

Our Ref. :

Your Ref. :

25 May 2000

The Hon. Lee Cheuk-yan
c/o Legislative Council Secretariat
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lee,

LegCo Oral Question on 10 May 2000
Unintentional Injuries to Children

At the LegCo sitting on 10 May 2000, you asked a question concerning mutual help child care centres in the context of reducing injuries and deaths of children, and I agreed to provide further details to you after the meeting.

Mutual help child care centres must observe the requirements of the Child Care Services Ordinance and are under regular inspection by the Social Welfare Department. SWD-run centres have their operating costs covered within SWD's departmental expenditure while non-governmental agencies (NGOs) operating these centres are eligible for financial assistance to cover their initial fitting-out costs, purchase of furniture and equipment and rent and rates.

In 2000-2001, 8 additional mutual help child care centres are planned by NGOs. \$5.48 million has been earmarked to meet the initial fitting-out cost and purchase of furniture and equipment, if assistance is required. NGOs can also apply for an additional amount to cover rent and rates.

At present, there are 24 mutual help child care centres operating in Hong Kong. In 1999-2000, 5948 children used the service. In 1999-2000, only one NGO-run centre required financial assistance; the others operated on a self-financing basis. The one centre was allocated \$100,000 for its setting up costs and \$29,000 per annum for rent and rates.

I trust you find the information useful.

(Dr E K Yeoh)
Secretary for Health and Welfare

cc. SG, LegCo