

**Legislative Council
Panel on Health Service
14 February 2000
Issues discussed by the
Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee**

Purpose

This paper reports on the issues discussed by the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee (HMDAC) since September 1999.

Introduction

2. The Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee was established on 1 March 1992 as a non-statutory advisory body to advise the Government on policy issues concerning health and medical services. The terms of reference of the Committee are : -

Having regard to the availability of manpower and financial resources dedicated by the Government and the development plans and policies of the Hospital Authority, to review the health and medical needs of the community, and to advise the Government, through the Secretary for Health and Welfare, on

- a) the manpower requirements to meet those needs;
- b) the adequacy and development of health and medical services; and

- c) the proper interface of all health and hospital services in the public and private sectors.

The Committee meets quarterly.

3. Members will recall that an information paper on the issues discussed by the HMDAC from January 1998 to September 1999 was submitted to this Panel for information on 13 September 1999. Issues discussed by HMDAC since September 1999 are summarised below.

Training of Nurses

4. HMDAC was briefed on recent developments in nursing education. Members supported the upgrading of basic nursing education to university level, which would improve the quality of patient care.

Human Organ Transplant Ordinance

5. HMDAC was briefed on the following proposed amendments to the Human Organ Transplant Ordinance :-

- a) exemptions from certain stipulated procedures in cases where the organs were removed from another person for therapeutic purposes on a previous occasion with no direct connection with the potential transplant operations;
- b) revision of the structure of the Human Organ Transplant Board; and

- c) exempting members of the Human Organ Transplant Board from personal liability if they were acting in good faith.

HMDAC Members supported the proposed amendments.

Y2K Compliance

6. HMDAC was briefed on the progress of the Y2K plans for HA and private hospitals and DH clinics.

Accreditation of Private Hospitals

7. HMDAC was briefed on the progress of introducing an accreditation scheme for private hospitals with a view to improving the quality of service.

Co-ordination between Department of Health (DH) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases

8. HMDAC was briefed on the delineation of work between the Department of Health and the newly established Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Health and Welfare Bureau
February 2000