0178

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : According to some academics, high unemployment rate will lead to the worsening of youth problem as young people have nowhere to expend their energy. As such, why does the Government still cut down the expenditure on services for young people in the coming financial year?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2000-01, there is no reduction in the overall provision for expenditure on welfare services for young people. Insofar as programme (7) on young people is concerned, the decrease of \$55m is mainly attributable to a transfer of \$47m subvention of uniformed organisation services and miscellaneous group and community work services to Home Affairs Bureau for their youth development programme and to a 1% saving under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB 021

Question Serial No.

0179

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 186 Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

- Question :
- (a) Why is the number of vehicles for rebus scheduled routes increased from 55 to 57 only? What is the cost of the additional vehicles? What is the expenditure for the provision of rebus scheduled routes?
 - (b) The number of people with disabilities waiting for rebus scheduled services is estimated to be 36 only. How is this worked out?
 - (c) The estimated provision for this programme has been reduced by 3.5%. Why? In which areas or services are the savings achieved?
 - (d) The provision for sub-head 505 is \$1.09 million lower than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. Please explain in which areas is the saving achieved.

Asked by : Hon CHAN Wing-chan

- Reply :
- (a) The two new rebus will be deployed to operate two new services to meet passenger demand. It is expected that with this expansion, the number of persons waiting for scheduled services can be maintained at a level comparable to that of 1998.

The estimated capital cost of the two additional vehicles is \$1m, with a recurrent cost of about \$680,000 per year.

The total subvention for the rebus service is \$30.5m. Vehicles deployed on the rebus scheduled routes are also deployed to provide dial-a-ride services during off-peak hours. Taking into account the split in vehicle hours

between scheduled services and dial-a-ride services, the expenditure on rebus scheduled services is estimated at \$14m in 2000-01.

- (b) The factors taken into account in estimating the number of people with disabilities waiting for scheduled services include their education and employment situation, the number of additional rebus provided for service expansion, improvement in access to public transport and past demand trends.
- (c) The estimated provision for 2000-01 is \$1.09m (3.5%) lower than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to savings in operating costs achieved by the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) under its Enhanced Productivity Programme in the following three areas:
- employing three casual rebus drivers to undertake overtime work;
 - acquiring two parking depots (one in Tuen Mun and another in Kowloon Bay) resulting in savings in parking charges; and
 - joining the Government's supply contract for diesel.
- (d) Please see (c) above.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post title Commissioner for Transport

Date 15 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-040

Question Serial No.

0359

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

(a) What is the enrolment rate of day crèche? What are the ratios of the number of places provided by day crèches, day nurseries and occasional child care service to the child population by district?

(b) The number of places provided by day crèches was reduced by 200 in 1999 as compared with 1998. Please list the number of places reduced in each district.

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply :

(a) The average enrolment rate of aided day crèches in 1999-2000 is 76%. The provision of day crèches, day nurseries or occasional child care places is not solely based on children population in a catchment area. We have also taken into account other district characteristics such as the number of new arrivals, single parents, working parent families as well as utilization rates and waiting lists.

(b) In view of the low utilization rates, there was a net reduction of day crèche places by 200 in 1999-2000 as compared with 1998-99. The number of places reduced/increased in each district is as follows :

	<u>District</u>	<u>No. of Places</u>
1.	Chai Wan	-28
2.	Eastern	-24
3.	Wanchai	-40
4.	Southern	-16
5.	Kwun Tong	-24
6.	Wong Tai Sin	-40
7.	Kowloon City	-12
8.	Shamshuipo	+32
9.	North	-12
10	Tsuen Wan	-16
11.	Tuen Mun	-20

Total : -200

The number of day creche places will remain the same in 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB - 041

Question Serial No.

0360

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What is the total number of places provided by the 242 occasional child care units?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : The 242 occasional child care service units provide 726 places.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>16 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-042

Question Serial No.

0361

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : For day nurseries run by the Government sector and the aided sector, what are their respective costs and fees charged? Why does the enrolment rate of day nurseries run by the Government sector lower than that of the aided sector?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : Aided day nurseries are operated on a cost-recovery basis. The cost is reflected in their fee level, ranging from \$1,820 to \$2,600 per child per month in 1999-2000. For the single day nursery (113 places) run by the Government, the cost per child per month is \$2,411 and the monthly fee charged is \$2,410, which is within the range of that in the aided sector, which provided 28,401 places.

The day nursery run by the Government carried out a series of renovation works in 1999 which affected the admission of new cases and enrolment rate. Upon completion of works, the enrolment rate has risen to 92% since February 2000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-043

Question Serial No.

0362

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : The number of foster care places and the enrolment rate for foster care service in 2000-01 remain the same as in 1999-2000, but the cost per place per month in 2000-01 has decreased by about \$400. What are the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : The decrease in the estimated cost per place in 2000-01 in the Government sector is due to enhanced productivity through streamlining of procedures and improvements in the foster home recruitment process.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-044

Question Serial No.

0363

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : While the number of caseworkers for child custody service and supervision cases served remain unchanged, the cost per case per month has increased. What are the reasons for the increase?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : Some of the staffing resources allocated under the 1999-2000 Estimates have been temporarily re-deployed to perform other priority areas of work in SWD. These posts will be transferred back to the child custody service in 2000-01. The higher staff costs resulting from filling these posts will lead to an increase in the cost per case per month in 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-045

Question Serial No.

0364

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : According to the Estimates in 2000-01, there will be 55 caseworkers serving 1,785 cases of child protection, i.e. 32 cases per worker, whereas the number of supervision cases per worker stated is 27 only. What are the reasons for such discrepancy? What are the resources involved in expanding the Child Protective Services Unit as proposed by the Social Welfare Department? Besides providing 7 additional caseworkers for child protection service, will the Administration provide additional manpower and resources?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : The "27 cases per worker" refer to the estimated caseload handled per worker on average in 2000-01. This is calculated by dividing the estimated average number of active cases at the end of each quarter in 2000-01 (1,348) by the estimated average number of caseworkers in post in each quarter in 2000-01 (49).

The 1,785 cases refer to the estimated total number of cases served during the year ending 31.3.2001. This is calculated by adding the estimated number of active cases brought forward from 31.3.2000 and the estimated number of new and re-activated cases during 2000-01.

In expanding the existing three CPSUs into five Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), the Social Welfare Department will transfer a number of caseworkers from its family service centres to the new FCPSUs. On top of this, there will be 7 additional caseworkers for child protective service previously sought in the Resources Allocation Exercise and 8 additional caseworkers and 1 Clinical Psychologist currently sought under the package to promote self-reliance. The additional annual recurrent expenditure incurred is estimated to be \$10.6m for personal emoluments and \$0.27m for departmental and other expenses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-046

Question Serial No.

0365

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

- Question :
- (a) The number of family cases to be served in 2000-01 is higher than that of 1999-2000, yet the number of family caseworkers for the same period remains unchanged. How come average caseload per worker has decreased? Can you account for this?
 - (b) Family caseworkers of the government sector generally have a lower caseload per worker but the cost per case per month is higher than that of the subvented sector. Why?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

- Reply :
- (a) The estimated number of family cases served in 2000-01 includes active cases brought forward from 1999-2000, plus the estimated number of new and re-activated cases to be served in 2000-01 without deducting closed cases. The average caseload per worker, however, is calculated by dividing the average number of active cases at the end of each month by the average number of caseworkers in post in the corresponding period. There is no direct correlation between the number of cases served and the average caseload per worker. Moreover, since October 1998, all family caseworkers are required to implement caseload management to monitor intake and closure of cases, and to ensure that only those cases genuinely in need of social work input remain in the caseload. As a result, the average caseload per worker will continue to decrease although the number of family caseworkers for the same period remains unchanged.
 - (b) For the subvented sector, the cost per case per month is decreasing because the number of cases served is on the increase. As for the government sector, the increase in cost per case per month is attributed to the slightly lower growth rate in the number of cases served. However, apart from caseload management, a direct comparison of the number of cases is not appropriate as the government sector tends to handle more complex cases including all statutory cases (e.g. care or protection orders) and families in crisis situations requiring immediate assistance.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Andrew K.P. Leung

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-047

Question Serial No.

0366

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : The Social Welfare Department will provide additional social workers to strengthen family education in 2000-01. What is the number and ranking of these social workers? How much resources will be required? Why there is no increase in the number of family caseworkers in 2000-01?

Asked by : The Hon LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : To strengthen family education, 20 additional social workers, including 7 Assistant Social Work Officers and 13 Social Work Assistants, will be provided in 2000-01. Through internal re-deployment, another 6 social workers will be seconded to join this service. The new resources required are about \$5m per year, subject to review in two years' time.

For the three years ending March 2001, the number of family caseworkers will be increased by 55, from 706 to 761. Since October 1998, all family caseworkers are required to implement caseload management to monitor intake and closure of cases, and to ensure that only those cases genuinely in need of social work input remain in the caseload. As a result, the existing manpower should be able to meet genuine demand.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-049

Question Serial No.

0412

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Under the residential training category, the percentage of cases that will satisfactorily complete the training in the probation hostel is estimated to be 65% for 1999-2000 and 2000-01, whilst the rate of successful reintegration of discharged cases is estimated to be 75% for 1999-2000 and 2000-01. The percentages are much lower than those for probation homes and reformatory school under the same residential training category. Please explain the relatively low success rates for probation hostel.

Asked by : The Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply : Probation hostel is different from other types of residential training for young offenders. It is a hostel for probationers aged 16 to 21, who are either working or studying outside the hostel during the day and return to the hostel at night. It is an open setting where probationers have more chances of interacting with outsiders, and are more susceptible to negative influences. Where probationers breach the conditions set out in the probation orders such as dropping out from work or school, repeatedly return late to the hostel or are absent without permission, they are brought back to court for variation of the probation order and are classified as unsuccessful cases.

To improve the situation, SWD has stepped up measures including strengthening the social work input in their training programmes. To equip residents for employment, efforts have been made to work closely with the Construction Industry Training Authority and colleges of commerce and language, and to refer residents to them for training whenever necessary. Close networking with mainstream schools has also been maintained to facilitate and sustain the reintegration of the residents upon their discharge.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-050

Question Serial No.

0413

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : The department will implement the Computerised Social Security System on 3 October 2000. How much does it cost? Is the computerised system to replace some current staff? How many will be made redundant or redeployed to other services? How the computerised system is to benefit the CSSA recipients.

Asked by : The Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply : On 28 November 1997, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$224.7m for implementing the Computerised Social Security System (CSSS).

After the implementation of the system on 3 October 2000, there will be a net reduction of 39 posts, mainly supporting staff in the clerical grades. These staff will not be made redundant because all of them will be re-deployed to other services within the Government.

The CSSS provides on-line functions for data input, retrieval, processing and comprehensive management information. It will result in speedier processing of applications, reduced waiting time and fewer return visits for customers.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-051

Question Serial No.

0414

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : During 2000-01, the department will expand the Child Protective Services Unit in order to strengthen protection to families and children from domestic violence. Please give details on the expansion plan, e.g., how many workers will be added? How many more cases will then be served by the unit with the expansion? How much will the expansion cost?

Asked by : The Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply : The existing three Child Protective Services Units will be expanded into five Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSU) to strengthen protection to families from domestic violence and children from child abuse by providing an enhanced one-stop service. The Social Welfare Department will transfer the existing battered spouse cases and redeploy a corresponding number of caseworkers from its family services centres to the new FCPSUs. Apart from the seven additional child protection worker posts secured for creation in 2000-01, the department will seek resources for eight caseworkers and one clinical psychologist in 2000-01 to strengthen services provided in these five specialized units, as part of a package of proposals to be put to the Finance Committee to promote self-reliance. In the first phase of implementation, the additional number of cases to be taken up is estimated to be over 500. The additional annual recurrent expenditure incurred is estimated to be \$10.6m for personal emoluments and \$0.27m for departmental and other expenses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-052

Question Serial No.

0430

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Services for Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : After redeploying 76 school social worker units from children and youth centre service, how many social workers are left to serve in children and youth centres. The average ratio of social workers to centre members will be lowered to what level.

Asked by : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has gained strong support and co-operation from the non-governmental organizations (NGO) in redeploying resources from some over-provided/under-utilized children and youth centres including study/reading rooms for the creation of one school social worker unit (SSWU) for one secondary school. As a result, the number of additional SSWs to be created in 2000-01 has increased from the originally planned 76 to over 100.

After the redeployment in 2000-01, there will be 1,048 registered social workers providing services to children and youth aged 6 to 24 through children and youth centres as well as integrated teams. The average ratio of social worker to centre members is 1:265 before the redeployment. After the redeployment in 2000-01, the average ratio will be 1:275. In addition to these social workers, there are other staff and volunteers in children and youth centres and integrated teams to provide services for young people.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB - 053

Question Serial No.

0432

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : How will the 5.3% cut in financial provision to the subvented sector in the 2000-01 estimate be distributed among the following areas and what is the actual amount in respect of each service :

- (1) Children and youth centre
- (2) Integrated team
- (3) School social work
- (4) Outreaching social work?

Asked by : The Prof Hon NG Ching-fai

Reply : In 2000-01, except for the 1% saving under Enhanced Productivity Programme, there is no reduction in the overall provision for expenditure on welfare services for young people. Insofar as programme (7) on young people is concerned, the difference of \$55m is mainly attributable to a transfer of \$47m subvention of uniformed organisation services and miscellaneous group and community work services to Home Affairs Bureau for their youth development programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-068

Question Serial No.

0771

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : In paragraph 150 of the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary undertook to expand support services such as extended hours of child care facilities, after school care programmes, community support for the aged and the sick. Will additional resources be allocated for the above services? Will there be any increase in manpower? If so, how will the establishment be strengthened? What types of community support services will be provided for the sick and by what organizations will they be provided?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : SWD will propose to the Finance Committee a package of support services to promote self-reliance amongst single parents, family carers, new arrivals and victims of domestic violence. Provision for the additional resources has been included under Head 106 Miscellaneous Services Subhead 251 Additional Commitments in the Draft Estimates. The package will include additional home/community care and support services for the frail elderly and their families. The new services will be provided mainly by non-government organizations. Detailed proposals including the number of posts to be created and the financial implications will be submitted to the Finance Committee shortly.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-069

Question Serial No.

0772

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : In paragraph 150 of the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary mentioned that the Government would strengthen support services for single-parent families, new arrival families and victims of domestic violence. Under which heads of expenditure and programmes in the General Revenue Account are the expenditures on the above services accounted for? What kind of services will be provided? What are the resources allocated for services for single-parent families, new arrival families and victims of domestic violence respectively?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The relevant expenditure has been included under Head 106 Miscellaneous Services Subhead 251 Additional Commitments, pending a submission to the Finance Committee. The services provided will include extended hours of child care services, subvented after-school care programme, mutual help groups, counselling and parenting education for single parents, pre and post migration services and enhanced one-stop service for victims of domestic violence. The earmarked resources amount to about \$70m. Detailed proposals will be submitted to the Finance Committee shortly.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-070

Question Serial No.

0773

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) What particular work has the Government done in 1999-2000 in regard to strengthening protection to children from domestic violence and helping new arrivals from China to integrate into the local community? Can you give a breakdown of the relevant expenditure?
- (b) Can you give a comprehensive account of the expanded service of the Child Protective Services Unit?

Asked by : The Hon David CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

(a) The strategy on child protection is worked out by the Committee on Child Abuse comprising representatives from government departments and non-governmental organizations. Emphasis is placed on early intervention and multi-disciplinary collaboration. Intensive multi-disciplinary intervention and therapeutic treatment are provided by 48 caseworkers in the Child Protective Services Units (CPSU) of SWD. Territory-wide publicity campaigns on prevention of child abuse with specific themes have been launched annually since 1995. District programmes on public education and publicity are organized by the 13 District Co-ordinating Committees to echo the themes of the territory-wide campaign.

In 1999-2000, \$35m has been spent on child protective services, including staff costs, training, publicity and public education. In the coming year, a total amount of about \$46m would be spent on services to protect children from domestic violence.

New arrivals from the Mainland, similar to other members of the community, can make use of the full range of welfare services available. In addition, SWD provides annual subvention of \$5m

to the International Social Service (Hong Kong Branch) to provide dedicated services to assist new arrivals to integrate into the Hong Kong community. SWD also subvents six Integrated Neighbourhood Projects at a cost of \$9m to provide outreach and support services to new arrivals, among other client groups, in targetted old urban areas. In addition, through the Lotteries Fund, a grant of \$3.6m was provided for a 'District-Based Network Employment Support Programme' for vulnerable groups, including new arrivals.

In the coming year, SWD plans to subvent a new pre-migration service and enhanced post-migration service for new arrivals at an additional cost of \$16.5m, as part of a package to promote self-reliance.

- (b) The existing 3 Child Protective Services Units will be expanded into 5 Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) starting April 2000. The FCPSUs will provide a one-stop service for child abuse and domestic violence cases. Intensive counselling, group therapy and clinical psychological services will be provided to affected children and families.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-071

Question Serial No.

0774

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What is the number of fraud cases under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the amount of overpayment in 1999-2000? How much resources are used to combat fraud?

Asked by : The Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, JP

Reply : In 1999-2000 (up to February 2000), the number of CSSA fraud cases identified is 205 and the amount of overpayment involved is \$9.62m.

A major objective of the CSSA Scheme is to ensure that payments are directed to those in genuine need, so different measures to prevent and investigate fraud have been built-in in the Scheme. Staff of the Social Security Field Units (SSFUs) will verify information provided by applicants, including paying home visits to new applicants, when assessing their financial needs. To reinforce the screening efforts of SSFU staff, two Special Investigation Teams (SITs) have been established. One of the teams carries out random checks on existing cases, especially those in the high-risk categories. The other team is responsible for carrying out in-depth investigations on suspected fraud cases reported through a special hotline, referred by SSFUs, or identified during the random checks. As combat of fraud is an integral part of the daily work of all levels of social security staff, it is not possible to separate the resources provided for this purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-072

Question Serial No.

0775

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What is the concept of "Adopting a risk management approach to Social Security expenditure"? How much resources will be involved?

Asked by : The Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, JP

Reply : The adoption of a risk management approach to social security expenditure refers to systematic application of management policies and procedures to the tasks of identifying, analysing and monitoring risk. For example, categories of high risk cases will be identified and more frequent checks will be conducted on them. It involves changes in policies and work process in risk management. The Social Welfare Department has recently completed a consultancy at a cost of \$0.38m in this area. The outcome of the consultancy is being studied with a view to deciding the way forward.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-073

Question Serial No.

0776

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : How many applicants are on the waiting lists for various residential services for the elderly? How many places are provided by the Government for respective services? Are these places sufficient to meet the needs of the elderly? If not, will the Government consider providing more resources to improve the situation?

Asked by : The Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The number of elderly persons on the waiting list for various types of residential care homes for the elderly and the existing provision of residential care places are summarized below:

Type of residential care home	Number of elderly people on the waiting list (as at 1.2.2000)	Existing provision of places (as at 1.3.2000)
Self-care hostel	103	299
Home for the aged	6,970	7,537
Care-and-Attention home	18,202	12,541*
Nursing home	3,834	1,400
Total	29,109	21,777

* including 3,150 bought places in private residential care homes

According to a recent survey, only about 60-70% of the elderly people on the care-and-attention home waiting list are genuinely in need of residential care. To target our residential care service to the frail elderly with genuine need, an enhanced gate-keeping mechanism is being developed for implementation by summer 2000-01.

To accord with the wishes of the majority of our elderly population who prefer to be cared at home, Government will continue to expand and upgrade home and community care services for the elderly. In 2000-01, \$56m will be spent on additional services in this regard using the existing modes of service delivery. Furthermore, Government has earmarked another \$64m for the provision of enhanced home and community care services in 2000-01. A consultancy study has been commissioned to develop enhanced modes of service delivery and the study will be completed in July 2000. These additional services will provide an alternative to the elderly who might otherwise have to apply for residential care.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to continue to expand the residential care programme and a total of 2,510 additional residential care places will be provided. With all these additional resources being provided, we hope to continue to reduce the waiting time for residential care next year.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>20 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-074

Question Serial No.

0777

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

- Question :
- (a) To promote the well-being of elderly people, a total of \$2,702m is allocated under the programme area of "Elderly Services". Please provide a breakdown of provision by residential care services and community support services. Please also provide the corresponding figures for the past 3 years.
 - (b) Social Welfare Department will implement a pilot scheme to encourage developers to provide premises for use as residential care homes for the elderly in their development projects. What are the targets set for this year?
 - (c) The Social Welfare Department will continue to launch the "Opportunities for the Elderly Project" this year. What are the financial arrangements for the project? Will the Department further increase the provision for the project?
 - (d) What is the estimated total amount of dementia supplement to be granted by the Social Welfare Department to residential care homes for the elderly this year? Will there be any increase in provision as compared with last year?

Asked by : The Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Reply : (a) The breakdown of provision are as follows:-

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Draft</u>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Residential Care Services	1,049.0	1,292.6	1,617.1	1,806.7
Community Support Services	586.0	688.3	783.7	840.2
Central Support Services	36.7	41.0	43.3	55.3
Total	1,671.7	2,021.9	2,444.1	2,702.2

- (b) The pilot scheme will offer bonus plot ratio to developers in lease

modification and land exchange applications to encourage them to provide premises for use as residential care homes for the elderly in their development projects. It is not possible to set targets as details of the scheme are still being worked out and cooperation of private developers will be required.

- (c) The “Opportunities for the Elderly Project” is financed by a \$11m grant from the Lotteries Fund. Under the Project, community organisations can apply for funds to plan and organise innovative service programmes including continuous learning, community participation, senior volunteerism and inter-generational activities for the elderly between 1999 and 2001. Up to January 2000, \$2.3m has been approved for 127 community organizations to launch 259 activities benefitting 263,772 participants. Applications for funds for such projects can be submitted to SWD in response to an annual invitation exercise. They will be considered by district vetting committees set up under SWD. We will evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the Project and, if justified, the Department may seek additional funding support to continue or expand the Project.
- (d) Dementia Supplement amounting to \$15.6m will be provided to residential care homes for the elderly, representing a 30% increase over the \$12m provided in 1999-2000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>20 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-075

Question Serial No.

0778

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

- Question :
- (a) In order to improve elderly services, the Government will provide for an additional 10 social centres, 3 multi-service centres and 5 day care centres in the coming financial year. What are the respective amounts of estimated expenditure involved? In what districts will these centres be located? The enrolment rate for day care centres in the past two years was over 100% and it is estimated that it will remain so in the coming year. Therefore, apart from the 5 additional day care centres under planning, will the Government further revise the Estimates to provide more day care centres?
 - (b) The Government will provide for an additional 1060 subsidised residential care places and 1450 places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme. What are their respective financial commitments?
 - (c) What are the respective financial commitments for providing an additional 2 home help teams and 3 support teams and what are the service boundaries of these teams?
 - (d) What publicity programmes will be launched by the Social Welfare Department to promote care and concern for the elderly? What are the estimated expenditures involved? Does the Social Welfare Department have any plan to launch publicity campaigns for the prevention of elderly abuse?

Asked by : The Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Reply :

(a) Four of the 10 social centres are located in Mongkok, Sham Shui Po, Tin Shui Wai and Tuen Mun. The remaining 6 social centres are within the 3 multi-service centres located in Homantin, Ma On Shan and Tung Chung. The estimated annual recurrent expenditure for these additional service units are

	\$m
(a) 4 social centres	3.5
(b) 3 multi-service centres including 6 social centres	9.4
(c) 5 day care centres	14.5

With assistance from consultants, the Government is reviewing the roles, functions, modes of service delivery, service standards and staffing structure of the three types of day services for the elderly. The study will also examine the feasibility of improving the interface among various kinds

of care and support services for the elderly and their family carers. The study will be completed in July 2000. \$64m has been earmarked to provide additional home/community care and support services for the frail elderly following completion of the study.

- (b) The estimated recurrent expenditure for 2000-01 is about \$61m and \$82m respectively.
- (c) In 2000-01, the estimated cost for setting-up two additional home help teams is \$4.3m. These two home help teams will provide service to elderly people living in Homantin and Tung Chung. The estimated cost for setting up three additional support teams for the elderly is \$3.04m. These teams will be based in new multi-service centres for the elderly in Homantin, Tung Chung and Ma On Shan.
- (d) It has been the established practice of the Social Welfare Department to mobilize carers' support centres, multi-service centres, support teams for the elderly and social centres for the elderly to organize public education programmes and publicity activities to promote care and concern for the elderly on a regular basis. Prevention of elder abuse is one of the themes covered by these activities. In addition, with support from the Lotteries Fund, a 3-year "Opportunities for the Elderly Project" has been in place since January 1999. Under the project, subsidies are provided to community organizations and volunteer groups for activities designed to enhance inter-generational communication and promote harmonious family relationship. To address the issue of elder abuse further, the Social Welfare Department has set up a task force for the purposes of working out a definition of elder abuse, exploring the possibility of setting up a reporting system and devising operational guidelines for staff within 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-076

Question Serial No.

0779

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) What are the details of "commissioning a consultancy study to implement the gate-keeping mechanism for services for the Elderly"?
- (b) What is the expenditure involved in the above-mentioned consultancy study? Which consultancy group has been commissioned to conduct the study?
- (c) What are the resources required for the implementation of the gate-keeping mechanism?

Asked by : The Hon David CHU Yu-lin

Reply :

- (a) The Consultancy Study on Gate-keeping Initiative for the Elderly Services is aimed at developing of a standardized Assessment Tool to assess the care needs of elderly persons. The Tool will provide service matching of 5 major types of services including nursing home, care and attention home, home for the aged, home help service and day care centre for the elderly. It will also determine the elderly applicants' priority in receiving services. In addition, the consultants will provide a User's Manual and design a curriculum to train gate-keepers in using the Assessment Tool. The Study will be completed by May 2000.
- (b) The total expenditure for the Consultancy Study is \$0.5m. The Department of Social Work and Social Administration of the University of Hong Kong has been commissioned to conduct the study.
- (c) Five regional core teams in the Social Welfare Department will be set up to implement the enhanced gate-keeping mechanism. The total annual recurrent cost is \$18.2m for 2000-01. To provide the necessary information technology support, capital expenditure of \$9.7m will have to be incurred in 2000-01, subject to funding being available.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-077

Question Serial No.

0780

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What are the respective numbers of mental patients receiving various kinds of community support services, including Activity Centres for Discharged Mental Patients, Parents Resource Centres, etc. in 1999-2000? What is the respective cost per place per month for the above-mentioned centres?

Asked by : Dr Hon YEUNG Sum

Reply : On the basis of the latest quarterly returns available covering April to December 1999, the numbers of discharged mental patients receiving community support services are as follows:

(a) Activity Centres for Discharged Mental Patients (4 Centres)

Number served	
- Day Centre	305
- Social Club	1,622
Average cost per centre per month	\$218,610

(b) Parents Resource Centre for mental patients (1 Centre)

Number served	466
Cost per centre per month	\$120,114

(c) Aftercare Service for Dischargees of Half-way Houses
(8 Social Workers)

Number served	400
Cost per case per month	\$918

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Andrew K.P. Leung

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-078

Question Serial No.

0781

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What is the average length of stay for residents in Long Stay Care Homes, Halfway Houses and Supported Hostels for 1999-2000? What is the number of intake and discharge for respective residential services? What is the average cost per place per month for each of the above-mentioned residential homes and hostels?

Asked by : Dr Hon YEUNG Sum

Reply : The available statistics for respective residential services based on the latest quarterly return for discharged mental patients for the year 1999-2000 (from April to December 1999) are summarized as follows:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Number of Intake</u>	<u>Number of Discharge</u>	<u>Average Length of Stay for Dischargees (Year)</u>	<u>Cost per Place Per Month</u> \$
a. Long Stay Care Homes	26	23	3.9	10,287
b. Halfway Houses	398	272	1.8	8,665
c. Supported Hostel	7	6	3.2	4,875

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-079

Question Serial No.

0782

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) How many people are on the waiting list for various residential services and how many places are provided by the Government? Are they sufficient in meeting the needs of these people? If not, will the Government allocate more resources to improve the situation?
- (b) How many people are waiting for admission to sheltered workshops and how many places are provided by the Government? Are they sufficient in meeting the needs of these people? If not, will the Government consider providing more resources to improve the situation?
- (c) As places offered by Government-run sheltered workshops are almost fully taken, has the Government considered providing more facilities of the kind?
- (d) What is the success rate of supported employment? Can the existing staff cope with the workload?

Asked by : The Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : (a) As at 1.3.2000, the no. of persons on the waiting list for residential services and the provision of places in 1999-2000 are as follows:

Service	Waiting list	Provision
Long Stay Care Home	1335	570
Half-way House	409	1267
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped	1610	2293
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped	1262	1494
Care & Attention Home for Severely Disabled	255	490
Hostel for Physically Handicapped	153	406
Home for the Aged Blind	41	296
Care & Attention Home for the Aged Blind	247	669
Small Group Home for Mildly Mentally Handicapped	19	96
Supported Hostel	82	154
Supported Housing	4	17

We will add 660 residential places in 2000-01. The Administration also plans to provide over 1,600 additional places by 2004-2005.

- (b) As at 1.3.2000, 6,595 sheltered workshop places are provided and 1,843 persons are on the waiting list for placement in sheltered workshops. We will provide 400 additional sheltered workshop places in 2000-01. The Administration also plans to provide 1,100 additional sheltered workshop places by 2004-05.
- (c) Departmental sheltered workshops only provide 9.8% of the total places available. The enrolment rate of departmental sheltered workshops is consistently above 100% due to the practice of above-capacity enrolment of up to 115% so as to make full use of casual vacancies arising from the absence of sheltered workers due to various reasons such as sickness, medical appointments, etc.
- (d) At present, the only performance indicator of the Supported Employment Service is the successful discharge rate, i.e. the number of service recipients who, after a period of "training" and support service, are settled in open employment. The successful discharge rate among various disability groups is as follows:

Mentally Handicapped (training period in 2-year cycle)	25%
Other Disability groups (training period in 1-year cycle) (e.g. discharged mental patients, visually/hearing impaired, physically handicapped, visceral disability etc.)	20-30%

However, because of the nature of most disabilities and high unemployment rate in recent years, a significant proportion of trainees cannot be discharged and require this service on a long-term basis to improve their quality of life.

The notional staffing for a supported employment unit of 30 places is 1 Workshop Instructor II and 2 Workshop Instructor III. Service operators can exercise flexibility to employ the mix of staff according to their own specific requirement. The existing level of staffing support for the service is considered appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>16 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-080

Question Serial No.

0783

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

- Question :
- (a) What are the respective enrolment rates of probation homes, probation hostels, reformatory schools and remand homes in 1999-2000? Based on the 1999-2000 enrolment rates, what are the respective manning ratios of social workers and staff members to residents?
 - (b) What are the average monthly expenditures on food and clothing per resident in each residential home? Please provide a breakdown of the expenditures of each residential home by staff salary, staff on-costs and residents' expenses.

Asked by : Dr Hon YEUNG Sum

Reply : (a) The respective enrolment rates and staffing up to February 2000 are as follows -

	Probation Home	Probation Hostel	Reformatory School	Remand Home
Enrolment rate	63%	61%	34%	41%
Ratio of social work staff to residents	1:20	1:11	1:8	1:8
Ratio of other staff to residents	1:10	1:9	1:4	1:5

In view of the relatively low enrolment rates, SWD has already adjusted the respective homes' capacities and staffing following a review of its correctional/residential homes. The above staffing reflects the outcome of such adjustments. We will continue to monitor the utilization of each home against its revised capacity and staffing provision.

- (b)(i) The average monthly expenditure on food and clothing per resident in each residential home in the 1999-2000 Revised Estimates is shown below:

Item	Average Cost per resident per month	
	Meal	Clothing
Fanling Girls' Home	\$690	\$259
Shatin Boys' Home	\$516	\$263
Kwun Tong Hostel	\$368	\$31
O Pui Shan Boys' Home	\$540	\$261
Begonia Road Juvenile Home	\$532	\$240
Pui Chi Boys' Home	\$720	\$404
Ma Tau Wei Girls' Home	\$584	\$85

- (b)(ii) A detailed breakdown of expenditure for each correctional/residential home is set out at the following table:

Item	Breakdown of expenditure (\$M)					
	Direct Cost		Resident Related Expenses	Overheads	Total	Staff oncosts *
	PE	Other DE/OC/NR				
Fanling Girls' Home	8.7	0.8	0.4	1.8	11.7	4.6
Shatin Boys' Home	18.5	1.6	1.6	3.8	25.5	9.7
Kwun Tong Hostel	5.9	0.7	0.4	1.3	8.3	3.1
O Pui Shan Boys' Home	15.8	1.1	1.0	3.2	21.1	8.3
Begonia Road Juvenile Home	13.1	1.4	0.7	2.7	17.9	6.9
Pui Chi Boys' Home	9.7	1.1	0.7	2.0	13.5	5.1
Ma Tau Wei Girls' Home	17.1	1.3	0.8	3.6	22.8	9.0

* Staff oncosts are provided under other Heads of expenditures: -

PE = Personal Emoluments
 DE = Departmental Expenses
 OC = Other Charges
 NR = Non-Recurrent

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-081

Question Serial No.

0784

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

- Question :
- (a) Regarding the remand homes, the cost per resident per month will increase from \$47,163 in 1999-2000 to \$64,423 in 2000-01. What are the reasons for that?
 - (b) On average, how long will the residents stay in the remand homes? The Social Welfare Department will create 6 posts in 2000-01 for launching education programme for residents in short-term correctional homes, what will be included in the curriculum?
 - (c) How many illegal immigrants (IIs) were admitted to remand homes in 1999-2000? What percentage did they represent in the total number of residents? Discounting the number of IIs, what was the enrolment rate and what was the amount of expenditure thus reduced?

Asked by : Dr Hon YEUNG Sum

- Reply :
- (a) The increase in operating cost of remand homes is due to (i) the creation of 4 Social Work Assistant posts and 2 Workshop Instructor III posts in Begonia Road Juvenile Home (BRJH) and Pui Chi Boys' Home (PCBH) for handling illegal immigrants, (ii) the implementation of the new manning standard in short-term homes following a review of correctional/residential homes, resulting in a net increase of \$0.5m and (iii) the creation of 6 teaching posts to provide education service in short-term homes.
 - (b) The average length of stay of residents in respective short-term homes is as below :

Name of Home	Average Length of Stay
Ma Tau Wei Girls' Home	36 days
Pui Chi Boys' Home	44 days
Begonia Road Juvenile Home	2 months

The curriculum of the short-term homes provides academic training on core subjects such as Chinese, English and Mathematics. Other subjects include social studies, arts and craft, physical education, music etc.

- (c) The number of illegal immigrants admitted from April 1999 to end of February 2000 is 748, representing 27% of the total admission into remand homes. The enrolment rate of local residents after discounting illegal immigrants is also 27%. If the custody of illegal immigrants (IIs) is transferred away from SWD, the same staffing complement will still be required, though there might be possible saving of \$1.5m associated with the 4 SWA posts and 2 WI(III) posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-082

Question Serial No.

0935

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) The number of family caseworkers in Government sector and Subvented sector increased by 20 and 9 respectively in 1999-2000 (Estimate) as compared with that of 1998-99 (Actual). What are the reasons for such a great discrepancy? Have the additional caseworkers been employed?
- (b) It is planned that there will be no increase in family caseworkers in 2000-01 whereas it is estimated that the number of cases served in 2000-01 will increase from 60,589 to 61,195 for Government sector and from 22,082 to 23,849 for Subvented sector. On the other hand, caseload per worker is anticipated to decrease from 68 to 66 for Government sector and from 72 to 70 for Subvented sector. In the face of increasing cases and without additional caseworkers, why will the caseload per worker decrease.

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply :

- (a) The apparent discrepancy in the apportionment of the additional caseworkers is due to the fact that there are proportionally more cases handled by the government sector. However, the number of cases in the NGO sector has been growing faster than expected. In the light of this, we will consider an adjustment to the apportionment. We have also required all caseworkers to exercise more vigorous caseload management to monitor the intake and closure of cases and to ensure that only those cases genuinely in need of social work input will remain in the caseload.

The 9 caseworkers for the subvented sector will be allocated this month after the vetting of applications from NGOs has been completed. As for the government sector, the resources for

creating the additional caseworker posts have been temporarily deployed to other priority areas. These will be reverted to this area of work in April 2000.

- (b) The number of 61,195 and 23,849 quoted are “cases served” in the Government sector and Subvented sector respectively. Cases served is the number of active cases brought forward from 1999-2000, plus the estimated number of new and re-activated cases in 2000-01, without deducting cases closed. The caseload per worker, however, is calculated by dividing the average number of active cases at the end of each month by the average number of caseworkers in post for the corresponding period. There is no direct correlation between the number of cases served and the average caseload per worker. As a result of better caseload management, it is anticipated that the average caseload per worker will decrease although the number of family caseworkers for the same period remains unchanged.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-083

Question Serial No.

0936

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : With a general freeze on civil service recruitment, how would the Social Welfare Department increase its manpower as planned?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The actual creation and filling of the posts will be subject to the Budget Strategy in containing the size of the civil service.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-084

Question Serial No.

0937

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : In order to strengthen public education and publicity efforts on the prevention of child abuse, the Social Welfare Department had launched territory-wide publicity campaigns and district-based programmes in all 13 SWD districts last year. What are the details, expenditure breakdown and indicators of these campaigns and programmes? Are there any follow-up programmes planned to be launched in the coming year? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure of these programmes? If no, why?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The 1999 territory-wide publicity campaign has chosen "Prevention of Child Neglect" as its theme. It was carried out mainly through television and radio programmes, newspaper articles, and a newly-designed booklet. This was supplemented by 126 publicity and public education programmes organized by 13 District Co-ordinating Committees on Family and Child Welfare Services at the district level.

In 1999-2000, the Department has spent \$0.5m on the campaign, with input from the Government Information Services (GIS). Additional resources of \$4.4m were allocated to 13 Districts to organize programmes which cover, amongst other subjects, prevention of child abuse. District committees also secured sponsorship from local organizations and donations from charitable funds, the total amount of which is not available.

These programmes received very encouraging feedback from the public and wide and positive media coverage. Statistics show that there is heightened public awareness of the problem as reflected by a six fold increase in the number of reported child neglect cases.

In 2000-01, continuous efforts will be made to strengthen public education and publicity efforts on prevention of child abuse, with a theme on “Child Discipline and Child Abuse”. Planned activities include radio programmes, feature articles in newspapers/magazines, and thematic posters and leaflets. District Co-ordinating Committees will also organise supporting activities. The estimated expenditure for the territory-wide and district level publicity efforts to be borne by SWD which will cover, amongst other subjects, prevention of child abuse will be about \$2.6m. GIS will also absorb part of the expenses.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-085

Question Serial No.

0938

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What is the estimated expenditure on the family help-line to be provided next year?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The estimated expenditure to provide the family help-line is about \$0.8m, comprising \$717,600 staff cost, \$49,000 for enhancing the computerized telephone system and \$46,000 for publicity.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-086

Question Serial No.

0939

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : For the past year, the revised expenditure on elderly services was lesser than the approved provision. The revised expenditure for elderly services in 1999-2000 is \$2,440m, which is \$80m less than the approved expenditure of \$2,520m. Please state in detail the items saved and the outstanding services which were scheduled to be launched.

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The lower expenditure in 1999-2000 is mainly due to :-

- * The longer than expected time required to procure meal services through open tender. \$24m
- * Underspensing due to a revised schedule for phasing in of the commissioning of Nursing Homes. \$16m
- * Underspensing due to a revised schedule for phased procurement of places from private homes. \$40m

Total \$80m

Signature _____
Name in block letters Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title Director of Social Welfare
Date 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-088

Question Serial No.

0941

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : There is no increase in resources for CY (Children and Youth) services in the coming year, except \$0.4m for the Government sector. On what item will this \$0.4m be designated?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The net increase of \$0.4m for CY Services in Government sector is the adjusted staff cost for filling vacant posts for the Against Substance Abuse Scheme in 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-089

Question Serial No.

0968

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What are the manpower (with ranking details) and resources allocated to the implementation of the "Support for Self-reliance" Scheme in 1999? What is the caseload per worker?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : To encourage and assist unemployed CSSA recipients to rejoin the workforce, SWD has implemented a 'Support for Self-reliance' Scheme since June 1999. The staff required had been included in the additional posts for social security service created in 1999-2000. An additional 220 posts were created to :

- ✧ cope with the increased workload arising from a larger CSSA caseload;
- ✧ implement the 'Support for Self-reliance' Scheme
- ✧ strengthen efforts in prevention and investigation of social security fraud

The additional staff are deployed flexibly to administer the social security schemes. Through the increase in staff and job re-distribution, staff of SSFUs are required to handle all types of CSSA cases, including the work arising from implementation of the Support for Self-reliance Scheme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-090

Question Serial No.

0969

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What are the establishment and ranking structure of the Community Work Administration Unit which was set up in August 1999? How many clients have they served so far?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : The Community Work Administration Unit consists of 17 staff members, including 1 Community Work Administrator and 16 Community Work Organizers. The unit has so far provided services to about 1500 clients.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-091

Question Serial No.

0970

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What is the average time for field units to process a new CSSA case of Old Age, Chronic Illness, Unemployment, Single Parent and any other causes? Is it necessary to increase resources to speed up the processing time?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : According to a study on case processing time for 1998-99, the average processing time for a new CSSA application, irrespective of the case nature, is 11 working days.

For applications where there is an urgent need for assistance, SWD will provide cash assistance to the applicant within one or two working days. With this mechanism in place, the average processing time of 11 working days is considered acceptable.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-092

Question Serial No.

0971

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What are the number of CSSA cases which do not satisfy the one-year residence requirement in 1998 and 1999? And the amount of assistance granted to them?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply : The average number of CSSA cases with new arrivals who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 1 year in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (up to February 2000) were 3800 and 2500 respectively. The estimated amount of CSSA paid to these cases in 1998-99 was \$420m. The corresponding figure projected for 1999-2000 is about \$250m.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-093

Question Serial No.

0972

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

- Question :
- (a) As regards the elderly service, please state the number of staff in the carer's support centres and their respective ranks. What are the resources allocated for the centres? How many carers and elderly are being served?
 - (b) Please provide information on the number of volunteers working in the support teams for the elderly and the number of vulnerable elderly served. Have the objectives pledged in the Policy Address been achieved?
 - (c) How would the Government determine the cost of the bought place and enhanced bought place schemes for private homes? Will the cost be adjusted in accordance with the charges for private homes places?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

- Reply :
- (a) Two carers' support centres are in operation. The staffing for each centre consists of 1 Social Work Officer, 1 Social Work Assistant, 2 Welfare Workers and 1 Clerical Assistant. A driver is provided for one of the centres to provide transportation to its clients due to its relatively remote location. The annual provision for the two carers' support centres is \$4.75m. In their first year of operation, the two centres served a total of 1,818 carers and 5,764 elderly people.
 - (b) By January 2000, support teams for the elderly had engaged 18,054 volunteers, including 6,900 elderly people. We have over-achieved the target of recruiting 5,400 senior volunteers by 2001 as pledged in the 1999 Policy Address. In addition, support teams for the elderly had identified and linked up 34,809 vulnerable elderly through the networking mechanism, covering

20,348 new cases. This is above the pledged target of identifying an additional 20,000 vulnerable elderly people by 2001.

- (c) The calculation of the purchase price per place under the Bought Place Scheme and the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme is based on a formula endorsed by the Social Welfare Advisory Committee. The formula has taken into account the standards of space and manpower set for participating care homes. Major components include (a) staff salary (b) other charges (e.g. expenditure on food items, utility charges, management and day-to-day maintenance fees etc.), (c) rent & rates, and (d) contingency. However, monthly charges of private residential care homes for the elderly vary from home to home, depending, amongst other factors, on their service quality. They will not be taken into account in determining the BPS/EBPS purchase prices.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-094

Question Serial No.

0987

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : As at 1st March 2000, how many CSSA recipients have been affected since the Government cut the grant under the After-school Care Programme in mid-1999? How much had the Government saved as a result?

Asked by : The Hon Law Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The types of CSSA special grants made available to able-bodied recipients have been reduced since 1 June 1999. Special grant for after school care will not normally be payable to able-bodied recipients. However, the following assistance is available to recipients in need:

- ✧ School social workers and caseworkers of Family Services Centres to offer counselling and other assistance to children having behavioural or emotional problems.
- ✧ Mutual help groups in Family Activity and Resources Centres to care for children in need.
- ✧ Parents who need assistance in supervision of their children at home may seek help from social workers or take part in family life education programmes to improve their parenting skills.
- ✧ Some NGOs will waive or reduce the after school care fees for children of CSSA recipients.
- ✧ In exceptional circumstances, SWD may exercise discretion to approve payment of special grants to cover after school care fees of deserving cases.

Between 1 June 1999 and 29 February 2000, 19 cases were granted assistance to cover the after school care fees. SWD, however, does not keep statistics on the number of rejections. In view of the above, it is impossible to estimate accurately the savings in CSSA expenditure as a result of the new arrangements.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-095

Question Serial No.

1014

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : In respect of sheltered workshops operated by the subvented sector, the actual enrolment rate in 1998-99 is only 98% as against the 100% enrolment rate estimated in last year's Estimates. As for 1999-2000, the enrolment rate in the current Estimates is 98% only as against the planned rate of 100% in last year's Estimates. The planned enrolment rate for the coming year is also set at 98%. Nevertheless, the Government is going to provide 400 additional places for sheltered workshops. On the contrary, the enrolment rate of sheltered workshops operated by the Government sector is over 100% every year. What are the reasons for such discrepancy? How are these 400 places distributed? Has the Government taken into account the enrolment rate when planning to provide the additional places?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : In order to make full use of casual vacancies arising from the absence of sheltered workers due to various reasons such as sickness, medical appointments etc., the Social Welfare Department has been encouraging sheltered workshops to adopt above-capacity enrolment as a good practice. In sheltered workshops run by the Department, above-capacity enrolment of up to 115% has been adopted. As for sheltered workshops run by the subvented sector, about half do not adopt this practice. Those that are willing to practise above-capacity enrolment are prepared to over-enrol up to 105%. Due to different practices, the enrolment rate of departmental sheltered workshops is consistently higher than that of the subvented sector. Efforts will be made to ensure full utilization.

The distribution of the 400 additional places in 2000-01 is as follows:

Ho Man Tin 100 places

Fanling 100 places

Expansion in existing sheltered workshops 200 places

In planning additional places, the Administration has taken into account the shortfall of sheltered workshop places and the geographical distribution of people on the waiting list.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>16 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-096

Question Serial No.

1046

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : The Financial Secretary stated that the restrictions on disregarded earnings for CSSA recipients would be relaxed. Can you provide the details? What is its implication to next year's provision?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : An able-bodied CSSA recipient is now entitled to a maximum monthly earnings disregard of \$1,805 on condition that he is working no less than 120 hours and earning no less than \$3,200 a month.

To encourage able-bodied unemployed CSSA recipients to take up any job, be it part-time or of low pay, it is proposed that the existing restrictions on minimum income and hours of work be removed.

It is estimated that this relaxation will benefit about 2 000 CSSA recipients. It is nevertheless difficult to assess accurately the financial implications of the relaxation. Whilst the CSSA payment may increase in some cases, the relaxation may succeed in encouraging some unemployed CSSA recipients to take up employment and hence draw lower levels of benefits.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.
HWB-098
Question Serial No.
1056

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : In paragraph 150 of the Financial Secretary's speech, it is stated that a recurrent expenditure of \$200m have been set aside in the coming year for the implementation of a service-oriented strategy which will provide services to unemployed, low-income and single-parent CSSA recipients. Under which head(s) of expenditure and related programmes in the General Revenue Account will such recurrent expenditure be accounted for? If the expenditure is accounted for under a number of programmes, please list the provision for each programme.

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : A sum of \$200m has been included in Head 106 Miscellaneous Services Subhead 251 Additional Commitments for implementing a Promoting Self-reliance Strategy. The fund will be used for provision of active employment assistance to CSSA recipients who are able to work, implementation of various support programmes on family and child welfare, young people and home/community care services for the elderly. Detailed proposals will be provided to the Finance Committee shortly.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-099

Question Serial No.

1057

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : In paragraph 150 of the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary stated that the Active Employment Assistance Scheme would be extended to all able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients, and special assistance would be offered to those who have been away from job market for some time in the following year. What are the staffing and financial resources earmarked for the extension of the above scheme and the provision of special assistance? Has the authority concerned set any targets for the number of CSSA recipients who will be able to find a job under the scheme? As for the "special assistance" offered to the unemployed, what kind of services will be provided?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The proposal to extend the Active Employment Assistance Scheme and provide special assistance to the able-bodied CSSA recipients would require more than \$50m. Additional staff will be provided to the Social Security Field Units to implement the programme to provide additional employment related assistance to various categories of able-bodied CSSA recipients, including the unemployed, single parents and low earners. NGOs will be commissioned to provide tailor-made assistance including intensive counselling, training, job matching and job attachment opportunities. Labour Department and the Employees Retraining Board will also be involved to provide employment service and training to the participants of the relevant programmes. Detailed proposals including performance targets will be put to the Finance Committee shortly.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-100

Question Serial No.

1058

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : In paragraph 150 of the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary stated that a pilot programme of job matching would be undertaken in the following year to help Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients to find a job. What are the financial and staffing resources earmarked for this programme? What are the targets set?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The pilot programme of job matching is a joint project to be undertaken by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), Labour Department (LD) and Employees Retraining Board. Its objective is to match CSSA recipients who have become unemployed for a relatively long period of time with job vacancies available to LD's Local Employment Service, including those subject to the Supplementary Labour Scheme. \$2.1m is expected to be required to provide training and on the job allowances for the participants, where appropriate. The project is expected to serve about 200 CSSA recipients.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-138

Question Serial No.

0797

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 149 Government Secretariat
Health and Welfare Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Please describe the duties of the new post to be created under Programme (1) Social Welfare this year.

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Reply : One Senior Chinese Language Officer post and one Chinese Language Officer I post will be created in Health and Welfare Bureau to enhance the in-house translation support. A net creation of one post will be counted under each of the two programme areas, namely Programme (1) Social Welfare and Programme (2) Health.

Signature _____

Name in block letters DR YEOH ENG KIONG

Post Title Secretary for Health and Welfare

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-139

Question Serial No.

0798

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 149 Government Secretariat
Health and Welfare Bureau
Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Subhead (No. & title) : 700 ---
General Other Non-recurrent

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What is the estimated expenditure on the survey on elderly people's sense of worthiness under Subhead 700? Please also give the details of this survey.

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Reply : The approved commitment for this survey under Subhead 700 is \$1 million. The actual cost would be subject to the outcome of a tender exercise for selection of the survey agent.

Through face-to-face interview, the survey aims to find out how elderly people spend their time, the type and range of activities they are engaged in and whether and how their sense of worthiness might be enhanced by taking part in such activities. The survey also aims to find out from the soon-to-be-old what they think is important to their sense of worthiness. We will, in the same survey, ask questions to ascertain their health profile and financial disposition.

Signature _____

Name in block letters DR YEOH ENG KIONG

Post Title Secretary for Health and Welfare

Date 16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-144

Question Serial No.

0896

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head 149 Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) : 001 Salaries
Health and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (1) Social Welfare and (2) Health

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Please itemize the provision for allowances under Subhead 001 of the Estimates and provide a breakdown as well.

Asked by : Hon Michael HO Mun-ka

Reply : Expenditure under Subhead 001 is the provision for Salaries which amounts to \$52,252,000 in 2000-01. Provision for allowances is grouped under Subhead 002 and Subhead 007 and the detailed breakdown is as follows:-

Subhead 002	Provision in 2000-01 HK\$
Overtime allowance	220,000
Acting allowance	4,461,000
Typhoon allowance	2,000
Rainstorm Black Warning allowance	2,000
Total for Subhead 002	<hr/> 4,685,000
Subhead 007	
Job-related allowances --- Hardship allowance (Management consideration)	7,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters DR YEOH ENG KIONG

Post Title Secretary for Health and Welfare

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-145

Question Serial No.

0791

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 186 Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Policy Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : While Transport Department provided three additional relief vehicles to improve rebus services in 1999-2000, the actual number of passenger trips for both scheduled route and dial-a-ride services in 1999 were lower than the estimated numbers. Why is it that Transport Department will still procure two additional rebuses in 2000-01? Also, the estimated passenger trips for 2000 are similar to those estimated for 1999 in the 1999-2000 Estimates. Why hasn't a higher figure been estimated?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP

Reply : The three relief vehicles acquired in 1999 were intended to improve the reliability of rebus services, e.g. as relief for vehicle maintenance and to cover vehicle breakdowns. The two additional vehicles to be procured in 2000 will be deployed to operate new services to meet passenger demand.

The actual number of passenger trips in 1999 was lower than estimated due to a host of reasons including delay in commissioning of the five new vehicles and three relief vehicles, low employment rate and economic recession. But the demand has picked up again towards the end of 1999 and two additional vehicles are needed to meet the demand of disabled persons on the waiting list. However, as the two additional vehicles to be procured in 2000 are not expected to be put into service until early 2001 due to procurement lead time, patronage in 2000 is expected to be similar to last year's estimate for 1999.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-181

Question Serial No.

1161

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : There are eight correctional/residential homes, namely Begonia Road Juvenile Home, Kwun Tong Hostel, Pui Chi Boys' Home, Pui Yin Juvenile Home, O Pui Shan Boys' Home, Fanling Girls' Home, Sha Tin Boys' Home and Ma Tau Wei Girls' Home, under the direct supervision of the Social Welfare Department. Would the department provide information on the respective provisions for the eight homes in the last financial year, the detailed breakdowns of the expenditure, as well as the separate statements of income and expenditure for the above homes? Please also provide breakdowns of the estimated income and expenditure in the coming financial year for the eight homes.

Asked by : The Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Reply : The expenditure details for the correctional/residential homes for both the approved and revised estimates for 1999-2000 and their draft estimates for 2000-01 are at the Annex. The only institution which generates any income by way of board and lodging fees is the Kwun Tong Hostel, which is an open hostel. The revenue estimate is \$0.255m for 1999-2000 and \$0.308m for 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

		1999/2000	1999/2000	2000/01
		<u>Approved Estimate</u>	<u>Revised Estimate</u>	<u>Draft Estimate</u>
		\$m	\$m	\$m
STBH	Direct (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	14.9	21.7	21.3
	PE	12.8	18.5	18.5
	DE/OC/NR	2.1	3.2	2.8
	Overheads (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	2.2	3.8	3.9
		<u>17.1</u>	<u>25.5</u>	<u>25.2</u>
BRBH	Direct (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	16.8	15.2	17.6
(BRJH)	PE	14.6	13.1	15.6
(Note 1)	DE/OC/NR	2.2	2.1	2.0
	Overheads (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	2.5	2.7	3.2
		<u>19.3</u>	<u>17.9</u>	<u>20.8</u>
MTWGH	Direct (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	20.4	19.2	19.2
	PE	17.5	17.1	17.3
	DE/OC/NR	2.9	2.1	1.9
	Overheads (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	3.0	3.6	3.6
		<u>23.4</u>	<u>22.8</u>	<u>22.8</u>
PCBH	Direct (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	10.6	11.5	12.3
	PE	8.9	9.7	10.7
	DE/OC/NR	1.7	1.8	1.6
	Overheads (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	1.5	2.0	2.2
		<u>12.1</u>	<u>13.5</u>	<u>14.5</u>
KTH	Direct (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	6.6	7.0	7.1
	PE	5.7	5.9	6.2
	DE/OC/NR	0.9	1.1	0.9
	Overheads (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	1.0	1.3	1.3
		<u>7.6</u>	<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.4</u>
FLGH	Direct (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	9.3	9.9	10.1
	PE	8.4	8.7	9.1
	DE/OC/NR	0.9	1.2	1.0
	Overheads (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	1.5	1.8	1.9
		<u>10.8</u>	<u>11.7</u>	<u>12.0</u>
OPSBH	Direct (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	33.9	17.9	18.7
(Note 2)	PE	29.6	15.8	16.5
	DE/OC/NR	4.3	2.1	2.2
	Overheads (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	5.1	3.2	3.4
		<u>39.0</u>	<u>21.1</u>	<u>22.1</u>
Total	Direct (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	112.5	102.4	106.3
	Overheads (including PE/DE/OC/NR)	16.8	18.4	19.5
		<u>129.3</u>	<u>120.8</u>	<u>125.8</u>

Notes

1. PYJH was removed to and merged with the girls' remand section of BRBH to form the BRJH on 6.7.1999. The 1999/2000 Approved Estimate included the Estimates of the two homes.
2. CPBH merged with OPSBH in Nov. 99 and closed in Dec. 99. The 1999/2000 Approved Estimate included the Estimates of the two homes.

Remark

There is no non-recurrent expenditure in 2000/01 Draft Estimate.

Abbreviation:

PE = Personal Emoluments
DE = Departmental Expenses
OC = Other Charges
NR = Non-Recurrent

STBH = Shatin Boys' Home
BRBH = Begonia Road Boys' Home
MTWGH = Ma Tau Wei Girls' Home
PCBH = Pui Chi Boys' Home

KTH = Kwun Tong Hostel
FLGH = Fanling Girls' Home
OPSBH = O Pui Shan Boys' Home
PYJH = Pui Yin Juvenile Home

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-182

Question Serial No.

1195

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Please give a detailed account of the small scale implementation project launched under the Understanding Adolescent Project last year. What are the financial and manpower resources deployed for the implementation of the project? What is the total number of schools that implemented the project? How many students took part in the project? When will the authority concerned conduct an evaluation on the project to decide whether the project should be implemented in full?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : With an allocation of \$1.6m from the Lotteries Fund, a 20-month Small Scale Implementation Project under the Understanding the Adolescent Project has been carried out in 8 secondary schools which were matched with 8 children and youth centres/integrated teams in Shatin starting in May 1999. The Project aims to test out the logistics of administering the screening tool on Secondary One students for early identification of potential at-risk factors. There is also a built-in evaluation of the effectiveness of the refined primary preventive programmes in building up the resilience of students. A total of 1,213 students were screened, and 76 students were provided with primary preventive programmes. A research team from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, responsible for conducting the built-in evaluation, is expected to submit the evaluation report on the Project to the Committee on Services for Youth at Risk in late 2000. Based on the results of the evaluation, the Committee will consider the feasibility of full-scale implementation of the Project.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-183

Question Serial No.

1196

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Regarding the study on the long-term policy on financial support for the elderly, what is the progress at the moment? What is the work schedule ahead?

Asked by : The Hon Law Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The study on financial support for the elderly involves not only social security payments to the elderly, e.g. Old Age Allowance, Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. It should be viewed in the wider context of retirement protection, including the impact of the Mandatory Provident Fund, and the financing of long-term care for the elderly.

We expect to engage the Elderly Commission in these discussions in 2000-01.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-184

Question Serial No.

1197

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : The Community Work Administration Unit was set up last year. Please state the expenditures involved and the manning ratio. How many tasks under the Community Work Programme have been co-ordinated by the Unit and what are they? How many Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients have participated in the Programme so far? Have indicators been drawn up to assess the effectiveness of the Programme in achieving the objectives of improving the recipients' self-esteem and confidence, and helping them to develop a work habit?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Reply : The Community Work Administration Unit (CWAU) consists of 17 staff members including one Community Work Administrator and 16 Community Work Organisers who are employed on non-civil service contracts. A \$8m grant from the Lotteries Fund provides for the staff and other operating costs of the Community Work Programme for two years.

The CWAU is responsible for co-ordinating community work opportunities, matching participants with the opportunities available and supervising operation in the field. The community work opportunities available include:

- ✧ community service such as general office duties in welfare units operated by the Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations; and
- ✧ environment-related work such as clean-up operations in country

parks and non-gazetted beaches.

So far, 1500 CSSA recipients have participated in the community work programme.

To assess the effectiveness of the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, including the Community Work Programme, a comprehensive evaluation through a longitudinal study of the participating CSSA recipients is underway and will be completed in July 2000. The indicators used in the evaluation include the participants' success in finding jobs as well as their effort in job search and their attitude towards rejoining the workforce. The study will also ask for the opinions of the participants towards individual components of the Scheme, including the Community Work Programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-185

Question Serial No.

1199

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : According to the Five Year Plan for Social Welfare Development in Hong Kong – Review 1998, the Steering Group on Outreaching Social Work recommended that the number of outreaching social work teams should be increased annually by two for three consecutive years from 1996-97 onwards, and that a review should be carried out upon completion of the expansion. According to the Five Year Plan, there should be 36 outreaching social work teams in 1999-2000, but there are only 34 teams. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by : Dr Hon YEUNG Sum

Reply : Following the implementation of the recommendations of the Report on Review of Children and Youth Centre Services in 1994, integrated teams have been formed to meet the changing needs of youth. Integrated teams (ITs) draw resources from children and youth centre, school social work and outreach social work to provide services to young people in a holistic manner. Moreover, a research team from the City University of Hong Kong had conducted a detailed Evaluation on the Implementation of the Review Report on Children and Youth Centre Services in 1997. They reaffirmed that the integrated team is the preferred youth work model and recommended the Department to form more ITs.

At present, there are 24 outreach social work teams. In addition, the Department has formed 34 ITs. Altogether, these represent more manpower resources with a wider geographical coverage than the original plan of 36 individual outreach teams.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-186

Question Serial No.

1291

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) Regarding the handling of family casework, why is the caseload per worker in the government sector falls short of that in the subvented sector by four?
- (b) Similarly, from 1998 to the coming financial year, the cost per case per month in the subvented sector has been on the decrease. Why does the cost per case per month in the government sector go up every year?

Asked by : The Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam, JP

Reply :

- (a) In 1999-2000, there was provision for 29 additional caseworkers apportioned between the government and the NGO sectors to enable them to achieve the same caseload of 71 per worker (Page 307 of the Estimates for 1999-2000). However, in the meantime, the number of cases in the NGO sector has grown faster than expected. In the light of this, we will consider an adjustment to the apportionment. We have also required all caseworkers to exercise more vigorous caseload management to monitor the intake and closure of cases and to ensure that only those cases genuinely in need of social work input remain in the caseload.
- (b) For the subvented sector, the cost per case per month is decreasing because the number of cases served is on the increase. As for the government sector, the increase in cost per case per month is attributed to the slightly lower growth rate in the number of cases served. However, apart from caseload management, a direct comparison of the number of cases is not appropriate as the government sector tends to handle more complex cases including all statutory cases (e.g. care or protection orders) and families in crisis situations requiring immediate assistance.

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	<hr/> Director of Social Welfare
Date	<hr/> 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-187

Question Serial No.

1292

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : How many additional social workers will be provided for strengthening family education?

Asked by : The Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam, JP

Reply : To strengthen family education, 20 additional social workers will be provided. Another 6 social workers will be redeployed to provide this service.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-188

Question Serial No.

1295

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Please provide the financial provision, number of beneficiaries and related performance indicators for the various types of services for vulnerable elderly or elderly at risk in the community in 1999-2000; and the corresponding estimate for 2000-01.

Asked by : The Dr Hon LEUNG Che-hung, JP

Reply : Support teams for the elderly is the major service for the vulnerable elderly. These are based in multi-service centres to provide social networking and outreaching services and to promote senior volunteerism. In 1999-2000, \$34.4m was provided to 34 support teams for the elderly. In 2000-01, this provision is increased to \$35.6m to provide 3 more support teams. As at January 2000, these teams had linked up 34809 vulnerable elderly and engaged 6900 senior volunteers. It is expected that an additional 7000 vulnerable elderly will be served and additional 600 senior volunteers recruited in 2000-01.

Performance indicators for support teams for the elderly include the number of elderly people identified, linked up and being offered service, the number of referrals for formal services to meet their financial, medical, health and psycho-social needs, and the number of volunteers recruited, trained and retained. Effectiveness of the service can also be measured by customer feedback on service variety and quality, staff attitude and response to emergency calls.

Signature _____

Name in block letters	<hr/> <u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<hr/> <u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<hr/> <u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-189

Question Serial No.

1296

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Elderly Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

- Question :
- (a) What are the programmes and expenditure items of the 3-year "Opportunities for the Elderly Project"? What are the activities and relevant expenditure items for promoting employment among the elderly? What are the planned expenditure items for promoting employment among the elderly next year?
 - (b) A pilot scheme will be launched in the coming year to encourage developers to provide premises for use as residential care homes for the elderly in their development projects. What are the contents of the incentive measures, estimated expenditure involved and expected effects of the pilot scheme?
 - (c) What are the expenditure items for providing support for carers?

Asked by : The Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

- Reply :
- (a) The "Opportunities for the Elderly Project" is a 3-year project with an allocation of \$11m from the Lotteries Fund. It was launched in January 1999 to provide grants for community organizations to plan and organize innovative programmes, including continuous learning, community participation, senior volunteerism and inter-generational activities to foster care and respect for the elderly. Up to January 2000, financial subsidy of \$2.3m was granted under the Project to various organisations to carry out 259 activities, benefitting 263,772 participants.

Funding approval for the "Opportunities for the Elderly Project" was given by the Subventions and Lotteries Fund Advisory

Committee only for the types of activities set out above. Employment promotion activities among the elderly fall outside the ambit of this grant. However, the Elderly Commission has taken a keen interest in this subject and has invited the Education and Manpower Bureau to consider how to take the matter forward.

- (b) The pilot scheme is intended to offer bonus plot ratio to developers applying for lease modifications and land exchanges to encourage them to incorporate in their development projects premises suitable for use as residential care homes for the elderly. Details of the scheme are being worked out and the financial implications will be assessed when the proposals are finalized. The developers will be sounded out when the proposals are ready.
- (c) Various support services are provided to family carers, including carers' support centres, day and residential respite services. \$4.75m will be spent in 2000-01 to operate two carers' support centres to provide information, emotional support and training to carers of the elderly. Provision for day respite services amounts to \$838,440 in 2000-01. Apart from the existing 11 designated residential respite care and attention places, a pilot scheme to revamp residential respite services will be launched in 2000-01. All casual vacancies in 118 existing subvented residential care homes for the elderly will provide residential respite services at no additional funding from the Government.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>20 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-190

Question Serial No.

1319

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question :

- (a) What are the details of the \$200m provision earmarked for the implementation of the Support for Self-reliance Scheme?
- (b) What are the details for the relaxation of the current restrictions on disregarded earnings of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme? What are the estimated financial implications of such relaxation on the Government for the next 5 years?
- (c) After the practice that elderly persons living with their family can individually apply for CSSA has been scrapped, what is the decrease in caseload and the amount of assistance saved?

Asked by : The Hon Lee Cheuk-yan

Reply :

- (a) It is proposed to earmark \$200m to provide the following services:-
 - (i) full implementation of the Active Employment Assistance Programme to cover all unemployment cases;
 - (ii) optional employment assistance for single parents and 'low earners';
 - (iii) commissioning non-governmental organizations to provide intensive employment assistance including tailor-made programmes and job attachment opportunities to participants; and a pilot project in conjunction with the Labour Department and Employees Retraining Board to match the relatively long-term unemployed CSSA cases with job vacancies including those subject to the Supplementary Labour Scheme;
 - (iv) relaxation of the current restrictions on Disregarded Earnings;
 - (v) a variety of direct services, including extended hours for child care centres, subvented after-school-care programme, mutual help groups and counselling and parenting education for single parents; pre and post migration services for new arrivals; an enhanced one-stop service for victims of domestic violence; and improved home and community care for the elderly to free able-bodied family carers for work.
- (b) An able-bodied CSSA recipient is now entitled to a maximum monthly earnings disregard of \$1,805 on condition that he is working no less than 120 hours and earning no less than \$3,200 a month.

To encourage able-bodied unemployed CSSA recipients to take up any job, be it part-time or of low pay, it is proposed that the existing restrictions on minimum income and hours of work be removed.

It is estimated that this relaxation will benefit about 2 000 CSSA recipients. It is nevertheless difficult to assess accurately the financial implications of the relaxation. Whilst the CSSA payment may increase in some cases, the relaxation may succeed in encouraging some unemployed CSSA recipients to take up employment and hence draw lower levels of benefits.

- (c) It is an established policy to require all CSSA applicants including elderly applicants, to apply on a household basis if they are living with other income earning family members under the same roof and enjoying the benefit of shared household facilities. As one of the measures recommended in the 1998 CSSA Review, the policy has been reinforced since June 1999. Since this is not a new policy, no separate statistics are kept on the number of cases affected and the amount of savings involved.

However, SWD has since January 2000 started to collect statistics on applications for CSSA by elderly persons living with family members. Out of 73 such new applications received in January 2000, 45 were withdrawn by the applicants when the arrangement was explained to them, 12 were found not eligible, and financial assistance was granted to the remaining 16 cases.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>20 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-191

Question Serial No.

1321

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : All Programmes

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : The Report on Enhanced Productivity Programme of the Social Welfare Department revealed that the Government has decided to grant Other Charges to non-governmental organisations on a lump sum subvention basis starting from April 2000. For this purpose, has the Government conducted full consultation with the concerned organisations and obtained their consent in advance?

Asked by : The Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The release of subvention for Other Charges (OC) on a lump sum basis is a measure proposed by the subvented sector to facilitate achievement of the productivity gains required under the Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP). After discussion with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in mid-1999, SWD informed all subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs) about the proposal. At a Briefing Session on EPP to all subvented NGOs held on 22.9.1999, SWD explained the details of this arrangement, which was well received.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-192

Question Serial No.

1322

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : All programmes

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : What is the Government's timetable for the full implementation of Lump Sum Funding i.e. the inclusion of Personal Emoluments into lump sum subvention?

Asked by : The Hon LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : It is proposed that subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will be given a two-years period up to 31 March 2002 to join the Lump Sum Grant scheme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Andrew K.P. Leung
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-196

Question Serial No.

1228

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : Please provide the financial and manpower provisions for various services for discharged mental patients in 1999-2000; and the corresponding estimates for 2000-01. Other than the number of places, would the Department provide more performance indicators to indicate the effects of the various services for discharged mental patients? What is the Department's plan to dovetail with the Hospital Authority's plan of reducing psychiatric in-patient beds in future years and what are the resources involved?

Asked by : Dr Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply : The financial and manpower provisions for various residential and day services for discharged mental patients (including long stay care homes, halfway houses, supported hostel for mentally ill, activity centres for discharged mental patients, parents resource centre for mentally ill, and agency-based aftercare service.) are summarized as follows:

(estimate)	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-01</u>
a. Financial Provision (Full year cost)	\$201.95m	\$221.90m
b. Manpower Provision (No. of staff)	709	837

The Department has introduced new performance indicators to show the effects of the various services for discharged mental patients.

These include the successful discharge rate and the rate of achieving an individual's rehabilitation plan.

The Department has secured resources to provide 1000 additional residential and 50 additional day places for discharged mental patients between 2000-01 and 2004-05. The recurrent resources involved are \$103m. This will facilitate the Hospital Authority's plan of reducing the number of psychiatric in-patient beds.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Andrew K.P. Leung</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>18 March 2000</u>

Bureau Serial No.

HWB-197

Question Serial No.

1082

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION

Head 149 Government Secretariat
Health and Welfare Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health and Welfare

Question : The Financial Secretary announced that the Government would extend the “lump sum funding” arrangement to non-government organisations in receipt of subvention. What criteria will be adopted by the Government to determine the amount of lump sum to be received by the subvented organisations in future? What is the monitoring mechanism? Is there any consultation or discussion with the subvented organisations before the new funding arrangement is introduced? If yes, what are the views of these organisations on the new funding arrangement? Which part of the Budget reflects the “lump sum funding” model?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Basis of Lump Sum Grant (LSG)

The proposed LSG comprises Other Charges (OC) and Personal Emoluments (PE). For the OC, the amount will be based on the current subvention with adjustment for inflation. As regards PE, it will be calculated on the basis of Benchmarking and “Snapshot” as below-

- (a) the benchmark lump-sum grant of each NGO is determined on the basis of the mid-point salaries of the existing pay scales of its recognised establishment as at 1.4.2000 plus the projected sector-wide average Provident Fund employer’s contribution of 6.8%;
- (b) a Snapshot of an NGOs staff strength will be taken as at 1.4.2000 and its PE subvention for 2000-01 under the existing subvention mode, will be projected;

(c) this projected PE subvention will be compared with the benchmark

- for agencies with Snapshot above the Benchmark, they will receive the Snapshot as the LSG.
- for agencies with Snapshot below the Benchmark, they will receive the Benchmark as LSG.

Monitoring Mechanism

The Lump Sum Grant will help ensure that future monitoring of NGOs is on output rather than input basis. Coupled with this will be an enhanced Service Performance Monitoring System which requires all NGOs to meet the requirements of their agreed Funding and Service Agreements (FSA), which will contain clear output targets, and Service Quality Standards. NGOs will also be required to submit annual audited accounts confirming that they have spent their LSG on the services covered under the FSA.

Consultation

In designing the proposed LSG package, the Administration has taken into account feedback obtained during the initial round of consultation conducted between November 1999 and January 2000. Since announcing the proposed LSG package on 10 February 2000, the Administration has continued to consult widely and had conducted a series of large-scale briefings for NGOs, arranged visits to individual NGOs, exchanged views with concerned groups and staff representatives as well as groups representing the interests of service recipients. Most groups contacted so far, have indicated support for the change. However, some concern has been expressed about the possibility of NGOs not having sufficient funds to meet their contractual commitments to existing staff. To address this concern, the Administration has committed to funding a 'Tide Over' Grant which will assist those NGOs experiencing financial difficulties to meet their commitment to existing staff in the next three years.

Budgetary Arrangement

Provision for LSG will be reflected in Head 170 Social Welfare Department, Subheads 410 Rehabilitation services (grants) and 411 Social welfare services (grants) as appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ DR YEOH ENG KIONG

Post Title _____ Secretary for Health and Welfare

Date 17 March 2000