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6 July 2007

Ms Mary So
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central

Dear Ms So,

Discharge planning in public hospitals

I refer to item 2 on the list of outstanding items in LC Paper No. CB(2)2077/06-07(02). Members requested the Administration to provide a response on the provision of community support service for discharged patients.

To further enhance the support for elderly patients discharged from public hospitals, the 2007-08 Budget has earmarked an additional \$96 million for implementing in phases a trial scheme in the next four years to provide one-stop transitional support services to elderly patients who have difficulty taking care of themselves upon discharge from hospitals and their carers. The Administration is working with the Elderly Commission on the arrangements for the trial scheme. In addition, the Administration will continue to enhance the existing support services for discharged elderly patients, including community-based services, emergency placement, respite services, residential care services and carers' support.

As regards discharged patients with disabilities, the Administration has already set up five Community Rehabilitation Day Service Centres since the end of 2006 in collaboration with the hospital clusters of the Hospital Authority providing continuous rehabilitative training and convalescent care to

patients with mental, physical or neural (e.g. stroke patients) impairment who have recently been discharged from hospitals. The new service aims to enhance the discharged patients' motor skills, self-management as well as the necessary skills for home and community living. In addition, the Social Welfare Department has received funding support from the Hong Kong Jockey Club for the provision of transitional residential and day training services for discharged patients with severe disabilities. With an expected commencement date in March 2008, this service will provide severely disabled persons with comprehensive care and training, in order to enhance their ability to live independently and pave way for their integration back to the community.

Yours sincerely,

(Paul Cheng)
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food