

**For information**

**Legislative Council  
Panel on Health Services  
Meeting on 14 February 2000**

**Advisory Council on AIDS**

**Purpose**

This paper summarizes the work of the Advisory Council on AIDS and its three committees during the period from 1997 to 1999.

**Introduction**

2. The Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) was formed in 1990 and entered its third term on 1 August 1996. The current (fourth) term started on 1 August 1999.

3. The ACA has the following terms of reference:

- (a) to keep under review local and international trends and development relating to HIV infection and AIDS;
- (b) to advise Government on policy relating to the prevention, care and control of HIV infection and AIDS in Hong Kong;  
and
- (c) to advise on the co-ordination and monitoring of programmes on the prevention of HIV infection and the provision of services to people with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong.

## **The work of ACA (1997-99)**

4. The work of the ACA achieved in the past two years can be summarized as follows -

(i) *Review of Hong Kong's HIV/AIDS programmes (98/99) –*

In early 1998, the Council endorsed and commissioned a comprehensive review of the Hong Kong AIDS programme. The review led to the following new strategies and programme directions .:

(a) *AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 1999-2001(1998/99) -*

The findings and recommendations from the 1998 Review has enabled the Council to formulate new strategies for the local programme – “AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 1999-2001”. It provides more consolidated and concise strategies with new programme directions and dimensions.

(b) *Restructuring of ACA(1999) -*

The fourth term of the Council was convened in August 1999. Following the recommendations of the external consultancy, and the new AIDS Strategies, the Council has been re-structured. While keeping the Scientific Committee on AIDS, the new Council is now underpinned by an AIDS Prevention and Care Committee and a Committee on Promoting Acceptance (just established in January 2000).

(c) *Establishing a Community Planning Process (CPP)*

ACA has been advocating and supporting a new AIDS prevention initiative - community planning, as recommended by the external review team in 1998. The Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Services Organisations has applied funding from the AIDS Trust Fund to undertake a CPP project from 1999 to 2001. The prime objective of the process is that the community will take the lead in prioritising prevention activities.

(d) *Development of Prevention Strategy (98/99) -*

Following review of the AIDS situation and programmes in 1998, the ACA had focused its discussion on prevention strategies related to priority groups. An HIV Prevention in Hong Kong Strategy series was produced in 1998 with two prevention strategy papers related respectively to *Men Having Sex with Men (MSM)* and *Mobile Population* published.

(ii) *World AIDS Campaign (98-99) –*

A series of activities were launched in 1998 and 1999 respectively to commemorate the World AIDS Campaign -

(a) launching of a new TV API focussed on safer sex;

(b) Outstanding AIDS Workers Award Scheme; and

(c) inauguration of the “Ambassador Scheme” for Community Charter on AIDS; and

(d) launching of a Kick-off Ceremony and “I Care Party on AIDS” based on a popular Japanese drama series “KAMISAMA MOUSUKOSHIDAKE” in 1999 to educate youth and the public on AIDS awareness and acceptance.

(iii) *ACA related publications and cyber-communications (97-99) –*

The Council has continued with the production of a monthly newsletter, the **ACA Newsfile**. Other publications distributed together with the ACA Newsfile include : (a) *Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update*, (b) *Red Ribbon*, (c) *AIDS Bulletin*, (d) *Networking Voice*, (e) *Project Mini*, and (f) *The Node*. To enhance communication, the ACA Homepage first appeared in the Internet in 1996. The WebPages are periodically updated and the number of visitors has been increasing.

(iv) *Current term of ACA*

The fourth term of the Advisory Council on AIDS, chaired by Dr Homer Tso, started in August 1999. Based on the new AIDS Strategies and recommendations from the 1998 Review, the Council was restructured. The Council is now underpinned by Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA), AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC), and a Committee on Promoting Acceptance (just established in January 2000).

Targeting primarily on the priority community groups identified by the external review team, various task forces will be set up under the APCC. So far, the following four task forces have been set up

already :

- Subcommittee on Media and Publicity,
- Task Force on Youth,
- Task Force on Travellers, and
- Task Force on Men who have sex with men.

The other task forces in the pipeline will focus on the following:

- drug users,
- sex workers and their clients,
- women,
- patient welfare and care.

Department of Health

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