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By Fax (2511 8224)
23 March 2006

Mr Raymond TANG Yee-bong
Chairperson
Equal Opportunities Commission
Unit 2002, 20th floor
Office Tower, Convention Plaza
1 Harbour Road
Wanchai
Hong Kong

Dear Mr TANG,

**Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs**

On behalf of the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs, I would like to seek your comments on the proposed new academic structure for special schools with reference to the Disability Discrimination Ordinance.

The Subcommittee is set up under the House Committee of the Legislative Council in January 2005 to study issues relating to the provision of boarding places, senior secondary education and employment opportunities for children with special educational needs. It has discussed, among other things, the proposed new senior academic structure for special schools. Two reports on the subject were issued by the Education and Manpower Bureau. The first report entitled “The New Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education – Action Plan for Investing in the Future of Hong Kong” was published in May 2005, and the second report entitled “Action for the Future – Further Consultation on Career-oriented Studies and the New Senior Secondary Academic Structure for Special Schools” in January 2006. These two reports can be downloaded from http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/hc/sub_com/hs52/papers/hs52_a.htm.

Members note from the second report (paragraphs 7.9 to 7.13) that under the proposed new academic structure, students who are physically disabled or hearing impaired will be provided with 10 years basic education (six years of primary education and four years of junior secondary education). However, students who are intellectually disabled will be provided with three years junior secondary education only. Members are concerned whether such a policy is in contravention of the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Ordinance. They would wish to seek your views in this regard.

Should you need further information about the Subcommittee, please contact Miss Odelia LEUNG, Clerk to the Subcommittee, at 2509 0640.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG)
Chairman of Subcommittee