

## **Legislative Council Panel on Transport**

### **Supplementary Information on Disability Allowance**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of Disability Allowance (DA) is to offer some measure of financial assistance to the severely disabled to meet their needs arising from disability. The DA comprises Normal DA and Higher DA.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

2. A person is eligible for Normal DA if:
  - he/she is certified by the Director of Health or the Chief Executive, Hospital Authority to be severely disabled; and
  - his/her disabling condition will persist for at least 6 months.
3. A person is eligible for Higher DA if:
  - in addition to meeting the eligibility criteria for Normal DA above, he/she must be certified by the Director of Health or the Chief Executive, Hospital Authority to be in need of constant attendance from others in his/her daily life; and
  - he/she is not receiving care in a Government or subvented residential institution or a medical residential institution under the Hospital Authority.

#### **DA payment**

4. Recipients of Normal and Higher DA will receive \$1,120 and \$2,240 per month respectively. Since its introduction in 1973, the allowance has been linked to the single person basic rate under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme. While the CSSA basic rate is determined on a basket of goods and services (including transport services), DA is not meant to cover a defined basket of goods and services and there is no restriction on how the allowance is used.

## **Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme**

5. The CSSA Scheme provides a safety net of last resort for those in need. In addition to a higher CSSA standard rate to meet the basic needs, disabled recipients are given a wide range of special grants to cover their special needs such as fares to and from hospital/clinic and other essential traveling expenses as well as costs of medical, rehabilitation, surgical appliances and hygienic items. The average payment of a single disabled CSSA recipient is \$ 3716 per month. As announced in the 2005 Policy Address, we will also introduce a special supplement of \$100 per month to severely disabled CSSA recipients who are not living in institutions.

**Health, Welfare and Food Bureau**  
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