



香港大學病理學系
Department of Pathology
The University of Hong Kong
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong

Dr BEH Swan Lip, Philip
Associate Professor
Forensic Pathology
Tel: (852) 2855-4863
Fax: (852) 2872-5197
E-mail: philipbeh@pathology.hku.hk

The Hon. Dr. Fernando CHEUNG,
Chairman,
Panel on Welfare Services,
Legislative Council,
The Hong Kong SAR
People's Republic of China.

Dear Dr. CHEUNG,

27 June 2006.

Re: Response to New Proposal for Services for Victims of Sexual Assaults

Thank you for your kind invitation to address your panel.

This long awaited proposal is to say the least disappointing. It gives the appearance of widening the areas of coverage for victims of sexual violence but shows a total lack of understanding of the needs of victims of sexual violence.

Particularly troubling is that it is clear that the proposed service delivery model is not a "One-Stop Comprehensive and Specialized Service." In fact, I fail to understand the basis and rationale for this model of service delivery as it certainly do not appear to address the needs of the victims.

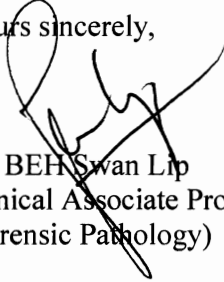
The following are some of the areas that are disturbing:-

- a. The service appears to target only victims who are reporting the case to the police. What will happen to all the victims who do not wish to report their cases to the police? They too suffer the medical and psychological trauma and require care and support too!
- b. The "perceived" increases in number of centers are unconvincing – will there actually be dedicated centers where victims will be able to spend time and to receive all the necessary support and care? Or are these just convenient locations where the victims can wait for the "on-call" social worker to show up before they are then being escorted all over Hong Kong?
- c. What is the "best practice" model that we are adopting here? If this is a Hong Kong innovation, could we be enlightened as to what rationale and evidence base or concepts that are underpinning the development of this model of service delivery?

- d. What was the nature of the “promised” review of the services that was promised to this panel late last year? What were the findings that supported this proposal? Who, if any were the professional experts that were consulted and what were their recommendations?
- e. I urge you and your fellow panel members to reject this proposal in its present form for it not only fails to provide the level of service and care that is currently available to victims of sexual violence, it has the potential of degenerating this and other related service areas such as those for the child and for domestic violence.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Yours sincerely,



Dr. BEH Swan Lip
Clinical Associate Professor
(Forensic Pathology)