

For information

LegCo Panel on Health Services

Traffic Accident outside Lady Trench Polyclinic on 21 January 2000

Purpose

This paper provides an account of the incident and staff response in relation to a traffic accident that occurred outside Lady Trench Polyclinic (LTP) on 21 January 2000. The Department of Health's position is also presented.

The Incident

2. Around 12:30 hours on 21 January 2000 (Friday), a boy aged four was hit by a lorry along Sha Tsui Road outside the LTP. A gentleman entered LTP in a hurry and asked for the clinic doctor. The gentleman said that a traffic accident had occurred outside the clinic and that someone was hurt. The doctor in-charge advised the man to call the police, which he did at once. The man then left and clinic staff returned to their work.

3. A few minutes later, another two ladies entered the LTP. They were directed by staff in the shroff office to the treatment room.

The ladies told the nurses that there was a traffic accident and sought assistance. The immediate response from the nurse in-charge was to ask the ladies to dial 999 for help. The ladies then left. Very soon, siren was heard and ambulance arrived.

The Department of Health's Position

4. In deciding whether to offer assistance or not in the event of emergencies in the clinic's vicinity, staff should exercise discretion taking into consideration professional judgement of the prevailing circumstances and his/her professional obligation to the injured.

Department of Health

January 2000