

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Session No. : 16**

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HWFB(WW)002	0089	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Transport Services for People with Disabilities
HWFB(WW)003	0131	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)004	0132	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)005	0133	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)006	0134	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
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HWFB(WW)013	0061	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)014	0062	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Social Security
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HWFB(WW)018	0282	CHEUNG Hok-ming	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)019	0283	CHEUNG Hok-ming	170	Family and Child Welfare
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HWFB(WW)032	0448	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Services for Elders
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HWFB(WW)045	0612	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Services for Elders
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HWFB(WW)065	0950	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
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HWFB(WW)092	1223	CHEUNG Hok-ming	170	Young People
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HWFB(WW)124	1637	CHEUNG Hok-ming	170	Social Security
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HWFB(WW)128	1756	CHAN Yuen-han	140	Social Welfare
HWFB(WW)129	1757	CHAN Yuen-han	140	Social Welfare
HWFB(WW)130	1758	CHAN Yuen-han	140	Social Welfare
HWFB(WW)131	1759	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	All
HWFB(WW)132	1760	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)133	1761	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)134	1762	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)135	1763	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Social Security
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HWFB(WW)137	1927	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	All
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HWFB(WW)170	2319	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)171	2320	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)172	2321	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Services for Elders
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HWFB(WW)174	2323	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)175	2324	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)176	2325	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Services for Elders
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HWFB(WW)178	2327	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)179	2328	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)180	2329	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)181	2330	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)182	2331	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)183	2332	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
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HWFB(WW)185	2334	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)186	2335	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Services for Elders
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HWFB(WW)188	2337	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
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HWFB(WW)190	2343	CHOY So-yuk	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)191	2362	TAM Heung-man	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)192	2363	TAM Heung-man	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)193	2364	TAM Heung-man	170	Family and Child Welfare
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HWFB(WW)199	2080	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)200	2081	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)201	2082	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)202	2083	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)203	2084	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)204	2085	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)205	2086	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)206	2087	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)207	2088	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)208	2089	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)209	2091	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)210	2092	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)211	2093	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)212	2094	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)213	2095	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
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HWFB(WW)227	2118	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)228	2119	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)229	2120	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)230	2124	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)231	2125	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)232	2126	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB(WW)233	2129	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)234	2130	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)235	2131	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)236	2132	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)237	2133	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)238	2241	CHEUNG Man-kwong	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)239	2242	CHEUNG Man-kwong	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)240	2243	TAM Heung-man	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)241	2244	TAM Heung-man	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB(WW)242	2245	TAM Heung-man	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)243	2246	TAM Heung-man	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)244	2585	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)245	1096	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	140	Social Welfare
HWFB(WW)246	2620	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	140	Social Welfare
HWFB(WW)247	2464	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)248	2465	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)249	2469	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

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HWFB(WW)252	2495	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)253	2496	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)254	2497	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)255	2498	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)256	2499	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)257	2500	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)258	2501	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)259	2502	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)260	2503	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	140	Social Welfare
HWFB(WW)261	2504	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)262	2505	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)263	2506	HO Chun-yan, Ablert	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
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HWFB(WW)265	2509	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)266	2510	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)267	2511	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)268	2512	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Young People
HWFB(WW)269	2513	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB(WW)270	2583	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)271	2584	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
HWFB(WW)272	2633	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Services for Elders
HWFB(WW)273	2654	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
HWFB(WW)274	2655	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
HWFB(WW)275	2656	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
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HWFB(WW)278	1676	WONG Kwok-hing	140	Social Welfare
HWFB(WW)279	2522	LAU Chin-shek	186	Transport Services for People with Disabilities
HWFB(WW)280	2516	HO Chun-yan, Albert	186	Transport Services for People with Disabilities
HWFB(WW)281	2090	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007–08 include monitoring the operation of the pilot Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre. Regarding the said Centre, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of the services provided by the Centre;
- (2) the mode of operation of the Centre as well as the annual expenditure and provision for the Centre;
- (3) whether the Administration would close or stop sponsoring other crisis intervention and support centres providing similar services and run by subvented organisations following the commencement of operation of and the provision of service by the Centre; if yes, how much expenditure or funding could be saved; and
- (4) whether the Administration would subsidise those domestic violence centres and support centres run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which are not under government subsidies (e.g. Rain Lily) as a result of an increase in estimated provision and resources; if yes, what are the expenditure or provision involved; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) The Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (the Centre) is primarily aimed to provide support to victims of sexual violence through better co-ordination between the service units of the Social Welfare Department and other departments concerned like the Police. Phase one of the services to be launched in late March 2007 will include a 24-hour hotline, arrangement of immediate intervention and follow up services, after office hours outreaching/crisis intervention services and case consultation services. Short-term accommodation services will be provided in Phase two, tentatively scheduled to come on stream in early 2008.

In addition to serving victims of sexual violence, the Centre will complement existing service for victims of domestic violence and

individuals/families in crisis or distress, and provide after-office hours outreaching service for elder abuse cases etc. This will create synergy among related services and optimise utilisation of resources.

- (2) The Centre, operated by a non-governmental organisation, will adopt a comprehensive and one-stop service model involving multi-disciplinary assistance for victims. The Centre is funded by the Lotteries Fund on a pilot basis, and the estimated total operating cost is \$20 million for three years.
- (3) The Administration has no plan to close or stop sponsoring similar services run by other subvented organisations following the operation of and provision of services by the Centre.
- (4) The Administration has no plan to allocate resources for any similar centre following the operation of and provision of services by the Centre.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)002

Question Serial No.

0089

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :
Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding transport service for people with disabilities, please list out the existing fare and waiting time for rehabus scheduled route service. Has the government adopted any measures to improve the accessibility of people with disabilities, e.g. increase the fleet size of rehabus? If yes, what are the time-table for implementation and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

Scheduled route services include cross harbour service and non-cross harbour service, and the monthly fare is \$264 and \$184 respectively. Half-monthly passes are also available at \$132 and \$62 for cross harbour service and non-cross harbour service respectively. As at end February 2007, no people with disabilities (PWDs) having no alternative means of transport to travel to their work place were put on the waiting list for scheduled route services. Some PWDs who can use public transport or have access to other means of transport do apply for rehabus service. Their average waiting time for the use of rehabus scheduled route services is about two months, allowing for adjustments to the boarding/disembarking schedules and locations, after a suitable route with seat available is identified.

To meet the demand for rehabus services, four additional rehabuses will be procured in 2007-08 and the total estimated expenditure involved is \$2.52 million. The new buses are expected to commence operation in late 2007.

Improving the accessibility of people with disabilities is one of the transport policy objectives. Public transport operators are constantly striving to make their services more accessible and convenient to all passengers, including people with special needs due to disabilities or other mobility handicaps.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the "Targets", the Administration plans to reduce the number of self-care hostel/home for the aged places from 3 099 in 2006-07 to 1 119 in 2007-08 and the number of care-and-attention home places from 9 933 in 2006-07 to 9 263 in 2007-08. In this connection, would the Administration please state the reasons for such a drastic cut in the number of places?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In line with the principle that subsidised residential care places for the elderly should provide long term care (LTC) and continuum of care, the Social Welfare Department has since 2005-06 implemented the programme of converting self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places which have no LTC element, and some existing care-and-attention (C&A) places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places providing continuum of care. The welfare sector supported the conversion proposal and the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in 2005.

The conversion exercise is conducted on a subventions-neutral basis. The C&A places created under the programme will provide continuum of care which will better meet elders' need for LTC services. As the unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a place not providing continuum of care, the number of C&A places to be created under the programme will be smaller than the number of places being replaced. There will not be displacement of elders from the participating homes as conversion will be vacancy-led, which enables existing elders to stay in their existing homes for as long as necessary. If their health condition deteriorates, they will be given priority to occupy the C&A places providing continuum of care created in their homes.

In 2007-08, we project that a total of 1 980 S/C and H/A places and 670 C&A places not providing continuum of care will be taken in for conversion. The reduction in the number of S/C and H/A places from 3 099 in 2006-07 to 1 119 in 2007-08 and C&A places from 9 933 in 2006-07 to 9 263 in 2007-08 reflects this. These places will eventually be transformed into 1 435 C&A places providing continuum of care to better meet elders' need for LTC services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)004

Question Serial No.

0132

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Would the reduction in the number of home for the aged places affect the elders currently using this service? If yes, what arrangement would be made by the Administration and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In line with the principle that subsidised residential care places for the elderly should provide long term care (LTC) and continuum of care, the Social Welfare Department has since 2005-06 implemented the programme of converting self-care hostel and home for the aged places which have no LTC element, and some existing care and attention (C&A) places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places providing continuum of care. The welfare sector supported the conversion proposal and the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in 2005.

The conversion exercise is conducted on a subventions-neutral basis. The C&A places created under the programme will provide continuum of care which will better meet elders' need for LTC services. As the unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a place not providing continuum of care, the number of C&A places to be created under the programme will be smaller than the number of places being replaced. There will not be displacement of elders from the participating homes as conversion will be vacancy-led, which enables existing elders to stay in their existing homes for as long as necessary. If their health condition deteriorates, they will be given priority to occupy the C&A places providing continuum of care created in their homes.

We anticipate that through this conversion programme 1 435 C&A places providing continuum of care will be created in 2007-08. The estimated annual provision for these 1 435 places is \$151.3 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>14 March 2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Integrated Home Care Service (IHCS) and Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS), would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (1) whether it would increase the resources and manpower for these services in 2007-08?
- (2) what is the estimated expenditure on these two services in 2007-08?
- (3) why does the cost per case per month of these two services keep on decreasing? Does it mean that the resources allocated to these services keep on reducing?
- (4) what are the improvement measures in 2007-08 considering that the time of ordinary cases waitlisted for IHCS is still quite long according to my knowledge?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) Making use of the additional recurrent funding of \$20 million secured in 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has increased the capacity of the non-frailty tested home care services for the elderly provided by the 60 Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) Teams. The additional capacity has started coming into place since January 2007. SWD projects that about 2 000 additional new cases will be served.

As regards the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) which serve frail elders, SWD has over the past two years increased service capacity of the teams to meet the demand. The number of EHCCS users has increased from 2 885 in 2005-06 to 3 385 in 2006-07. As at end of February 2007, the utilisation rate was 82.5%. SWD will continue to monitor the service demand for EHCCS and increase the service volume for districts with high service demand where necessary.

- (2) The estimated expenditure on IHCS and EHCCS is \$391 million and \$96 million respectively in 2007-08.
- (3) The total expenditure on IHCS and EHCCS is estimated to be \$487 million in 2007-08 as compared to \$439 million in 2006-07, i.e. an 11% increase in resource allocation for these two services.

The reduction in the cost per case per month for IHCS in the 2007-08 Estimate (\$1,169) as compared to the 2006-07 Revised Estimate (\$1,187) is mainly due to the relatively lower unit cost of the additional capacity mentioned in (1) above due to economies of scale.

The reduction in the cost per case per month for EHCCS in the 2006-07 Revised Estimate (\$2,820) as compared to 2005-06 (\$3,147) is due to the additional service volume which the operators have offered under the new contracts to provide without extra cost to the prescribed contract sum. The reduction in the cost per case per month in the 2007-08 Estimate (\$2,817) as compared to the 2006-07 Revised Estimate (\$2,820) is due to the adjustment of contract sum arising from the fall of the Composite Consumer Price Index.

- (4) The waiting time for non-frailty tested home care services provided by the IHCS Teams varies on a case by case basis, ranging from a few days to a few months. As a guiding principle, the IHCS Teams will continue to accord priorities to elders who have urgent needs for services and will provide the most needed services (e.g. meal delivery) to them almost instantly.

With the additional capacity of the IHCS Teams mentioned in (1) above, we expect that about 2 000 new cases will be served. This should markedly reduce the waiting list.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>14 March 2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the "indicators" by the Administration, the enrolment rates of sheltered workshops (SWs) have exceeded 100% over a number of consecutive years (the enrolment rates of SWs in the government sector and the subvented sector for 2007-08 are projected to be 105% and 103% respectively). Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) what is the reason for the reduction of SW places from 5 018 in the 2006-07 revised estimate to 4 898 in 2007-08 estimate?
- (2) what will the Administration do for the people with disabilities who are affected by the reduction of SW places?
- (3) whether the Administration will provide additional resources and services in 2007-08 to help people with disabilities to secure employment?
- (4) could the Administration provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure for the employment services for people with disabilities in 2007-08 and state the rate of change of such expenditure over that for 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (1) The decrease in the number of SW places in 2007-08 arises from the conversion of an existing SW into an Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre (IVRSC). IVRSC is an enhanced vocational rehabilitation service incorporating the elements of SW and supported employment services.
 - (2) Since this is only a conversion project, the existing service users of the SW will continue to receive service in the new IVRSC.
 - (3) To meet the vocational training needs for people with disabilities, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will provide additional resources for the provision of 223 IVRSC places and 40 SW places in 2007-08 (excluding the conversion of 160 SW places to IVRSC places).

- (4) The estimates for vocational rehabilitation services provided by SWD in 2007-08 as compared to the provision in 2006-07 are as follows:

Vocational rehabilitation services	2006-07 Revised Estimates \$ million	2007-08 Draft Estimates \$ million	Rate of change against 2006-07 %
Sheltered Workshops (SW)	203.8	208.0	2.1
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSC)	93.0	103.0	10.8
Work Extension Programme in SW and IVRSC	5.1	5.1	0
Supported Employment	35.9	37.1	3.3
On-the-Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities	5.7	5.8	1.8
Sunnyway – On-the-Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities	7.0	7.1	1.4
Integrated Vocational Training Centre	25.8	25.9	0.4
Marketing Consultancy Office (Rehabilitation)	3.7	4.0	8.1
“Enhancing Employment of People with Disability through Small Enterprise” Project	7.0	5.9	-15.7 *
	387.0	401.9	3.9

- * Under this service, one-off grants are provided to NGOs to set up small businesses for the employment of people with disabilities. By end February 2007, the total funding available for this service is \$28 million. The estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is \$5.9 million which has taken into account the fluctuation in the number of applications in the past. There is however no ceiling on the number of applications to be received.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)007

Question Serial No.

0135

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the employment services for people with disabilities in 2007-08, additional places are only provided for integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre. However, places of other employment services (such as sheltered workshop, supported employment, integrated vocational training centre and on the job training programme) do not show an increase but even reduce. Why?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a series of vocational rehabilitation training programmes to meet the various training needs of people with disabilities (PWD), which include sheltered workshop (SW), supported employment (SE), integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres (IVRSCs), integrated vocational training centre (IVTC), On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities (OTJ) and Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities (Sunnyway). IVRSCs were set up since April 2004 by pooling the resources of SW and SE to provide PWD with a series of seamless and integrated vocational services in one service setting. In a review conducted by SWD in 2005, it was concluded that the IVRSCs had delivered a greater variety of training in a more flexible and integrated manner and were more able to meet the service users' changing needs. Therefore, IVRSCs is now a preferred direction and existing SWs will be converted to IVRSCs when possible. This accounts for the decreasing provision in SWs in 2007-08.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

13 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)008

Question Serial No.

0136

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

Please advise if the Administration will consider compiling specific employment or unemployment data of people with disabilities for a better understanding of their employment situation so that tailor-made support and services can be provided and introduced for people with disabilities.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Census and Statistics Department is conducting a General Household Survey to collect comprehensive social data of persons with disabilities and chronic diseases, including such specific data on their employment status and related data. The survey findings, which will be published in 2008, will facilitate a better understanding of the employment situation of people with disabilities for better planning of their employment support services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health & Welfare)

Date _____ 12.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please give details on the current waiting time for various residential services listed under "Targets", the estimated expenditure for each of these residential services in 2007-08 and the difference as compared with that of 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The average waiting time for various residential services for people with disabilities and the associated 2007-08 estimate and the difference as compared with that of 2006-07 revised estimate are as follows:

Residential Services	Average Waiting Time in 2006-07 (Q1-Q3) (months)	06/07 Revised Estimate (\$ million)	07/08 Estimate (\$ million)	Rate of change against 2006-07 (%)
Long Stay Care Home	53.3	117.9	141.0	+19.6
Halfway House	5.2	132.9	145.0	+9.1
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped	46.8	118.4	131.1	+10.7
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped	85.2	327.4	357.1	+9.1
Care-and-attention Home for Severely Disabled	40.0	95.5	112.2	+17.5
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped	75.6	59.3	63.9	+7.8
Care-and-attention Home for the Aged Blind	6.7	82.1	82.9	+1.0
Small Group Home	30.4	3.3	3.3	0

Supported Hostel	15.6	18.7	31.4	+67.9
Integrated Vocational Training Centre	Not applicable	6.2	6.2	0
Total		961.7	1,074.1	+11.7

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the "Brief Description" and "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08" that a two-year pilot project will be launched to enhance the provision of accommodation and employment assistance for discharged prisoners. Would the Administration please provide information on the following:

- (1) the details of the project and the targeted number of beneficiaries;
- (2) the estimated expenditure involved; and
- (3) as discharged prisoners face greater difficulty in finding employment than ordinary people, apart from this pilot project, has the Administration allocated additional resources to assist discharged prisoners in finding employment in 2007-08? If yes, what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (1) The two-year pilot project provides tide over financial assistance to newly discharged prisoners. The project comprises two components, namely provision of short-term rental assistance and enhanced employment assistance. The respective number of beneficiaries is estimated to be 1 000 and 900 per year.
 - (2) The provision for this project is \$3.8 million a year, including \$2.9 million for rental assistance and \$0.9 million for enhanced employment assistance.
 - (3) The discharged prisoners can seek employment assistance from the Employment Assistance Units of the Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong subvented by the Social Welfare Department. They can also approach the Job Centres of the Labour Department for employment assistance. For offenders subject to post-release supervision, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) also provides them with employment advice and assistance as part and parcel of CSD's supervision services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	13 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)011

Question Serial No.

0140

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : School social work service is an important frontline for the Administration to provide services and support for families. A lot of family problems (such as children and youth welfare, as well as domestic violence) are first discovered and followed up by school social workers (SSWs). However, according to the "Targets" under the programme, the Administration requires every SSW to take up an average of 86 cases in the coming year. SSWs are already having a very heavy workload. Why does the Government increase their caseload nevertheless? Has the Government deployed additional resources and set up measures to alleviate SSWs' workload and pressure while increasing their caseload? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In estimating the caseload for each SSW in 2007-08 at 86, we have taken into account the average caseload in the past few years as follows:

Year	Average Caseload
2003-04	87
2004-05	87
2005-06	85
2006-07	86

In tackling the family problems of the students, the SSW can refer these cases to other service units such as Integrated Family Services Centres and Family and Child Protective Services Units for more in-depth follow-up where necessary. The SSW can also cooperate with other youth work units such as Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres in helping the students.

The Administration has implemented the policy of "one SSW for each secondary school" since the 2000/01 school year and the provision in the 2007-08 estimate amounts to \$206 million. The Administration will provide one SSW each for the four new secondary schools scheduled to commence operation in September 2007.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Drug abuse among young people has become an increasingly serious problem. Could the Administration inform us that in terms of school social work and outreaching social work, are there new measures or resources to tackle the problem of drug abuse among young people? If yes, what are the details and expenditure of the measures to be taken? If no, would the Administration consider introducing additional measures or allocating more resources to tackle the problem?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Tackling drug abusing behaviour among young people is an integral part of the work of school social workers and outreaching social workers. New initiatives recently introduced or to be introduced, which aim to enhance young people's self-confidence, resilience, problem solving abilities and healthy life style, would help prevent and/or resolve drug related problems among the youth. The new initiatives are:

- (a) \$12.9 million per annum effective from 2005-06 to enhance the outreaching services for young night drifters rendered by the designated Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres;
- (b) \$3.7 million per annum earmarked to enhance the staffing and programme provisions, including outreaching work, of the Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers in 2007-08; and
- (c) a one-off amount of \$400 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club to implement a four-year project, namely - P.A.T.H.S. to Adulthood – A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme for secondary schools effective from the 2005/06 school year with the Education and Manpower Bureau and the Social Welfare Department as co-organisers.

In tandem, the Administration will continue to organise regular anti-drug workshops for school social workers and accord priority to enhancing the professionalism of anti-drug workers.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)013

Question Serial No.

0061

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, the Administration will earmark an additional \$130 million in 2007-08 for the prevention of domestic violence. The number of elder abuse and elderly-related domestic violence cases has been increasing in recent years. Could the Administration inform us that among the additional provision, how much has been earmarked for the prevention of domestic violence against the elders? What are the measures to be taken? What is the estimate for the provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The additional resources of \$130 million for the whole Programme (1) are made up of two components, viz. the full-year effect of new initiatives implemented in 2006-07, and new resources for enhancing family and child welfare services to promote family cohesion and to tackle domestic violence in general, including elder abuse. There is no separate estimate for funding specifically allocated to tackling elder abuse.

Measures to strengthen support for victims of domestic violence, including those suffered from elder abuse, include reinforced manpower of the Family and Child Protective Services Units, enhanced clinical psychological service, strengthened support for the Integrated Family Service Centres and the refuge centres for women, and introduction of flexible child care services, etc.

In addition to the above, under Programme (3), District Elderly Community Centres will continue to provide different types of services to victims of elder abuse, including counselling and supportive services like referral for residential care.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)014

Question Serial No.

0062

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding an increase of 77 posts in 2007-08 under this programme, would the Administration please provide information on to which branches/sections or social security field units in the districts the posts will be created?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The posts will be created for the 37 social security field units over the territory.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	12 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)015

Question Serial No.

0063

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding an increase of 77 posts in 2007-08 under this programme, would the Administration please provide information on the duties and ranks of the posts?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The posts to be created are in the rank of Social Security Assistant. They mainly provide front-line social security services including conducting interviews and investigations to collect and verify information for processing or reviewing applications under various social security schemes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	12 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)016

Question Serial No.

0064

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding an increase of 77 posts in 2007-08 under this programme, would the Administration please provide information on whether the posts are contract or permanent posts? If it is the former, would the Administration provide training programmes for the contract staff like other permanent staff?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The posts to be created will be on the permanent establishment of the Department.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

12 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)017

Question Serial No.

0281

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the reasons for the reduction of the 2006-07 revised estimate for the government sector?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The reduction of the 2006-07 revised estimate as compared to the 2006-07 original estimate for the government sector in the Family and Child Welfare Programme is mainly due to the lower than expected cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged and the savings in the general departmental expenses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	13 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)018

Question Serial No.

0282

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is anticipated that the 2007-08 estimate for the government sector will only be 3.6% higher than the 2006-07 original estimate. Is the increase adequate especially under increasing workload of preventing and tackling domestic violence and inter-generation poverty?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The Government has devoted resources to address intergenerational poverty and support children and youth development. Over the past two years, about \$200 million has been allocated to provide support services to families and children in need. In 2007-08, further funding will be provided to strengthen work in this area.

Additional resources will be allocated for family and child welfare service in 2007-08 which will be 10% higher than the 2006-07 revised estimates. Among others, SWD will enhance family and child welfare services to tackle domestic violence. The measures to be taken include reinforced manpower of the Family and Child Protective Services Units, enhanced clinical psychological service, strengthened support for the Integrated Family Service Centres and the refuge centres for women, and the introduction of flexible child care services, etc.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)019

Question Serial No.

0283

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The provision for the subvented sector in the 2007-08 estimate represents an increase of 12% over that in the 2006-07 original estimate whereas the provision for the government sector has an increase of only 3.6%. Does the difference suggest that the Government will continuously outsource family and child welfare services to the subvented sector?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : Family and child welfare services are provided by both the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In 2007-08, the 3.6% and 12% increases in the provisions for SWD and NGOs respectively represent a comparison with the original estimates of 2006-07. If we compare the 2007-08 provisions with the revised estimates of 2006-07, the increases in provisions for SWD and NGOs are 6.7% and 13.5% respectively, making up an overall increase of 10% in such services.

The family and child welfare services of SWD, including the discharge of various statutory duties, are mainly provided through the Family and Child Protective Services Units, Clinical Psychology Units and Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and there is no plan to outsource the present services. NGOs also operate some IFSCs and they are the main providers for other support services including child care services and refuge centres for women services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)020

Question Serial No.

0284

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide details of the plan of the Social Welfare Department to set up a pilot Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre in 2006. Which government department(s) is/are responsible for carrying out the plan, or is it carried out by the subvented sector?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (the Centre) is primarily aimed to provide support to victims of sexual violence through better co-ordination between the service units of the Social Welfare Department and other departments concerned like the Police. Phase one of the services to be launched in late March 2007 will include a 24-hour hotline, arrangement of immediate intervention and follow up services, after office hours outreaching/crisis intervention services and case consultation services. Short-term accommodation services will be provided in Phase two, tentatively scheduled to come on stream in early 2008.

In addition to serving victims of sexual violence, the Centre will complement existing service for victims of domestic violence and individuals/families in crisis or distress, and provide after-office hours outreaching service for elder abuse cases etc. This will create synergy among related services and optimise utilisation of resources.

The Centre is funded by the Lotteries Fund on a pilot basis. It is operated by a non-governmental organisation, and the estimated total operating cost is \$20 million for three years.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)021

Question Serial No.

0285

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department will monitor the operation of the Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre in 2007-08. What are the expenditure involved and the details of work?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (the Centre) is funded by the Lotteries Fund on a pilot basis. It is operated by a non-governmental organisation and the estimated total operating cost is \$20 million for three years. The operation of the Centre will be monitored by the Family and Child Welfare Branch of the Social Welfare Department and the additional workload will be absorbed from within existing resources.

The Centre's is primarily aimed to provide support to victims of sexual violence through better co-ordination between the service units of the Social Welfare Department and other departments concerned like the Police. Phase one of the services to be launched in late March 2007 will include a 24-hour hotline, arrangement of immediate intervention and follow up services, after office hours outreaching/crisis intervention services and case consultation services. Short-term accommodation services will be provided in Phase two, tentatively scheduled to come on stream in early 2008.

In addition to serving victims of sexual violence, the Centre will complement existing service for victims of domestic violence and individuals/families in crisis or distress, and provide after-office hours outreaching service for elder abuse cases etc. This will create synergy among related services and optimise utilisation of resources.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)022

Question Serial No.

0286

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the breakdown of the estimated expenditure for strengthening support services to victims and batterers of domestic violence and families facing crises in 2007-08 as compared with that in the 2006-07 estimate. Which government department(s) is/are responsible for providing the services or are the services provided by the subvented sector?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : As compared with the 2006-07 revised estimate, the total budget for family and child welfare services in 2007-08 will be increased by 10% to \$1,431.6 million. The additional provision is made up of two components, viz. the full-year effect of new initiatives implemented in 2006-07, and new resources for enhancing family and child welfare services to promote family cohesion and to tackle domestic violence.

Measures to strengthen support for victims of domestic violence include reinforced manpower of the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), enhanced clinical psychological service, strengthened support for the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and the refuge centres for women, and introduction of flexible child care services, etc. The Social Welfare Department (SWD), in conjunction with other relevant Government bureaux and departments, will also promote the building of community support networks and reach out to vulnerable families to help address their problems at an early stage through the Family Support Programme (FSP) and the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS). The pilot project on batterer intervention programme (BIP) will continue in 2007-08 to provide treatment to batterers put on probation by the court or those joining the programmes on a voluntary basis.

Either SWD (FCPSUs and clinical psychological service) or non-governmental organisations (refuge centres and child care services) or both (IFSCs, FSP, CCDS, BIP) are responsible for providing the services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)023

Question Serial No.

0287

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the breakdown of the estimated expenditure for strengthening support services to Refuge Centres for Women in 2007-08 as compared with that in the 2006-07 estimate? Which government department(s) is/are responsible for providing the support?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : At present, there are four refuge centres for women that provide temporary accommodation and supportive services to women and their children who are facing domestic violence or family crisis. All of them are operated by non-governmental organisations with subventions from Social Welfare Department. In 2007-08, additional resources of about \$1.5 million will be provided to increase the capacity of the centres, strengthen the on-site social work support after normal working hours, enhance volunteer training and develop mutual help and after-care service for centre users.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)024

Question Serial No.

0166

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare And Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

In 2007-08, the Administration will contribute to the study on the establishment of a Family Commission as announced by the Chief Executive in his 2006-07 Policy Address. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the current progress of the study. What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The Chief Executive announced in his 2006-07 Policy Address that the Government would seriously study whether "an integrated, holistic and high-level Family Commission responsible for policies and initiatives relating to family support" should be set up and, "if so, the re-organisation and resource re-allocation that need to follow". A Steering Committee was set up in December 2006 to take forward the Study. The Steering Committee has covered a series of topics including support services for families, family-friendly employment practices, family and parenting education, and research, etc. The institutional arrangements and possible change options will be examined shortly. The aim is to complete the Study by mid-2007.

The expenditure involved in the Study is mainly staff costs and is estimated at about \$2.7 million, which will be absorbed within HWFB's existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____

Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare
and Food (Health and Welfare)

Date _____

10.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the Government's proposal, there will be a net increase of 58 posts in 2007-08 for family and child protection services. However, given the continuous increase in the number of complicated domestic violence cases, will such an increase in manpower be sufficient to meet the needs?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need through setting up of additional Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), strengthening the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, reinforcing the clinical psychological service and services of Integrated Family Service Centres, enhancing the provision of more flexible types of child care services, etc.

During the past two years, additional resources have been provided to strengthen the manpower support in the FCPSUs which are tasked to deal with more complicated domestic violence cases. In 2007-08, we will set up additional FCPSUs, and further increase the number of social work officer grade posts in FCPSUs by 21. We will continue to monitor the situation and the caseload of FCPSU workers. Other measures will also be taken in 2007-08 to tackle domestic violence including:

- setting up of the pilot Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre;
- publicity and public education on strengthening families and combating violence;
- mobilising community resources and building community network;
- production of an information kit to assist victims to better understand their rights, the protection and remedies afforded by law;

- implementation of the pilot project on Batterer Intervention Programme; and
- training for social workers and related professionals.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)026

Question Serial No.

0431

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration estimates that the number of supervision cases per social worker will be reduced from 46 in 2006-07 to 41 in 2007-08. However, apart from being highly complicated in nature on the whole, domestic violence problems also need a longer period of time to follow up. Would the Government consider further increasing the number of social workers and resources, with a view to further reducing the number of supervision cases per social worker?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : During the past two years, additional resources have been provided to strengthen the manpower support in the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) which are tasked to deal with more complicated domestic violence cases. In 2007-08, we will set up additional FCPSUs, and further increase the number of social work officer grade posts in FCPSUs by 21. We will continue to monitor the situation and the caseload of FCPSU workers.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)027

Question Serial No.

0432

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Upon increasing the number of relevant posts, will the Administration take the initiative to approach some of the hidden cases which are facing family problems? If yes, what is the estimated provision concerned?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : To increase contacts with needy families who are reluctant to seek help, a Family Support Programme (FSP) has been launched in the Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units since early 2007. Under the FSP, through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, we aim to introduce the families at risk, including families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation, to various support services available and motivate them to receive services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. Volunteers including those who have overcome family/personal problems or crises will be recruited and trained to contact these families and to provide them with support and assistance. Programme Assistants have also been employed to provide logistical support to the social workers. \$30 million annual recurrent resources have been allocated to launch the FSP.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)028

Question Serial No.

0433

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 that the Administration will continue to provide training for social security staff to strengthen their knowledge and skills. In this connection, would the Administration please provide information on the plan, the expenditure involved and the number of staff to be trained in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2007-08, we have reserved \$0.6 million for provision of 38 training programmes related to professional, legal and management knowledge and customer service skills for various grades of Social Security staff to develop and consolidate their core competencies. The number of staff to be trained at Social Security Officer and Social Security Assistant grades is about 300 and 800 respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)029

Question Serial No.

0434

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 that the Administration will continue to provide training for social security staff to strengthen their knowledge and skills. In this connection, how long does the Administration expect to provide training for each of the social security staff?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : It is compulsory for each Social Security Officer II and Social Security Assistant to attend about 20 and 17 days of training respectively to acquire necessary professional, legal and management knowledge and customer services skills within the first two years of their appointment. Thereafter, they will also participate in other training courses to enrich their knowledge and skills to meet the operational needs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The indicator for the average time for processing a new Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme case is 27 working days, but many applicants do have immediate need for assistance. In this regard, would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (1) how many cases needed immediate financial assistance and daily life support upon application for CSSA in 2006-07?
- (2) how did the Administration handle these urgent cases (for example, would the assessment process be speeded up)?
- (3) would the Administration consider increasing resources and manpower in order to reduce the processing time for new cases?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (1) The CSSA Scheme provides a safety net of last resort for individuals or families who cannot support themselves financially for such reasons as old age, disability, illness, unemployment, low earnings or single parenthood. During the first ten months in 2006-07, 27 807 new CSSA applications were approved. We do not keep a record of successful applications where the applicants have asked for immediate financial assistance.
 - (2) We are committed to providing prompt financial assistance to those who are genuinely in need. We also have the responsibility to conduct the means-test to ascertain that the applicants are genuinely in need of financial assistance. Hence, the average processing time for a CSSA application is 27 working days. For urgent cases, we would speed up the process as far as possible. We would also arrange payment from trust funds where an applicant has immediate financial needs.
 - (3) The current average processing time for new applications is considered reasonable. Our priority in the use of resources and manpower will be on improving the investigation of new applications and suspected fraud cases and reducing overpayment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)031

Question Serial No.

0447

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is noted that three contracts will be awarded to the successful tenderers in 2007-08 for running three contract homes that will provide both subsidised and non-subsidised residential care services for elders. Two of which will provide subsidised day care service for the elders. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the breakdown of the number of subsidised and non-subsidised residential care places to be provided by these three contract homes and their unit costs; and the number of places for subsidised day care service for the elders to be provided by the two of these contract homes and their unit costs?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Altogether, the three contract homes will provide 212 subsidised residential care places, 231 non-subsidised residential care places, and 40 day care places for the elderly. Detailed breakdown of the number of places and unit cost of the residential care places and day care places in the three contract homes are as follows:

Contract Home	Residential Care Services		Number of Subsidised Day Care Places (Amount of subsidy per place per month)
	Number of Subsidised Residential Care Places (Amount of Subsidy per place per month)	Number of Non-subsidised Residential Care Places	
A	88 (\$6,532)	117	Nil
B	51 (\$6,658)	81	20 (\$3,631)
C	73 (\$6,581)	33	20 (\$3,631)

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)032

Question Serial No.

0448

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration would increase the number of subsidised residential care places through the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme in 2007-08. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the number of places to be increased and their unit cost?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2007-08, around 450 additional subsidised residential care places will be made available through purchasing places from private residential care homes for the elderly. The average cost is estimated to be \$5,857 per place per month.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)033

Question Serial No.

0449

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Paragraph 53 of the 2007-08 Budget Speech states that an additional \$38 million will be allocated to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreaching services and provide referral and supporting services to those in need. Would the Administration please set out in detail the services and purposes that the additional provision will be used for and the relevant target number of cases to be served?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The additional \$38 million will be allocated to the 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) to strengthen their manpower for outreaching singleton and hidden elders. After locating the singleton and hidden elders, the DECCs/NECs will try to establish rapport with them, bring them out of isolation, identify their needs and provide them with the necessary support and services. We expect that the DECCs/NECs will outreach to as many hidden and singleton elders as possible. We will discuss with the DECCs/NECs our output requirements.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)034

Head : 140 - Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Question Serial No.

0450

Programme : (1) – Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration has in paragraph 55 of the 2007-08 Budget Speech announced that \$96 million will be allocated to implement a trial scheme in the next four years in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly dischargees who have difficulty taking care of themselves. Please provide details of the service contents, cost breakdown, mode of delivery and the two districts for implementing the trial scheme. Also, would the Administration consult social service organizations on the details of the scheme (including unit cost and resources allocation etc.)?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : To strengthen elderly care and support services, the 2007-08 Budget earmarked \$96 million in the next four years to implement a trial scheme in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly discharged from hospitals who have difficulty taking care of themselves.

In consultation with the Elderly Commission and relevant parties, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will work out the details of the trial scheme, including the service contents, the mode of delivery, the districts for implementing the trial scheme, the medical and social welfare interface, and the cost involved.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Date	12.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)035

Question Serial No.

0517

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide a breakdown of payments under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme by case categories in 2005-06 as well as in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The breakdown on CSSA expenditure by nature of case for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows :

Nature of case	2005-06 (Actual)		2006-07 (Revised Estimate)	
	\$ million	No. of recipients	\$ million	No. of recipients
Old Age	8,132	201 057	8,339	201 900
Permanent Disability	959	27 098	1,009	27 400
Ill Health	1,573	47 370	1,614	46 700
Single Parent	3,232	102 786	3,182	99 200
Low Earnings	1,265	64 870	1,315	66 000
Unemployment	2,326	89 757	2,106	78 300
Others	279	8 363	316	8 900
Total	17,766	541 301	17,881	528 400

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)036

Question Serial No.

0518

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the number of low-earnings cases transferred from other Comprehensive Social Security Assistance case categories (by comparing the figures by the end of 2005 and those by the end of 2006).

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : Among the 18 257 low-earnings cases involving 64 580 recipients as at December 2006, 4 130 cases were originally classified under other categories as at December 2005. Details are set out below:

Nature of case as at December 2005	Number of cases changed to low-earnings category as at December 2006	Number of recipients
Old Age	475	1 628
Permanent Disability	95	336
Ill Health	295	1 041
Single Parent	610	1 823
Unemployment	2 536	8 958
Others	119	409
Total	4 130	14 195

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)037

Question Serial No.

0524

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the number of applications and the expenditure involved for the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged and the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund in 2006-07.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

In 2006-07, we have received a total of 24 applications under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged and approved 16 applications, involving \$4.3 million from the Fund and attracting \$4.7 million business contributions in cash or in kind.

As regards the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, we have received 60 applications and approved 28 in 2006-07, involving \$20 million from the Fund.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health & Welfare)

Date _____ 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How will the Administration strengthen the community support services for people with disabilities and their families in 2007-08? What are the expenditure and the manpower involved in assisting people with disabilities to become self-reliant and providing appropriate services to cater for their needs?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : (1) The following are planned new provisions in 2007-08 to strengthen the community support services for people with disabilities (PWDs) and their carers:

New Provisions	Estimated Expenditure (\$million)	Staffing
<p><u>Community Rehabilitation Day Centres (CRDC)</u></p> <p>Social Welfare Department will set up three cluster-based CRDCs to provide short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation services for discharged patients with mental, neurological or physical impairments. Supportive services, including training for carers/families, will be rendered.</p>	<p>8.8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered social worker • Nurse • Physiotherapist • Occupational therapist • Supporting staff
<p><u>Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients (TCSC)</u></p> <p>The centre provides transitional residential services, ambulatory day training, and respite care to the severely disabled persons, in particular, tetraplegic patients; and also training and supportive services to their carers/families.</p>	<p>49.6 (Grant from H K Jockey Club Charity Trust for five years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered social worker • Nurse • Physiotherapist • Occupational therapist • Supporting staff

(2) The following are provisions of vocational rehabilitation services specially provided for PWDs in 2007-08 to assist them to be self-reliant and to meet their related needs:

Vocational Rehabilitation Services	2007-08 Estimate (\$ million)	Staffing
Sheltered Workshops	208.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered social worker • Workshop instructor • Supporting staff
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres	103.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered social worker • Workshop instructor • Supporting staff
Supported Employment	37.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop instructor
On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities	5.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered social worker • Workshop instructor
Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities	7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered social worker • Workshop instructor
Integrated Vocational Training Centre	25.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered social worker • Lecturer • Certified master • Welfare worker • Occupational therapist • Workshop instructor • Nurse • Supporting staff
“Enhancing Employment of People with Disability through Small Enterprise” Project	5.9	(manpower involved depends on the proposals from NGOs)

Signature	
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)039

Question Serial No.

0526

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : A Family Support Programme has been launched to increase connection with vulnerable families who are in need of support but unmotivated to receive services and the Administration will be monitoring its progress in 2007-08. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the details about its work and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : To increase contacts with needy families who are reluctant to seek help, a Family Support Programme (FSP) has been launched in the Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units since early 2007. Under the FSP, through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, we aim to introduce the families at risk, including families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation, to various support services available and motivate them to receive services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. Volunteers including those who have overcome family/personal problems or crises will be recruited and trained to contact these families and to provide them with support and assistance. Programme Assistants have also been employed to provide logistical support to the social workers. \$30 million annual recurrent resources have been allocated to launch the FSP.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)040

Question Serial No.

0558

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the Indicator of the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS), the cost per case served per month will be reduced from \$1,187 in the 2006-07 Revised Estimate to \$1,169 in the 2007-08 Estimate. What is the reason? Besides, the number of cases served under the IHCS will be increased from 28 615 in 2006-07 to 29 134 in 2007-08. Please provide a breakdown by districts of the waiting time and the number of applicants for different services under the existing IHCS. What is the Administration's estimated reduction in the waiting time as a result of the additional places? Has the Administration set a target to enable the elders to gain access to the service promptly without having to wait?

Asked by : Hon. Cheung Chiu-hing, Fernando

Reply : Making use of the additional recurrent funding of \$20 million secured in 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has increased the capacity of the non-frailty tested home care services for the elderly provided by the 60 Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) Teams. The additional capacity has started coming into place since January 2007. SWD projects that about 2 000 additional new cases will be served.

The reduction in the cost per case per month for IHCS in the 2007-08 Estimate (\$1,169) as compared to the 2006-07 Revised Estimate (\$1,187) is mainly due to the relatively lower unit cost of the additional capacity mentioned above due to economies of scale.

As at December 2006, there were about 2 800 cases waiting for the non-frailty tested home care services under IHCS. All of them are not urgent cases. The waiting time varies on a case by case basis, ranging from a few days to a few months. Detailed breakdown by districts is not readily available. With the additional capacity of the IHCS Teams mentioned above, the waiting list will be markedly reduced.

As a guiding principle, the IHCS Teams will continue to accord priorities to elders who have urgent needs for services and provide the most needed services (e.g. meal delivery) to them almost instantly.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)041

Question Serial No.

0559

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2007-08, the Administration will conduct a tender exercise to select an operation for providing infirmary care service for elders in a non-hospital setting on a trial basis. Would the Administration please provide the details of the trial scheme, including the number of places and unit cost and the timetable for implementing the scheme in full?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) consulted the Elderly Commission (EC) and the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services (the Panel) on the proposal to implement a trial scheme to provide infirmary care in a non-hospital setting for medically stable infirm elders. Taking into account the comments of the EC and the Panel, SWD is revising the parameters of the trial scheme. The Administration will brief the Panel on the latest developments later in 2007.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)042

Question Serial No.

0560

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

- Question :
- (1) The number of places of day care centres for the elderly will increase from 1 975 in 2006-07 to 2 055 in 2007-08, but the estimated enrolment rate of day care centres for the elderly in 2007-08 remains at 108% (same as that of 2006-07). What is the reason? Will all the 80 additional places be provided by the two new contract homes? If not, what is the detailed distribution of the additional places?
 - (2) Please provide a breakdown by districts of the number of applicants on the waiting list for places of day care centres for the elderly in 2006-07 and their respective waiting time. Does the Administration have any plan to increase resources gradually so that the elders in need can be immediately served within the scheduled timeframe?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
- (1) For reasons such as sickness and medical appointments, some elderly members of the Day Care Centres do not attend the Centres every day. It is therefore possible for Day Care Centres to take in additional elders to fill in the unused time slots. We have set the enrolment rate at 108% to maximise the utilisation of the day care places.

Of the additional 80 day care places to be provided in 2007-08, 40 will be attached to two new contract homes in Kwun Tong and Yuen Long respectively. Another 40 will be provided in a Day Care Centre for the Elderly in the Eastern District. The Centre will not be attached to a contract home.

- (2) As at early March 2007, there were 707 elders waiting for day care places. The average waiting time is four months. Four districts do not have waitlisted cases. For the remaining 14 districts, the average number of waitlisted cases is 50.

We will monitor the district demand and will, subject to the availability of suitable venues, provide additional day care places where necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Currently, the community mental health link (CMHL) each provides services for 100 persons per year. The Administration will maintain 25 CMHL units in 2007-08, i.e. 2 500 person will be served during the year. In view of the large number of discharged mental patients living in the community, please inform this Committee of:

- (1) whether there is a waiting list for the CMHL?
- (2) the numbers of persons awaiting the services of the CMHL in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. If the figures are not available, how could the Administration assess and project the service demand for 2007-08?
- (3) the resources put into the CMHL per year?
- (4) the unit cost of the CMHL?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
- (1) CMHL is a district-based service attached to halfway houses, training and activity centres for discharged mental patients for providing care and support to ex-mentally ill persons and their families/carers in the community. Each CMHL unit serves at least 150 ex-mentally ill persons and their carers each year. Ex-mentally ill persons can approach the 25 CMHL units distributed in different districts for service and support upon registration. As the service is readily available, there is no need to keep a waiting list.
 - (2) CMHL is a three-year time-defined project and is subject to a comprehensive service review once every three years. In addition to looking at the service demand by way of regular service reviews, the performance of individual service operators and service delivery mode will be examined in the review. The last service review was conducted in July 2004.
 - (3) The annual allocation for the provision of CMHL is \$10.4 million.

- (4) Since each ex-mentally ill person and/or their family/carer receive a unique combination of services from CMHL, unit cost for this service is not available.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)044

Question Serial No.

0608

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Education and Manpower Bureau estimates that 607 persons will finish special school in 2007-08, an increase of 11% from 546 in 2006-07. They will then switch to adult services under the Social Welfare Department. According to the 2007-08 estimate, there will be no increase in the number of places of the home-based training and support service, and the increase in the number of places of day services and residential services is inadequate to meet the demand arising from the long waiting list and an increasing number of persons finishing special schools. In this connection, would the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the breakdown by year of the resources put into the home-based training and support service, the number of service hours, unit cost, enrolment rates and the number of persons on the waiting list in the past three years.
- (2) the concrete plan to solve the acute shortage of the severely mentally handicapped hostel places, given that the places will increase by only 161 in the 2007-08 estimate, but there are 1 879 persons on the waiting list and the waiting time is nine years.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) The expenditure, training hours, unit cost and utilisation rate of home-based training and support service for the past three years are as follows. As the current service capacity is able to absorb the service demand, there is no waiting list for the service.

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Training hours	Cost per place per month (\$)	Utilisation Rate (%)
2004-05	50.6	933 606	2,807	92
2005-06	52.2	1 041 933	2,896	99
2006-07 (Revised Estimate)	52.7	1 106 259	2,924	102

- (2) In meeting the demand for residential care services for people with disabilities, the Administration will continue to strengthen the provisions of residential care homes and provide alternative choices to meet their various needs, including support to non-governmental organisations in setting up self-financing hostels and introduction of a voluntary registration scheme for private homes to encourage the operators to enhance the quality of their services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)045

Question Serial No.

0612

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the Programme on “Elderly Services”, the Administration has allocated \$3,267.4 million to promote the welfare of the elderly. Please state the respective provision in respect of residential care services and community care and support services for the elderly in 2007-08, and the respective provision in the past three years.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The annual provisions for subsidised residential care services and community care and support services for the elderly over the years are as follows:

	2004-05 (Actual) (\$ million)	2005-06 (Actual) (\$ million)	2006-07 (Revised Estimate) (\$ million)	2007-08 (Estimate) (\$ million)
Residential Care Services	1,984.3	1,936.2	1,940.6	2,025.8
Community Care and Support Services	974.1	962.1	968.4	1,044.7

In 2007-08, apart from subsidised residential care services and community care and support services, resources will also be spent on initiatives such as strengthening the manpower and training of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly and the third batch of Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector to provide an additional 110 Enrolled Nurse training places. All these add up to the projected expenditure of \$3,267.4 million for “Elderly Services” in 2007-08 (Estimate).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee how many homes will participate in the conversion of self-care hostels (S/C) and home for the aged (H/A) places? How many S/Cs and/or H/As have yet to participate in the programme? The participating homes plan to provide 4 363 residential care places in 2007-08, what is the financial provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The conversion programme, which has commenced in 2005-06, involves 75 residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) which have self-care hostel (S/C) places, home for the aged (H/A) places and/or care and attention (C&A) places not providing continuum of care.

The conversion exercise is conducted on a subventions-neutral basis. The C&A places created under the programme will provide continuum of care which will better meet elders' need for LTC services. As the unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a place not providing continuum of care, the number of C&A places to be created under the programme will be smaller than the number of places being replaced. There will not be displacement of elders from the participating homes as conversion will be vacancy-led, which enables existing elders to stay in their existing homes for as long as necessary. If their health condition deteriorates, they will be given priority to occupy the C&A places providing continuum of care created in their homes.

In parallel, we have also been increasing the supply of subsidised residential care places through other means elsewhere. In 2007-08, about 600 additional subsidised residential care places for the elderly will be created in new purpose-built premises and through purchasing places from private residential care homes for the elderly.

As at to-date, 39 out of the 75 RCHEs have already started converting their places into C&A places providing continuum of care. We project that another 18 RCHEs will kick-start their conversion in 2007-08. Therefore, there will be 57 participating RCHEs in 2007-08.

We project that the 57 participating RCHEs will provide 4 363 C&A places with continuum of care under the conversion programme in 2007-08. The estimated annual provision is about \$460 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>14 March 2007</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)047

Question Serial No.

0614

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the planned number of training places for professional and non-professional staff serving demented elders in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2007-08, a total of 240 training places will be offered to 120 professional staff and 120 non-professional staff who provide services to demented elders.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)048

Question Serial No.

0615

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the planned number of training places for care staff serving people with disabilities in the Integrated Home Care Services Teams in 2007-08. What is the amount of provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2007-08, a total of 120 training places will be provided for the care staff serving people with disabilities in the Integrated Home Care Services Teams. The estimated expenditure is \$28,000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)049

Question Serial No.

0616

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Originally, there should be 60 Social Centres for the Elderly (S/Es) in 2006-07. Please inform this Committee why the number has been reduced to 58 as stated in the 2006-07 Revised Estimate? Why isn't the difference made up in the plan for 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The reduction in the number of Social Centres for the Elderly (S/Es) from 60 to 58 in 2006-07 is due to the merging of two S/Es which were upgraded to a Neighbourhood Elderly Centre (NEC). The new NEC operates in the two original S/E premises with expanded functions to meet the multifarious needs of elders in the community. The merger and upgrading has enabled the new NEC to provide a diversity of services for the elderly in an integrated approach.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)050

Question Serial No.

0617

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee why the Government will not increase the number of District Elderly Community Centres, Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and Social Centres for the Elderly in 2007-08. Is there any plan to provide additional space for these centres? How much area will be increased?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Currently, there are 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) and 58 Social Centres for the Elderly (S/Es) which form a territory-wide social support network for the elders in the community and their carers. Over 170 000 elders are members of the DECCs, NECs and S/Es. We will continue to monitor the service need for additional elderly centres in individual districts.

Taking into account the enhanced functions of DECCs and NECs, we have added 83m² to the internal floor area (IFA) provision of a DECC (which now stands at 572m²) and 156m² to that of an NEC (which now 394m²) when launching the re-engineering exercise for upgrading the then Multi Services Centres for the Elderly and most of the S/Es to DECCs and NECs in 2003.

We have been helping DECCs/NECs which are operating in premises of areas smaller than the prescribed IFA provision to relocate or to set up sub-bases.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)051

Question Serial No.

0618

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the details regarding the Government's plan to enhance the services of the District Elderly Community Centres, Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and the Support Teams for the Elderly in 2007-08. How much provision is involved? What is the amount of additional provision when compared with that in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2007-08, an additional amount of \$38 million is earmarked for enhancing the manpower provision of the existing 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) to strengthen their outreaching and support services to singleton and hidden elders. After locating the singleton and hidden elders, the DECCs/NECs and the Support Teams for the Elderly (attached to the DECCs) will try to establish rapport with them, bring them out of isolation, identify their needs and provide them with the necessary support and services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)052

Question Serial No.

0619

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the expenditure involved in providing 2 055 day care places in day care centres for the elderly in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated expenditure for the provision of 2 055 day care places in 2007-08 is \$143.3 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>13 March 2007</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)053

Question Serial No.

0620

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the expenditure earmarked for carrying out the activities under the Opportunities for the Elderly Project in 2007-08? What is the difference between the provision allocated in 2007-08 and that in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2007-08, the provision for carrying out the activities under the Opportunities for the Elderly Project is \$3 million. There is no change in the provision as compared with 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	13 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)054

Question Serial No.

0621

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the number of additional posts to be created in the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) in 2007-08? What is the establishment of LORCHE? What are the duties of these additional posts and what is the amount of provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. Tam Yiu-chung

Reply : The Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) currently has an establishment of 38 staff.

In 2007-08, there will be an addition of five Social Work Officer grade posts in LORCHE to strengthen the manpower of its Social Work Inspectorate Team. The additional posts will be responsible for monitoring the residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) through inspections, conducting investigations in response to complaints, instituting prosecutions against non-compliant RCHEs and promoting capacity-building among home operators and staff so as to improve the service quality rendered to elderly residents. The annual recurrent expenditure required for the addition of the five Social Work Officer grade posts is estimated to be \$1.8 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)055

Question Serial No.

0622

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2007-08, how many training places can be provided under the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector? What is the financial provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, will launch the third batch of Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector to provide an additional 110 Enrolled Nurse training places. The financial provision involved is \$5.2 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)056

Question Serial No.

0623

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) in 2007-08? Why the number of places in the 2006-07 Revised Estimate is smaller than that in the original plan for that year?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated expenditure on the provision of subsidised residential care places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) for 2007-08 is \$446 million.

The drop in the number of EBPS places in the 2006-07 Revised Estimate (6 181) as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate (6 225) is due to:

- (i) the withdrawal of a participating home from EBPS; and
- (ii) sanctions against three EBPS-participating homes in the form of cutting the number of purchased places in those homes for breaching the EBPS Agreement.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)057

Question Serial No.

0624

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The waiting time for the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) is very long. However, the service capacity of EHCCS will not be increased in 2007-08 compared to 2006-07, would the Administration explain why?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Between December 2005 and October 2006, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has increased the service capacity of the frailty-tested home care services for the elderly provided by EHCCS Teams in districts which have high demand. The number of EHCCS users is projected to increase from 2 885 in 2005-06 to 3 385 in 2006-07. As at end February 2007, the utilisation rate was 82.5%. SWD will continue to monitor the service demand for EHCCS in 2007-08 and increase the service volume for districts with high service demand where necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)058

Question Serial No.

0625

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2007-08, there is a projected increase in the number of cases to be served by the Integrated Home Care Services. Please inform this Committee of the amount of provision involved in providing integrated home care services in 2007-08 and how does it compare with 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated expenditure on the Integrated Home Care Services is \$391 million in 2007-08, i.e. an increase of \$22 million (6.0%) as compared to the 2006-07 Revised Estimate of \$369 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)059

Question Serial No.

0626

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the specific plan for support services for carers of elders in 2007-08 and the amount of provision involved.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The Government will continue to provide subsidised support services to carers of elders through various subsidised elderly service units in 2007-08. In particular, all the District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres operate carers' resource corners, conduct self-help groups and other activities for carers. The 51 day care centres/units for the elderly and the 138 subsidised residential care homes for the elderly provide day respite service and residential respite care to provide temporary relief for carers of elders ageing at home.

Since the above carer support services are part and parcel of the services provided by the subsidised elderly service units, breakdown on the expenditure on carer support alone is not available.

Also, to strengthen elderly care and support services, the 2007-08 Budget earmarked \$96 million ^(Note) in the next four years to implement a trial scheme in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly discharged from hospitals who have difficulty taking care of themselves. This initiative will bring about further support to the carers of the elderly discharges.

(Note: This sum is allocated outside Head 170 – Social Welfare Department)

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, please provide this Committee with a breakdown of the caseload and the expenditure incurred under various categories (including old age, disability, ill health, single-parent family, low earnings, unemployment and others) in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. What are the estimated caseload and expenditure for each category in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The average number of CSSA paid cases and the expenditure by nature of case for 2005-06 are as follows:

Nature of case	2005-06 Actual		
	Average number of paid cases	Average number of recipients	Expenditure (\$ million)
Old age	146 837	201 057	8,132
Permanent disability	16 745	27 098	959
Ill health	22 355	47 370	1,573
Single parent	38 072	102 786	3,232
Low-earnings	16 426	64 870	1,265
Unemployment	36 171	89 757	2,326
Others	4 712	8 363	279
Total	281 318	541 301	17,766

The estimated average number of CSSA paid cases and expenditure by nature of case for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

Nature of case	2006-07 Revised Estimate		
	Average number of paid cases	Average number of recipients	Expenditure (\$ million)
Old age	148 100	201 900	8,339
Permanent disability	17 300	27 400	1,009
Ill health	22 800	46 700	1,614
Single parent	37 100	99 200	3,182
Low-earnings	17 000	66 000	1,315
Unemployment	32 800	78 300	2,106
Others	5 200	8 900	316
Total	280 300	528 400	17,881

Nature of case	2007-08 Estimate		
	Average number of paid cases	Average number of recipients	Expenditure (\$ million)
Old age	150 300	204 900	8,411
Permanent disability	18 200	28 700	1,050
Ill health	23 700	48 500	1,669
Single parent	37 700	101 000	3,221
Low-earnings	19 000	73 500	1,472
Unemployment	32 700	78 000	2,091
Others	5 900	10 100	353
Total	287 500	544 700	18,267

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)061

Question Serial No.

0628

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What were the numbers of applications received and the expenditure incurred for Higher Old Age Allowance (HOAA) and Normal Old Age Allowance (NOAA) payments in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively? What are the estimated numbers of applicants and expenditure under these two categories in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The number of HOAA and NOAA cases and the expenditure incurred in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows:

	2005-06 Actual	
	Average number of paid cases	Expenditure (\$ million)
HOAA	365 459	3,075
NOAA	83 010	631

	2006-07 Revised Estimate	
	Average number of paid cases	Expenditure (\$ million)
HOAA	382 800	3,271
NOAA	78 700	597

The estimated average number of cases and expenditure for 2007-08 are provided below:

	2007-08 Estimate	
	Average number of paid cases	Expenditure (\$ million)
HOAA	410 000	3,436
NOAA	77 300	573

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)062

Question Serial No.

0629

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As regards the elders participating in the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme, is there any change in the estimated number of elders who will retire in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province respectively in 2007-08 when compared with that in 2006-07? What is the estimated CSSA expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated numbers of PCSSA recipients residing in Guangdong and Fujian for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

	Estimated number of PCSSA recipients residing in Guangdong	Estimated number of PCSSA recipients residing in Fujian
2006-07	3 180	115
2007-08	3 260	170

The estimated total expenditure on PCSSA payments for 2007-08 is \$105 million.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)063

Question Serial No.

0630

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What was the number of participants in the Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP) in 2006-07? What is the provision for the Programme in 2007-08? Is there any change in the provision when compared with that in 2006-07? What is the estimated number of participants in the Programme in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : My STEP, launched in October 2006, is a one-year trial employment assistance programme. It aims to provide a comprehensive package of employment assistance services as well as motivational/disciplinary training to no less than 50 long term Comprehensive Social Security Assistance able-bodied unemployed youth aged between 15 and 24 to motivate and assist them to rejoin the workforce or return to mainstream schooling. The estimated cost of the entire project is \$1.5 million (\$1.06 million for 2006-07 and \$0.44 million for 2007-08).

Up to the end of January 2007, a total of 68 participants were recruited.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)064

Question Serial No.

0949

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the re-engineering of the residential care services for children, could the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of the work done and the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) the reason for reducing the small group home and residential nursery places? Has the Administration assessed its impact on those in need, and how the increase in birth rate will affect the service demand?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The re-engineering of residential child care services is a joint effort of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The aim is to better re-distribute existing resources to services that will benefit more children and better suit their needs, thereby achieving a better match between service demand and provision.

Through this exercise, the overall number of places available in the residential child care services has increased in 2006-07. Specifically, while there was a reduction of 16 regular small group home places and 24 residential nursery places, the decrease was more than made up by the provision of 10 more foster care places, 12 more places in residential homes for children as well as 23 more emergency/short-term small group home places, resulting in a net increase of five places. The exercise involves a large number of NGO service providers and no information on the changes in their manpower is readily available. The financial resources for the residential services for children are \$367 million in 2006-07.

- (2) SWD will continue to monitor the service need of residential services for children, taking into account factors such as the population profile, and work out service re-engineering plans with NGO operators where necessary.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the reduction of eight standalone child care centre places and two occasional child care units as stated in the Brief Description of this programme, could the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of the work done and the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) the reason for reducing these places and units? Has the Administration assessed the impact of these measures on those in need, and how the increase in birth rate will affect the service demand?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) and (2)

Upon harmonisation of pre-primary services in 2005, "child care centre" is re-defined as a centre serving children aged under three. A child care centre may consist of a day crèche section for children aged under two and a day nursery section for children aged two to under three. The reduction of eight places is proposed by the centre operator to convert them to become 28 half-day nursery places in view of the low demand for crèche service and increasing demand for half-day service for children aged two to under three. Arising from this conversion of places, the operator has to employ an additional child care worker at its own cost. The conversion results in an annual savings in subvention of \$0.03 million for the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

The reduction of two occasional child care units is the net effect of the closure of three child care centres initiated by the service operators as a result of low utilisation, with one of the three concerned units to be re-provisioned to another district with service demand. The net annual amount saved is about \$0.16 million which includes staff cost and other

charges. As at December 2006, the overall utilisation rate of the occasional child care service is 62.4%.

SWD will continue to monitor the service need of day child care services taking into account factors such as the population profile, and work out service re-engineering plans with non-governmental organisation operators when necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the Indicators for the integrated family service centre, the number of intensive counselling/brief counselling/supportive casework cases served by the Government and subvented sectors has increased by nearly 13% from 73 044 in 2005-06 (actual) to 82 425 in 2007-08 (estimate). Could the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of the work done and the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) whether additional manpower has been deployed to serve districts with a higher caseload, or whether additional service centres have been set up?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) There are 61 integrated family service centres (IFSCs) over the territory, providing a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services. Services provided include family life education, parent-child activities, mutual support groups, volunteer training, counselling and referral service, etc. The estimated total recurrent provision for these 61 IFSCs in 2007-08 is \$616.9 million. Each IFSC has a minimum of 12 social workers apart from a supervisor and supporting staff. The actual manpower in individual IFSC varies according to district needs. Individual IFSCs may have more social workers depending on the population served and the complexity of social problems in the district.

- (2) The number of 82 425 intensive counselling/brief counselling/supportive casework cases estimated to be handled by IFSCs in 2007-08, as compared with that in 2005-06 (i.e. 73 044) represents an increase of about 13%. If we compare this figure with the one in 2006-07 (i.e. 80 954), the increase is 1.8%. Although there

is no increase in the number of IFSCs, additional recurrent resources according to district needs have been allocated to IFSCs to strengthen their manpower in both 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)067

Question Serial No.

0952

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007–08 under this Programme, namely reviewing the New Dawn (ND) Project “taking into account the findings and recommendations of the evaluation study of the Project”, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of the evaluation study as well as the expenditure and the manpower involved?
- (2) the initial findings of the study and whether the Administration will consider replacing “compulsory work” with “voluntary work”?
- (3) the ways to ensure that fair wages will be given to parents participating in the Project?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The ND Project, launched in April 2006, is an 18-month trial project. It aims to help single parents and child carers with their youngest child aged 12 to 14 receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) build up their capacity for work, integrate into society and move to self-reliance through engagement in employment as early as possible. In order to assess the effectiveness of the ND Project, Social Welfare Department has commissioned an evaluation study at the cost of \$0.8 million. The study is in progress. The study is expected to be completed in mid-2007.

- (2) The study is underway and the results are not yet available at this stage. In March 2002, we introduced the Ending Exclusion Project (EEP) to assist single parents on CSSA with young children to seek employment. However, participation under EEP was voluntary and the outcome was not encouraging. In view of our experience with the EEP, our aim is to better help the recipients to end social exclusion, to build up their capacity for joining the labour market and start the process of becoming self-reliant through paid employment as soon as their family circumstances permit. Hence, participation in the ND Project is mandatory for all single parents and child carers on CSSA with the youngest child aged 12 to 14 to seek employment entailing not less than 32 hours a month. Exemptions from joining the ND Project are allowed

where justified, for example, the recently bereaved, those who have recently been victims of domestic violence and those having to care for a disabled family member.

- (3) Operating non-governmental organisations (NGOs) provide participants of the ND Intensive Employment Assistance Projects with personalised employment assistance including the updated labour market information. Operating NGOs would also assist the participants to consider whether or not to take up a particular employment by studying whether the terms and conditions of employment are reasonable and commensurate with their abilities. They would also provide pre-employment and post-employment assistance in case the participants encounter difficulties.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the plan to “continue to review the existing Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) arrangements for the unemployed able-bodied recipients”, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of work as well as the expenditure and the manpower involved?
- (2) whether it will consider separating unemployment assistance from the current CSSA system?
- (3) whether it will consider providing the unemployed in need with one-stop employment assistance, including payment of cash assistance in case manager approach, and provision of employment counselling and job vacancy information?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The exercise is to monitor and review, on an on-going basis, the existing arrangements to help and motivate unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients, especially the long-term ones, to move into work and become self-reliant. It aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the existing arrangements and explore whether new measures should be tried out. We make use of the existing in-house resources, involving one Chief Social Security Officer, one Senior Social Security Officer, one Social Security Officer I and two Social Security Officers II, to conduct the exercise.
 - (2) There is presently no plan to separate unemployment assistance from the current CSSA system. Able-bodied CSSA recipients already receive a lower standard rate when compared with other recipients and are required to take part in the Support for Self-Reliance (SFS) Scheme.
 - (3) Under the existing arrangements, Social Welfare Department has dedicated teams of staff to provide specialised services to the unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients on an individual and personal basis. Upon receipt of an application for CSSA from an unemployed person, Senior Social Security Assistants (SSSAs) conduct an

investigation and verification of their circumstances. Under the SFS Scheme, which an unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipient is required to join, the Employment Assistance (EA) Co-ordinators conduct in-depth interviews with the participants every fortnight to check the progress of their search for work, provide information on job vacancies and provide job matching and post-placement services to help them re-enter the workforce. Information on job vacancies is provided by Labour Department's Vacancy Search Terminal set up at Social Security Field Units (SSFUs). Job Developers have also been created since 2003 to facilitate job matching under the SFS Scheme. They liaise with local organisations and employers to obtain more information on job opportunities for the SFS participants and pass on such information to the EA Co-ordinators for arrangements of job matching for the participants. The EA Co-ordinators would also refer participants for the Intensive Employment Assistance Programmes if they are considered to be in need of additional help to move into work. The SSSAs, EA Co-ordinators and Job Developers work closely in the SSFUs to provide financial and employment services to the unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the plan to “follow up the review of the provision of disregarded earnings (DE) under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme”, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of work as well as the expenditure and the manpower involved?
- (2) whether the Administration will consider further raising the maximum level of DE and relaxing the requirement on being on CSSA for two months before recipients are eligible for making application for DE?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) In 2005, we undertook to review the existing arrangements of DE under the CSSA Scheme which came into effect on 1 June 2003 as a package to promote self-reliance. The Financial Secretary announced in his 2007-08 Budget Speech on 28 February that the Administration will raise the ‘no-deduction’ limit for DE from \$600 to \$800; and relax the criteria for allowing CSSA recipients to be eligible for DE from not less than three months on CSSA to not less than two months.

We plan to consult the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services in March 2007 and then make a submission to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in April 2007 to seek funding approval for this proposed arrangement.

The financial implications for implementing the whole package will be around \$30 million per annum. Manpower resources for implementing the proposed measures on DE will be absorbed by the existing staffing provisions.

- (2) We consider that the proposed improvements should be able to strike a balance between encouraging able-bodied CSSA recipients to work and not delaying their exit from the CSSA system.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched three District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects in three districts in 2006. Would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of work as well as the expenditure and the manpower involved?
- (2) the specific skills acquired by the recipients, and the measures adopted to ensure that the recipients would be given fair wages after re-entering the labour market?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The SWD has commissioned non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to run three DEAT Projects, one each in Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai districts, from October 2006 to September 2008 to help 300 long-term Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) able-bodied unemployed recipients move into work. The operating NGOs provide a comprehensive package of employment assistance services including soft skills training, job-search assistance, employment-related and non-employment-related counselling, job matching, job attachment, work-focused training and post-employment support services. To further encourage participants to seek and remain in employment, in addition to the provision of Temporary Financial Aid which helps the needy participants meet the short-term employment-related needs such as travelling expenses to attend job interviews, a one-off incentive of \$1,500 for 'return-to-work' is granted to those who have secured full-time job. Participants are required to refund the incentive if they leave the job within the first four months without good reasons.

The estimated total cost of the three trial projects is \$4.5 million. No additional staff is required by SWD.

- (2) The operating NGOs would consider the working ability of individual participants and the current market demand in arranging the job skills training courses. The courses that have been organised include skills training on pest control, exhibition venue lighting installation and

horticulture. NGOs would also arrange job attachment for the participants to enable them to gain work experience and enhance their employability.

Operating NGOs provide participants of the three DEAT projects with personalised employment assistance services including updated labour market information. Operating NGOs would also assist the participants to consider whether or not to take up a particular employment by studying whether the terms and conditions of employment are reasonable and commensurate with their abilities. They would also provide pre-employment and post-employment assistance in case the participants encounter difficulties.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the "Targets" of this Programme, the number of places for self-care (S/C) hostels/homes for the aged (H/A) in 2007-08 is 1 980 lower than the revised estimate in 2006-07, and the number of places for care-and-attention (C&A) homes has also reduced by 670. However, places provided under the programme of converting S/C hostel and H/A places into C&A places with continuum of care has only increased by 1 435. Would the Administration please provide information on the following:

- (1) what are the details of the conversion programme and the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) what are the reasons for a reduction in the number of C&A places under this conversion programme? With an ageing population, has the Administration assessed its impact on our society?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) In line with the principle that subsidised residential care places for the elderly should provide long term care (LTC) and continuum of care, the Social Welfare Department has since 2005-06 implemented the programme of converting self-care hostel (S/C) and home for the aged (H/A) places which have no LTC element, and some existing care-and-attention (C&A) places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places providing continuum of care. The welfare sector supported the conversion proposal and the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in 2005.

The conversion programme involves 75 residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). As at to-date, 39 of them have already started converting their places into C&A places providing continuum of care. We project that another 18 RCHEs will kick-start their conversion in 2007-08. Therefore, there will be 57 participating RCHEs in 2007-08.

- (2) The conversion exercise is conducted on a subventions-neutral basis. The C&A places created under the programme will provide

continuum of care which will better meet elders' need for LTC services. As the unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a place not providing continuum of care, the number of C&A places to be created under the programme will be smaller than the number of places being replaced. There will not be displacement of elders from the participating homes as conversion will be vacancy-led, which enables existing elders to stay in their existing homes for as long as necessary. If their health condition deteriorates, they will be given priority to occupy the C&A places providing continuum of care created in their homes.

In parallel, we have also been increasing the supply of subsidised residential care places through other means elsewhere. In 2007-08, about 600 additional subsidised residential care places for the elderly will be created in new purpose-built premises and through purchasing places from private residential care homes for the elderly.

As the population ages, the demand for subsidised residential care places will increase. The Commission on Poverty and the Elderly Commission will continue to explore ways of responding to the challenges effectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the "Targets" of this Programme, the numbers of District Elderly Community Centres, Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and Social Centres for the Elderly are more or less the same in the past three years. Would the Administration please provide information on the following:

- (1) the details of the services provided by these centres, expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) whether the Administration would consider increasing the numbers of these centres in face of an ageing population?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) provide integrated services comprising promotion of active and healthy ageing, counselling and case management, outreaching and networking support to vulnerable elders, development of volunteerism among elders, and support for carers. Social Centres for the Elderly (S/Es) organise mainly social and recreational activities for elders in the community and provide them with a platform for building social network.

In 2007-08, the estimated expenditure for DECCs, NECs and S/Es is \$368.9 million.

The notional staffing for a DECC, NEC and S/E is 17, 6 and 5 staff respectively. That said, the service providers have the flexibility to adjust the staff mix according to the service needs under the Lump Sum Grant subvention mode.

- (2) Currently, there are 41 DECCs, 115 NECs and 58 S/Es which form a territory-wide social support network for the elders in the community and their carers. Over 170 000 elders are members of the DECCs, NECs and S/Es. We will monitor the service demand for new centres in individual districts.

Taking into account the enhanced functions of DECCs and NECs, we have enhanced the area provision of a DECC to 572m² and a NEC to 394 m² when launching the re-engineering exercise for upgrading the

then Multi Services Centres for the Elderly and most of the S/Es into DECCs and NECs respectively in 2003.

We have been helping DECCs and NECs which are operating in premises of areas smaller than the prescribed schedule of accommodation to relocate or to set up sub-bases.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)073

Question Serial No.

0958

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the Indicators for the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme, the number of cases served has increased substantially by 20 788 from 628 612 in 2005-06 actual to 649 400 in 2007-08 estimate. Could the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of the work as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) the reason for the increase in the number of SSA cases? Would the Administration consider implementing a community-wide retirement protection scheme in light of the ageing population?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The figures of 628 612 and 649 400 refer to the actual number of SSA cases served in 2005-06 and the estimated number of SSA cases to be served in 2007-08 respectively. In terms of authorised cases, the average number for 2005-06 is 552 011 and the estimated average numbers for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are 574 800 and 609 400 respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is \$5.9 billion. There are 1 166 staff in 37 Social Security Field Units who are responsible for processing and reviewing Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and SSA cases.

- (2) The projection for 2007-08 is based on the recent trend of SSA caseload. Although we have seen a decreasing trend in the Normal Old Age Allowance cases during the past year, we expect that there will still be increases in other categories of cases including Higher Old Age Allowance and Disability Allowance. We therefore estimate that there will be an overall increase in the number of SSA cases in 2007-08.

The Government is now studying the sustainability of Hong Kong's three pillars of retirement protection (namely the CSSA and Old Age Allowance, a Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme and voluntary private savings) and expects to complete it in 2007. The Government will consider the findings of the study before deciding on the future course of action.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)074

Question Serial No.

0840

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (Health and Welfare Branch) Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

With regard to the scheme of "Gender Focal Points Network" mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08, please specify the details of its implementation and its influences in relation to the formulation of government policies.

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

To promote gender mainstreaming, the Administration has, with the assistance of the Women's Commission, established a network of Gender Focal Points (at directorate rank in most cases) in all bureaux and departments. The Gender Focal Points serve as the contact and resource persons within their organisations and are tasked to help raise awareness and understanding of gender-related issues, and promote the use of the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist (Checklist) within their respective organisations.

To further promote gender mainstreaming within the Government, a core group of Gender Focal Points has been set up to devise plans and strategies to facilitate the proactive application of the Checklist by bureaux/departments. On the suggestion of the core group, we are strengthening gender-related training for civil servants to enhance understanding of gender mainstreaming and are planning to produce an information leaflet on gender mainstreaming for distribution to all civil servants. In the coming year, we will continue to strengthen the network of Gender Focal Points through regular meetings and experience-sharing.

Signature

Name in block letters

Ms Sandra LEE

Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health and
Welfare)

Post Title

Date

12.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)075

Question Serial No.

0841

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

As stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08, the Administration will review policies and services related to women and promote the development of new or improved services, including new models and good practices. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the new services to be introduced in 2007-08 and the estimated expenditures on the new services?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

With the assistance of the Women's Commission, the Administration has kept under review policies and services related to women, while promoting also the development of new or improved services for women. Key areas reviewed over the years include health care services, public housing, information technology training, employment services and job-related training, adult and continuous education, welfare services and family services, services for victims of domestic and sexual violence and violence prevention programme. In terms of new services or service model developed following the reviews, the Administration has, for instance, strengthened collection of sex-disaggregated data and started the annual publication of Women and Men Statistics since 2001; and introduced a territory-wide Cervical Screening Programme in March 2004 to better prevent cervical cancer. Besides, the Women's Commission has also introduced in March 2004 the Capacity Building Mileage Programme, which adopts a new and flexible model for promoting continuous learning and the empowerment of women.

In 2007-08, the Administration will work with the Women's Commission to conduct further reviews of policies and services, including on women's participation in the advisory and statutory bodies, family-friendly employment policies and practices, and employment services and protection for women etc. and where appropriate recommend areas for enhancement.

Resources arising from development of new or improved services are absorbed from within the existing resources of the bureaux and departments concerned.

Signature

Name in block letters

Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title

Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health and
Welfare)

Date

13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)076

Question Serial No.

0842

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

With reference to the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08, will the Administration inform this Committee of any specific measures for enhancing women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies, and the ratio of women members in the existing advisory and statutory bodies?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The Administration has set a gender benchmark of 25% as an initial working target for appointment to advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs). A proactive approach has been taken to achieve the target, including –

- (a) increasing the number of female candidates in the Central Personality Index managed by the Home Affairs Bureau;
- (b) requiring all submissions making recommendations for appointments to ASBs to include a paragraph on gender consideration; and
- (c) encouraging bureaux and departments to reach out, identify and cultivate women who are able and willing to contribute to the work of ASBs.

As a result, women's participation in ASBs has reached the target of 25% in December 2005, against the level of 20.3% in December 2002. As at end December 2006, about 26% of the appointed members were women.

The Administration would continue to work closely with the Women's Commission and women's organisations to enhance women's participation in ASBs.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters

Ms Sandra LEE

Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health and
Welfare)

Post Title

Date

13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)077

Question Serial No.

0844

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

With regard to the enhancement of women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) as mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 under this Programme, will the Administration advise this Committee:

- (1) of the details of work, expenditures and manpower involved; and
- (2) whether the initiative includes raising the ratio of women members in ASBs; if so, whether the planned ratio will be increased to 40%?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (1) The Administration has set a gender benchmark of 25% as an initial working target for appointment to advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs). A proactive approach has been taken to achieve the target, including –
 - (a) increasing the number of female candidates in the Central Personality Index managed by the Home Affairs Bureau;
 - (b) requiring all submissions making recommendations for appointments to ASBs to include a paragraph on gender consideration; and
 - (c) encouraging bureaux and departments to reach out, identify and cultivate women who are able and willing to contribute to the work of ASBs.

As a result, women's participation in ASBs has reached the target of 25% in December 2005, against the level of 20.3% in December 2002. As at end December 2006, about 26% of the appointed members were women.

Resources required for carrying out the above measures are absorbed from within the existing resources of bureaux and departments concerned.

- (2) The Home Affairs Bureau will consider the suggestion of the Women's Commission to raise the target further, having regard to local experience and international practices. Meanwhile, we will continue to work closely with the Women's Commission and women's organisations to enhance women's participation in ASBs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____
Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Welfare and
Food)

Date _____
13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)078

Question Serial
No.

0845

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Bureau:

Question:

With regard to the introduction of the "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" to more policy areas, as mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 under this Programme, will the Administration advise this Committee:

- (1) of the details of work, expenditures and manpower involved;
- (2) whether it will consider introducing the Checklist to all government departments in this year, if not, why not; and
- (3) whether it will consider introducing the Checklist to the public?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (1) Gender mainstreaming means incorporating women's as well as men's needs, concerns and experiences in the policy-formulation process. Since 2002, the Administration has, with the assistance of the Women's Commission, applied the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist (Checklist) developed by the Commission to 24 policy areas or programmes, covering areas which are of relevance to women such as health care reform, secondary school places allocation, review of the Domestic Violence Ordinance, and services for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence etc. In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to follow up on the five programme areas that have commenced application of the Checklist in 2006-07. We will work with the Women's Commission to roll out the Checklist to more policy areas or programmes in 2007-08. Resources required for carrying out the above measures are absorbed from within the existing resources of the bureaux and departments concerned.
- (2) Gender mainstreaming is still a relatively new concept in Hong Kong. For it to become an integral part of the policy-formulation and service delivery process, it is crucial to first develop a better understanding and awareness of the concept across the civil service. To this end, we have been providing training on gender-related issues on a regular basis to different levels of civil servants, from the senior officials involved in the formulation of

policies, to the frontline civil servants who are involved in the delivery of the services. These efforts will continue.

- (3) To further promote the application of the Checklist within the Administration, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau supported the Women's Commission's initiative to publish an experience-sharing booklet in January 2006. The booklet was widely distributed to all bureaux and departments, all Legislative Council Members, all female District Councillors, and over 250 women's groups and non-governmental organisations. The general public can also have access to the booklet and Checklist, which are available on the websites of the Women's Commission and of HWFB. The Administration will continue to work with the Women's Commission on ways to promote better public understanding of the concept of gender mainstreaming and the Checklist.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health and
Welfare)

Date _____ 13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)079

Question Serial No.

0964

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :
Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In June 2005, the Administration stated that a total of 18 rehabuses were aged ten years or above. As these buses are equipped with a single-arm tail-lift, they are proper for early replacement. According to the replacement program in 2007-08, the Administration proposes to replace nine rehabuses. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Council:

- (a) After the replacement of nine rehabuses, there should still be another nine rehabuses aged ten years or over and installed with a single-arm tail-lift. What is the reason for the Administration not replacing the rest as assessed as “proper for early replacement” and still use these buses to serve the people with severe disabilities?
- (b) In case of replacing all these 18 rehabuses at one time, what will be the additional cost incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (a) As the Administration has gradually replaced the single-arm tail-lift rehabuses since mid-2005, there will be seven rehabuses with single-arm tail-lift remaining after completing the replacement programme in 2007-08. Future replacement programmes will depend on the condition of individual vehicles. The Administration will continue to monitor the situation and the replacement will be arranged in phases.

- (b) The additional cost incurred in replacing also the remaining seven single-arm tail-lift buses in 2007-08 is about \$4.41 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)080

Question Serial No.

0970

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the Targets under this programme, the number of planned places in the care-and-attention (C&A) homes for the aged blind in the 2007-08 estimate remains unchanged over the 2006-07 revised estimate. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the details of the services provided in these homes as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) Whether it will consider increasing the number of places in these homes in the light of an ageing population?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) C&A homes for the aged blind provide residential service with an appropriate level of care for aged blind persons. In 2006-07, the expenditure on the service of C&A homes for the aged blind is \$82.1 million. Under the current mode of lump sum grant, these homes, other than being required to have registered social workers and qualified nurses on their staff, enjoy the flexibility in recruiting other suitable staff to meet the service need.
- (2) Currently, there are 11 C&A homes for the aged blind providing a total of 825 places. As at 28 February 2007, there were 90 aged blind persons on the waiting list, and the waiting time is about 7 months on average. Applicants without location preference could receive service sooner. The Administration will monitor the service demand and the need for increasing the provision of C&A places for the more frail aged blind.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)081

Question Serial No.

0971

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration will continue to support projects from grants under the "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprises" Project in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the details of the work as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) How will this Project tie in with the development of social enterprise in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) Social Welfare Department (SWD) set up the "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprises" Project in 2001 with a one-off grant of \$50 million. Through payment of grants as seed money to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), this Project supports the creation of small enterprises/businesses by NGOs to provide employment for people with disabilities (PWD) in a carefully planned and sympathetic working environment. The number of employees with disabilities should not be less than 50% of the total number of employees in each business. As at February 2007, a total sum of \$22 million had been granted to support 21 NGOs to set up 42 businesses of various nature, including cleaning, catering, car beauty, mobile massage, retail shops, vegetable supply and processing, household service, travel agency. These businesses created about 510 jobs in which over 370 were tailor-made for PWD.
 - (2) The Project has been a forerunner of social enterprises in Hong Kong. SWD will continue to encourage NGOs to set up more social enterprises through provisions of grants under the Project.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)082

Question Serial No.

0972

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, there is a net increase of 58 posts in 2007-08. Could the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) which branches/sections do these additional posts belong to?
- (2) whether the manpower of the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) has been strengthened through the creation of new posts? If yes, please state the additional manpower in all FCPSUs in 2007-08 by district.
- (3) the duties and rank of the additional posts?
- (4) the number of contract and permanent staff respectively among the additional posts?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

- Reply :
- (1) The 58 posts will be created mainly to enhance staffing support in the FCPSUs, Integrated Family Service Centres and Clinical Psychology Units.
 - (2) Of the 58 posts, 25 will be allocated to the FCPSUs over the territory, comprising 21 social work officer grade posts and four clerical grade posts.
 - (3) The posts to be created are in the social work officer, clinical psychologist and clerical grades. The creation of these posts is to enhance the social work and clinical psychological services and support for victims of domestic violence and families in need.
 - (4) All the 58 posts will be on the permanent establishment of the Department.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)083

Question Serial No.

0973

Head : 170 - Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
700 - General non-recurrent

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the total General non-recurrent expenses under this Subhead, please inform this Committee of the reason why there is a significant difference between the 2007-08 estimate (\$39,700,000) and 2006-07 revised estimate (\$78,676,000) and 2005-06 actual expenditure (\$246,017,000)?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The difference in non-recurrent expenditure between the 2007-08 estimate and the 2006-07 revised estimate is mainly due to the one-off injection of \$50 million into the Trust Fund for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2006-07. The difference between the 2007-08 estimate and the 2005-06 actual expenditure is mainly due to the re-classification of funding for the extension of temporary posts from non-recurrent account to recurrent account.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)084

Question Serial No.

0974

Head : 170 - Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
700 – General non-recurrent

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the items under this Subhead, namely 470 (Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged), 521 (Enhancing employment of people with disabilities through small enterprises) and 529 (Community Care Project and provision of additional support to measures under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, Peer Counsellor Project, Programme Assistant Project and enhancing personal care services to frail elders), what are the significant measures and programmes to be launched in 2007-08 and the estimated expenditure respectively?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : In 2007-08, under item 470 - Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged - the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to provide matching grants for welfare projects carried out by welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which have successfully secured cash or in-kind donations from business corporations; and to further promote the scheme, in particular to the business sector. Taking into account the fluctuations in the number of applications received in past years, the estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is \$32.2 million.

Under item 521 - Enhancing employment of people with disabilities through small enterprises - SWD will continue to make use of the grant, which amounts to \$28 million as at end February 2007, to support NGOs to set up more social enterprises for people with disabilities. Taking into account the fluctuations in the number of applications received in past years, the estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is \$5.9 million.

Under item 529 - Community Care Project and provision of additional support to measures under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, Peer Counsellor Project, Programme Assistant Project and enhancing personal care services to frail elders - a total number of 3 073 temporary posts will be retained and funded under the Recurrent Account in 2007-08. Among them, 1 100 posts of programme assistant and 283 posts of care assistant will be regularised while 100 posts of community work organiser, 150 posts of peer counsellor and 1 440 posts of youth ambassador will be extended for one year. The total provision for these posts is \$207.3 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)085

Question Serial No.

0986

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Mutual help and assistance among members in the neighbourhood and community can help reduce domestic violence and tragedy. The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraph 51 of the Budget Speech that the Government will allocate an additional \$31 million to support family services in 2007-08. Please explain in detail how the provision will be used. Also, what is the estimated expenditure for the Batterer Intervention Programme in 2007-08? The Government stated that it will continue to promote and strengthen family education. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply : In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need through setting up of additional Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), strengthening the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, reinforcing the clinical psychological service and services of Integrated Family Service Centres, enhancing the provision of more flexible types of child care services, etc.

An annual provision of \$1.041 million has been allocated to a non-governmental organisation to launch a pilot project on Batterer Intervention Programme (BIP) between January 2006 and March 2008. On the part of Social Welfare Department, the development and implementation of the BIP is undertaken by staff of the Clinical Psychology Units and FCPSUs. There is no breakdown on funding specifically allocated for this purpose.

A wide range of family education programmes were implemented by different Government bureaux and departments through different channels in 2006-07. To sustain the momentum of the family education campaign, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau is planning to launch another series of Announcement in the Public Interest on family values and arrange further publicity activities in 2007-08.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)086

Question Serial No.

1216

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08" of this Programme, it is stated that the Department will "continue with the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector". Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (1) the details of the programme, the financial provision, staffing involved and the number of training places to be provided?
- (2) whether the number of training places will be increased and what measures will the Administration take to attract more people to join the nursing sector so as to ensure adequate nursing manpower for residential care homes for the elderly in the light of the ageing population?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) To alleviate the demand for Enrolled Nurses in the Welfare Sector, in particular in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), the Social Welfare Department (SWD), in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, launched two batches of the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector (the Programme) in 2006 which provided 220 Enrolled Nurse training places. The third batch will be launched in 2007-08 to provide an additional 110 Enrolled Nurse training places. Tuition fees are fully subsidised by SWD. Graduates will have to work in the Welfare Sector for at least a consecutive two years after graduation. The financial provision for the third batch is \$5.2 million.

- (2) The three batches will altogether provide 330 Enrolled Nurse training places. This will help alleviate the nursing shortage in the Welfare Sector.

Apart from launching the Programme to train Enrolled Nurses for the Welfare Sector and sponsoring trainees with the tuition fees for their undertaking to work in the Welfare Sector for two consecutive years after graduation, SWD initiated a series of promotional activities in

2005 and 2006, including conducting career talks and distributing promotional materials, to attract nurses, retired nurses and nurse trainees to join the Welfare Sector, including RCHEs. The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will continue to look into the long-term supply of nurses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)087

Question Serial No.

1218

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The balance of Item 529 Community Care Project under this Subhead is less than 3% of the original approved commitment. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) what are the details of the project, the expenditure and manpower involved as well as its effectiveness?
- (2) will the Administration consider providing additional provision to maintain the sustainability of the project?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The creation of temporary posts under the Social Welfare Department aims to assist the unemployed youth to acquire relevant work experience and enhance their employability in the open labour market. As at December 2006, a total of 3 139 persons have taken up the temporary posts while 799 persons (i.e. 25.5% of total) have subsequently successfully secured jobs in the open labour market.
 - (2) A total of 3 073 temporary posts will be retained in 2007-08. Among them, 1 100 posts of programme assistant and 283 posts of care assistant will be regularised while 100 posts of community work organiser, 150 posts of peer counsellor and 1 440 posts of youth ambassador will be extended for one year. The total provision for the 3 073 temporary posts in 2007-08 is \$207.3 million, which will be accounted for as recurrent operational expenses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)088

Question Serial No.

1219

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the reasons for the decrease in the 2007-08 estimate under this Programme as compared to the original estimate for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The reduction of the 2007-08 Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate in Programme (3) on "Services for Elders" is mainly due to the anticipated reduction in cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged and the rescheduling of the implementation of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)089

Question Serial No.

1220

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration has from 2005-06 converted in phases self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places into care-and-attention places. However, the number of residential care places provided by subvented or private organizations seemed to have been decreasing in the past two years, from 6 706 (5 288 + 1 418) in 2005-06 (Actual) to 5 482 (1 119 + 4 363) in 2007-08 (Estimate). Would the Administration explain why?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : In line with the principle that subsidised residential care places for the elderly should provide long term care (LTC) and continuum of care, the Social Welfare Department has since 2005-06 implemented the programme of converting self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places which have no LTC element, and some existing care-and-attention (C&A) places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places providing continuum of care. The welfare sector supported the conversion proposal and the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in 2005.

The conversion exercise is conducted on a subventions-neutral basis. The C&A places created under the programme will provide continuum of care which will better meet elders' need for LTC services. As the unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a place not providing continuum of care, the number of C&A places to be created under the programme will be smaller than the number of places being replaced. There will not be displacement of elders from the participating homes as conversion will be vacancy-led, which enables existing elders to stay in their existing homes for as long as necessary. If their health condition deteriorates, they will be given priority to occupy the C&A places providing continuum of care created in their homes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)090

Question Serial No.

1221

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the reason for reducing the provision for the government sector by 4.3% in the 2006-07 revised estimate?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The reduction of the 2006-07 revised estimate as compared to the 2006-07 original estimate for the government sector in the Young People Programme is mainly due to the lower than expected cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)091

Question Serial No.

1222

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is expected that the estimate for the government sector in 2007-08 is 8% lower than the 2006-07 original estimate. Would it be sufficient, particularly when the demand for various services for young people is on the rise?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The reduction of the 2007-08 estimate as compared to the 2006-07 original estimate for the government sector in the Young People Programme is mainly due to the anticipated reduction in cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged.

To cope with the increase in service demand, the Administration has over the years increased resources to the non-governmental organisations operating young people services. A summary of the major initiatives is given below -

- (a) \$20.9 million per annum effective from 2005-06, comprising \$12.9 million and \$8 million to enhance respectively the outreaching services for young night drifters rendered by the designated Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres and the Community Support Service Schemes for young persons cautioned under the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme;
- (b) \$3.7 million per annum earmarked to enhance the staffing and programme provisions of the Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers in 2007-08; and
- (c) a one-off amount of \$400 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club to implement a four-year project, namely - P.A.T.H.S. to Adulthood - A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme for secondary schools effective from the 2005/06 school year with the Education and Manpower Bureau and the Social Welfare Department as co-organisers.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)092

Question Serial No.

1223

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The estimated provision for the subvented sector in 2007-08 has increased by 1.4% as compared with the 2006-07 original estimate, whereas the provision for the government sector has been reduced by 8%. Does this contrast imply that the Government is going to outsource more and more of its services for young people to the subvented sector in the future?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The increase in financial provision for the subvented sector in the Young People Programme in the 2007-08 estimate by 1.4% as compared with the 2006-07 original estimate is mainly due to the full-year effect of new initiatives implemented in 2006-07 and provision for new projects to be implemented in 2007-08 by non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The reduction of the 2007-08 estimate as compared to the 2006-07 original estimate for the government sector in the same Programme is mainly due to the anticipated reduction in cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged.

The Government will continue to work in partnership with NGOs who are already the main providers of services for young people under this programme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)093

Question Serial No.

1224

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the indicators for the family and child protection service, the number of supervision cases served in 2007-08 will be 9 559, representing an increase of 722 over 8 837 of 2006-07 original estimate. Please explain the reasons for the increase in caseload.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The estimated increase in caseload is attributed to the enhanced public awareness of the domestic violence problem, and strengthened effort in early identification of cases under the Family Support Programme.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)094

Question Serial No.

1225

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under the Indicator for the “family and child protection service”, the cost per case per month of \$1,243 in the 2007-08 estimate is \$299 over the 2006-07 original estimate of \$944. Please state the reasons for such an increase.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The increase in the cost per family and child protection case per month in the 2007-08 estimate as compared to the 2006-07 original estimate is mainly due to the adoption of a new costing basis to reflect the full cost of the services rendered, which includes the cost of staff fringe benefits and rent charged to different expenditure heads, and other non-cash expenditure such as depreciation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)095

Question Serial No.

1226

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006, the Administration launched the “Special Training and Enhancement Programme” (My STEP), which is a trial employment assistance programme with structured motivation and disciplinary training and active job placement to help young employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients living in Tin Shui Wai to return to work or mainstream schooling. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the expenditure involved, the number of recipients benefited from the programme as well as the number of recipients who have successfully returned to work or mainstream schooling respectively ever since the implementation of the programme?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The cost of My STEP is \$1.5 million. From October 2006 to the end of January 2007, a total of 68 participants were recruited. 12 participants have secured full-time employment and one has returned to mainstream schooling.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)096

Question Serial No.

1227

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006, the Administration launched the "New Dawn Project", a trial employment assistance project, to help Comprehensive Social Security Assistance single parent and child carer recipients with the youngest child aged 12 to 14 build up capacity to become self-reliant through engagement in employment and integrate into the community as early as possible. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the expenditure involved, the number of recipients benefited from the project as well as the number of recipients who have been successfully engaged in employment respectively ever since the implementation of the project?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The total cost of running the New Dawn Project is \$30 million, shared between the Lotteries Fund (\$22.9 million) and the Social Welfare Department (\$7.1 million). From April 2006 to January 2007, a total of 7 349 participants enrolled in the Project. Among them, 1 744 participants secured paid employment with no less than 32 working hours in a month.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)097

Question Serial No.

1228

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006, the Administration commissioned evaluation studies on the New Dawn (ND) Project, the Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP) and the District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the expenditure involved in these evaluation studies and the findings of the studies on the above three projects?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The cost of the evaluation study on the ND Project is \$0.8 million. The evaluation study is in progress and is expected to be completed by mid-2007.

The total cost of the evaluation studies on the My STEP and DEAT Projects is \$0.6 million. The evaluation studies are in progress and are expected to be completed by end-2007 and end-2008 respectively.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)098

Question Serial No.

1229

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006, the Administration set up a new integrated children and youth services centre in Tin Shui Wai (North) in Yuen Long District. Please inform this Committee of the expenditure involved, as well as the average monthly utilisation rate and enrolment rate of this centre since its establishment.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The recurrent provision for the new integrated children and youth services centre in Tin Shui Wai (North) is \$6.3 million per annum. The fitting out works are underway and full scale operation of the centre is scheduled for mid-2007. Service utilisation figures of the centre are therefore not available at this stage. Meanwhile, the operator has secured a temporary office nearby to publicise the impending opening of the centre and network with stakeholders.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)099

Question Serial No.

1230

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : During 2007-08, the Administration will set up a new integrated children and youth services centre at Tuen Mun Area 10 through pooling of existing resources. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the details and progress of and expenditure involved in this initiative?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The new integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC) located in Tuen Mun Area 10 will be set up by an existing operator at a cost of \$5.5 million per annum through pooling of existing resources. Subject to the progress of fitting-out works, the new ICYSC is targeted to commence operation in July 2007.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)100

Question Serial No.

1231

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The provision for 2007-08 is \$130 million (10%) higher than the 2006-07 revised estimate. One of the main reasons is the net increase of 58 posts in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the titles and duties of these post as well as the expenditure incurred.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : For Programme (1) Family and Child Welfare, 58 additional posts will be created in 2007-08 to enhance social work and clinical psychological services and support for victims of domestic violence and families in need. The posts to be created are in the social work officer, clinical psychologist and clerical grades. The additional expenditure involved is about \$29.4 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)101

Question Serial No.

1232

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The provision for 2007-08 is \$746.6 million (3.1%) higher than the 2006-07 revised estimate. One of the main reasons is the net increase of 77 posts in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the titles and duties of these posts as well as the expenditure incurred.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The posts to be created are in the rank of Social Security Assistant. They mainly provide front-line social security services including conducting interviews and investigations to collect and verify information for processing or reviewing applications under various social security schemes. The additional expenditure involved is about \$14.0 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)102

Question Serial No.

1233

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the indicator for “foster care”, the cost per place per month in 2007-08 estimate is \$8,241. Of which, how much will directly be given to the foster home and how much will be the administration cost? Does the administration cost include the lump sum grant allocated to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for recruiting staff? If yes, please provide the services financing agreement on those staff members.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The cost of \$8,241 per place per month consists of staff salary, other charges and foster care allowance which includes maintenance grant for the foster child at \$2,864 and incentive payment for the foster parents at \$1,430. Although NGOs providing foster care service are allowed to use the subventions flexibly to meet service and operational needs under the lump sum grant subvention mode, they must follow the requirements of the Social Welfare Department to pay foster care allowance to foster parents at the rates specified above, and to employ registered social workers to run the foster care service.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)103

Question Serial No.

1234

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, there will be a deletion of 45 posts in 2007-08. Could the Administration please provide a breakdown of the posts to be deleted and their duties, and explain the reason for the deletion?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The 45 posts to be deleted under Programme (5) in 2007-08 are in the ranks of Social Work Officer, Senior Welfare Worker, Welfare Worker, Assistant Clerical Officer, Clerical Assistant, Motor Driver, Cook, Workshop Instructor II, Property Attendant and Workman II. These posts mainly provide services to the six existing correctional/residential homes. Following the co-location of these six homes to the Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home in 2007-08, there is room for greater flexibility in staff deployment and more cost-effective delivery of services. This enables us to delete the above posts upon streamlining of the staffing structure. The staff concerned will be redeployed to other service units of the Social Welfare Department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)104

Question Serial No.

1235

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : While the population of Hong Kong is ageing, the revised expenditure for Services for Elders for 2006-07 has decreased significantly as compared to the original estimate. The expenditure for the government sector and subvented/private sectors has decreased by 22.3% and 5.8% respectively. Please state the reasons for the decrease in each of the sectors.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The reduction of the 2006-07 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate for the government sector under Programme (3) on "Services for Elders" is mainly due to the lower than expected cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged.

The reduction of the 2006-07 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate for the subvented/private sectors under this Programme is mainly due to the rescheduling of the implementation of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)105

Question Serial No.

1236

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In the face of an ageing population in Hong Kong, why does the provision for services for elders in the 2007-08 estimate decrease by 1.5% over the 2006-07 original estimate?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The reduction of the 2007-08 Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate in Programme (3) on "Services for Elders" is mainly due to the anticipated reduction in cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged and the rescheduling of the implementation of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)106

Question Serial No.

1237

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the reason for the decrease in the 2007-08 estimate over the 2006-07 revised estimate for the groups and programmes of integrated family service centres.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : There are 61 integrated family service centres (IFSCs) over the territory providing a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services, which include family life education, parent-child activities, mutual support groups, volunteer training, counselling and referral service, etc.

The figures of groups and programmes in 2006-07 (i.e. 6 299 and 2 799 for the government sector and subvented sector respectively) represent the groups and programmes estimated to be organised, with reference to the actual number of groups and programmes organised in the first two quarters in 2006-07. The estimated figures in 2007-08 (i.e. 4 941 and 2 036 for the government sector and subvented sector respectively) are the aggregate of the output indicators as stipulated in the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs). IFSCs may, as in the previous year, organise more groups and programmes above the output level as stipulated in the FSA according to service needs.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the reason for the number of vulnerable households contacted by each worker of the Family Support Networking Team in 2006-07 being the same as that in 2005-06 (233), despite the fact that the Police recorded a total of 4 704 domestic violence cases in 2006, representing an increase of 80% over that in 2005.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The Family Support Networking Teams (FSNTs) were formed with resources pooled from the terminated Integrated Neighbourhood Projects (INPs) after a review conducted by the University of Hong Kong in 2002. Upon agreement reached with the operators, resources of two Social Work Assistant (SWA) posts under each INP were re-engineered into a FSNT. There are now seven FSNTs with a total of 20 SWAs. Five out of the seven FSNTs have two SWAs each and the remaining two FSNTs have four and six SWAs respectively.

Given the relatively small staff size, the output requirement per each social worker post in 2006-07 was set at a comparable level as in 2005-06.

It should be noted that FSNTs are not the only units that deal with domestic violence cases. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided either by SWD or non-governmental organisations, or both, through the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres (ISCs), Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), Clinical Psychology Units, refuge centres for women, Family Crisis Support Centre, residential care placements for children and child care centres etc. In addition, to increase contacts with needy families who are reluctant to seek help, a Family Support Programme (FSP) has been launched in IFSCs/ISCs, FCPSUs and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units since

early 2007. Under the FSP, through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, we aim to introduce the families at risk, including families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation, to various support services available and motivate them to receive services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need through setting up of additional FCPSUs, strengthening the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, reinforcing the clinical psychological service and services of IFSCs, enhancing the provision more flexible type of child care services, etc.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the criteria that the Administration refer to when maintaining the number of vulnerable households contacted by each worker of the Family Support Networking Team at 233 in the 2007-08 estimate, despite the substantial increase in the number of domestic violence cases recorded by the Police in 2006 over that in 2005.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The Family Support Networking Teams (FSNTs) were formed with resources pooled from the terminated Integrated Neighbourhood Projects (INPs) after a review conducted by the University of Hong Kong in 2002. Upon agreement reached with the operators, resources of two Social Work Assistant (SWA) posts under each INP were re-engineered into a FSNT. There are now seven FSNTs with a total of 20 SWAs. Five out of the seven FSNTs have two SWAs each and the remaining two FSNTs have four and six SWAs respectively.

Given the relatively small staff size, the output requirement per each social worker post in 2007-08 is set at a comparable level as in 2006-07.

It should be noted that FSNTs are not the only units that deal with domestic violence cases. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided either by SWD or non-governmental organisations, or both, through the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres (ISCs), Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), Clinical Psychology Units, refuge centres for women, Family Crisis Support Centre, residential care placements for children and child care centres etc. In addition, to increase contacts with needy families who are reluctant to seek help, a Family Support Programme (FSP) has been launched in IFSCs/ISCs, FCPSUs and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units since

early 2007. Under the FSP, through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, we aim to introduce the families at risk, including families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation, to various support services available and motivate them to receive services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need through setting up of additional FCPSUs, strengthening the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, reinforcing the clinical psychological service and services of IFSCs, enhancing the provision of more flexible type of child care services, etc.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)109

Question Serial No.

1240

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the indicators for the family and child protection service, the number of supervision cases per social worker has decreased from 46 in the 2006-07 revised estimate to 41 in the 2007-08 estimate. How did the Administration come up with the figure? Has the number of additional cases due to publicity been included in the figure?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The projected average number of supervision cases per worker in 2007-08 is derived from the revised estimate of the number of cases in 2006-07 plus a projected increase due to various reasons including enhanced publicity and early identification, and the enhanced manpower that will be available in the year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)110

Question Serial No.

1305

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the creation of 120 non-directorate posts in 2007-08, could the Administration please provide a breakdown of the titles, ranks, duties and annual salary of these posts in a table, and explain which services will be improved by the creation of these posts?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : The breakdown is as follows -

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Net increase in number and type(s) of posts</u>	<u>Responsibilities and Services</u>	<u>Net increase in expenditure (\$)</u>
(1) Family and Child Welfare	58 posts in the Social Work Officer, the Clinical Psychologist and the clerical grades	To provide social work and clinical psychological services for enhancing the service and support to victims of domestic violence and families in need.	29.4 million
(2) Social Security	77 posts in the Social Security Assistant grade	To provide frontline social security services in the social security field units over the territory including conducting interviews and investigations to collect and verify information for processing or reviewing applications under various social security schemes.	14.0 million
(3) Services for Elders	5 posts in the Social Work Officer grade	To provide social work services for monitoring residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) through inspections, conducting investigations in response to complaints, instituting prosecutions against non-compliant RCHEs and promoting capacity-building among home operators and staff so as to improve the service quality rendered to elderly residents.	1.0 million

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Net increase in number and type(s) of posts</u>	<u>Responsibilities and Services</u>	<u>Net increase in expenditure (\$)</u>
(4) Re-habilitation and Medical Social Services	25 posts in the Social Work Officer, the Station Officer, the Building Surveyor, the Registered Nurse and the clerical grades	To provide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> proactive outreaching and early social work intervention for people with suspected mental health problems and their families under the Community Mental Health Intervention Project; social work, inspection and advisory services and support to monitor the private homes for people with disabilities through the implementation of the Voluntary Registration Scheme and to plan for the licensing of all residential care homes for people with disabilities. 	12.1 million

A total of 165 new posts will be created as set out above. The number will be offset by the deletion of 45 posts under Programme (5): Services for Offenders in 2007-08, following the co-location of six correctional/residential homes to the Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home. There is hence a net increase of 120 posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08" of this Programme that the Administration will "continue to increase the service capacity of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) where necessary". Would the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of the relevant increase in service capacity, expenditure and manpower?
- (2) the number of elders who have/do not have long-term care needs waitlisted for home care services and the respective waiting times? How can the Administration ensure that the elders could get the services they need in face of an ageing population?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) Between December 2005 and October 2006, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has increased the service capacity of the frailty-tested home care services for the elderly provided by the EHCCS Teams in districts which have high demand. The number of EHCCS users is projected to increase from 2 885 in 2005-06 to 3 385 in 2006-07. As at end February 2007, the utilisation rate was 82.5%. SWD will continue to monitor the service demand for EHCCS in 2007-08 and increase the service volume for districts with high service demand where necessary.

The expenditure on EHCCS in 2007-08 is estimated to be \$96 million.

- (2) Including the unfilled quota for the frailty-tested home care cases available in the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) Teams, there were 490 vacancies as at end February 2007.

There were about 2 800 cases waiting for the non-frailty tested home care services provided by the IHCS Teams . All of them are not urgent cases. The waiting time varies on a case by case basis, ranging from a few days to a few months.

Making use of the additional recurrent funding of \$20 million secured in 2006-07, the SWD has increased the capacity of the non-frailty tested home care services for the elderly. The additional capacity has started coming into place since January 2007. SWD projects that about 2 000 additional new cases will be served. With the additional capacity, the waiting list will be markedly reduced.

As a guiding principle, the IHCS Teams will continue to accord priorities to elders who have urgent needs for services and provide the most needed services (e.g. meal delivery) to them almost instantly.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>17 March 2007</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)112

Question Serial No.

1204

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :
Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The estimated patronage of rebus dial-a-ride (DAR) service in 2007-08 will increase by 11 815 passengers as compared with 2006-07. It is learnt that the Administration plans to procure three additional rebuses for the DAR service in 2007-08. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Council:

- (c) The number of DAR orders declined in 2005-06 and 2006-07.
- (d) The estimated level of reduction in the orders declined after adding these rebuses in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

(a) In 2005 and 2006, 6 657 and 8 173 orders for DAR service were declined respectively representing about 8% and 9% of total orders received.

(b) Assuming that demand for DAR service remains at the current level, the three additional rebuses could help reduce the number of declined orders by about 30%. The Transport Department will review annually the fleet size of rebuses, having regard to the demand for the service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)113

Question Serial No.

1337

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

Please provide details of the work on and also the expenditure involved in enhancing and extending the Comprehensive Child Development Service in 2006-07. Please also provide details of such work as well as the related provision for 2007-08.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

A total of \$30 million has been allocated to launch, improve and partially extend the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) pilot. The pilot has been implemented in Sham Shui Po, Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O in phases since 2005. We have completed a review of the pilot run and plan to extend CCDS to all districts in phases and strengthen social services support.

Meanwhile, improvement measures have been undertaken to address the issues identified during the pilot run, including enhancing the structural facilities at the Maternal and Child Health Centres and strengthening relevant manpower support. In 2007-08, we will extend the CCDS to Tung Chung, the whole district of Yuen Long and Kwun Tong. We will closely monitor the impact of the CCDS on social services support and when necessary, follow up on the resource requirements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health &
Welfare)

Date _____ 13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)114

Question Serial No.

1339

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

As mentioned in paragraph 52 of the Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary, the Administration will extend the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS). Would the Administration please advise this Committee:

- (1) the timetable and details of, and the expenditure and manpower to be involved in the extension of the Service to all districts in Hong Kong;
- (2) the objectives of the Service and the specific indicators; and
- (3) the assistance provided to poor families and the effectiveness.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

A total of \$30 million has been allocated to launch, improve and partially extend the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) pilot. The pilot has been implemented in Sham Shui Po, Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O in phases since 2005. We have completed a review of the pilot run and plan to extend CCDS to all districts in phases and strengthen social services support.

- (1) In 2007-08, we will extend the CCDS to Tung Chung, the whole district of Yuen Long and Kwun Tong. We will take into account the social needs of different districts and the operational readiness of relevant health, social service and pre-primary service providers in considering the further roll-out plan. Subject to additional resources, it is our preliminary plan to complete the territory-wide extension of the CCDS by 2012. Amongst others, additional resources will be required in time for the employment of medical doctors, nurses and clinical psychologists.
- (2) CCDS aims to identify at an early stage and provide timely support to at-risk pregnant women, mothers with postnatal depression (PND), families with psychosocial needs and pre-primary children with physical, developmental and behavioural problems. The relevant service indicators include: the number of high-risk pregnant women identified and provided with multi-disciplinary intervention; the number and proportion of mothers with probable PND identified and provided with support services; the number and proportion of families

assessed for and identified with psychosocial needs and recommended for support services; and the number of children with physical, developmental or behaviour problems referred to the Maternal and Child Health Centres for assessment.

- (3) CCDS is not a poverty alleviation initiative *per se*. It aims to identify children and families with health and social needs, including but not restricted to those from the low-income group, and provide them with assistance at an early stage. Families identified to be in need of further support services are offered appropriate assistance, including social services in the Integrated Family Service Centres. Moreover, referrals for employment, accommodation or financial assistance are also made when necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health &
Welfare)

Date _____ 13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB (WW) 115

Question Serial No.

1831

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (5) Subvention: Guardianship Board and Environmental Advisory Service

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

The estimate of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau's subvention for the Guardianship Board for mentally disordered and mentally handicapped persons for 2007-08 remains to be 5.1 million as in 2006-07. Please give a list of the items under the estimated expenditure and the number of services provided over the last three years by categories. How will the Administration assess the future demand for such service? Will there be any increase in the service so as to enhance its quality.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The provision of \$5.1 million under Programme (5) covers the Guardianship Board and Environmental Advisory Service. Provision for the former is \$3.755 million, with breakdown as follows:

- (a) Staff cost : \$1.921 million
- (b) Accommodation Rental/Rate/Management fees: \$0.885 million
- (c) Other charges (utilities, publicity, honoraria, office expenses, etc): \$0.949 million

The functions and powers of the Guardianship Board are specified in the Mental Health Ordinance (Cap. 136). Its main statutory functions are to determine applications for guardianship orders for mentally incapacitated persons who have attained 18 years of age, to make guardianship orders in respect of mentally incapacitated persons and to review guardianship orders. The breakdown of the number of hearings conducted by the Guardianship Board in performing its statutory functions during the past three years is summarized as follows:

No. of Hearings for :	2004	2005	2006
Normal Guardianship Orders	272	223	265
Review of Guardianship Orders	213	276	277
Emergency Guardianship Orders	9	3	7
Directions	1	0	0
Total:	495	502	549

It is expected that there will be a slight increase in the service demand in the coming years. We will continue to monitor closely and ensure the service quality of Guardianship Board.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health & Welfare)

Date 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)116

Question Serial No.

1841

Head : 140 Government Secretariat : Health, Welfare
and Food Bureau (Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme : (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What measures and plan have the Administration taken in 2006-07 to achieve the policy objectives to improve the quality of life of elders and to provide them with a sense of security, a sense of belonging and a feeling of health and worthiness? How many elders have benefited from the measures and initiatives and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : “Active ageing”, “ageing in the community”, “continuum of care” and “targeting resources at elders most in need” are the underlying principles of our elderly policy. To enhance the quality of life of elders, we promote active ageing. For elders in need, we provide both non-contributory financial assistance through social security and a range of highly subsidised services. To assist elders to age in the community, we provide elders in the community with subsidised home-based and centre-based community care services. For those who have long term care (LTC) needs and cannot be adequately taken care of at home, we provide them with subsidised residential care services.

In 2006-07, we have in particular:

- rolled out publicity in TV and radios to promote the positive image of elders, organized the Silver Hair Market Fair and piloted a school-based Elder Learning Scheme to promote “active ageing”;
- enhanced the service capacity of the non-frailty tested home care services for the elderly provided by the 60 Integrated Home Care Services Teams by utilising the additional recurrent funding of \$20 million. The additional capacity has started coming into place since January 2007. SWD projects that about 2 000 additional new cases will be served;

- further enhanced the service capacity of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) Teams which serve frail elders. The number of EHCCS users has increased from 2 885 in 2005-06 to 3 385 in 2006-07;
- provided an additional 141 subsidised residential care places in two new purpose-built residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs); and
- continued to convert self-care hostel and home for the aged places which have no long-term care element, and some existing care-and-attention (C&A) places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places providing continuum of care.

The expenditure on the provision of subsidised elderly services and promoting active ageing amounted to about \$3.1 billion in 2006-07.

Taking stock of the utilisation of the services:

- over 170 000 elders in the community are members of the elderly centres;
- over 20 000 elders in the community are using various types of home-based and centre-based community care and support services; and
- there are about 26 000 subsidised residential care places of various care level for elders in need, and another 23 000 elders are using CSSA to stay in non-subsidised residential care places. About 90% of the elders living in RCHEs are receiving some form of Government subsidy.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Date	12.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)117

Question Serial No.

1842

Head : 140 Government Secretariat : Health, Welfare
and Food Bureau (Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme : (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2007-08, what measures and initiatives will the Administration take to enhance the quality of life of elders? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : Along the underlying principles of “active ageing”, “ageing in the community”, “continuum of care” and “targeting resources at elders most in need”, we will take forward the following new initiatives in 2007-08:

- promote “active ageing” through a new round of activities and publicity at an estimated cost of \$2.2 million;
- allocate an additional \$96 million in the next four years to implement a trial scheme in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly discharges who have difficulty taking care of themselves;
- allocate an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes, so as to encourage and assist more elderly singletons, particularly the unidentified ones, to develop their social life, and provide referral and supporting services to those in need;
- allocate an additional \$16 million to provide additional subsidised residential care places in new purpose-built residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs); and
- create another 450 subsidised residential care places through purchasing places from private RCHEs at a recurrent amount of \$30 million.

Taking into account the additional allocation aforementioned, we estimate that the expenditure on elderly services and promoting active ageing will amount to about \$3.3 billion in 2007-08.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE

	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Post Title	_____
Date	12.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)118

Question Serial No.

1843

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the measures provided in 2006-07 by the Administration to strengthen the community support services for people with disabilities and their families. How many people with disabilities and their families have benefited from these measures? What was the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : In 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department implemented a new Community Rehabilitation Day Service (CRDS) to provide short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation services for discharged patients with mental, neurological or physical impairments. Supportive services, including training for carers/families to enhance their caring capacities, are essential components of this service.

Under this new service, a Community Rehabilitation Day Centre has been set up in Wan Chai in 2006, catering for discharged patients with physical impairments. In addition, CRDS for discharged mental patients is provided at five Training and Activity Centres. The total number of target beneficiaries for the CRDS already in operation is 1 800 per year. As the services were implemented only in October 2006, statistics on the utilisation of the service are not yet available. The annual expenditure for these services is \$8.1 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the measures to be provided in 2007-08 by the Administration to help people with disabilities and support their families. How many people are expected to benefit from these measures? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The number of beneficiaries and estimated expenditure for measures to be provided in 2007-08 to help people with disabilities and support their families are as follows:

New Measures	Estimated Beneficiaries (per year)/ Additional Places	Estimated Expenditure (\$ million)
<p>1. <u>Community Rehabilitation Day Centres (CRDCs)</u> Social Welfare Department will set up three cluster-based CRDCs to provide short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation services for discharged patients with mental, neurological or physical impairments. Supportive services, including training for carers/families, will be rendered.</p>	<p>3 800 discharged patients and their carers/families</p>	<p>8.8 (full year)</p>
<p>2. <u>Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients (TCSC)</u> The centre provides transitional residential services, ambulatory day training, and respite care to the severely disabled persons, in particular, tetraplegic patients; and also training and supportive services to their carers/families.</p>	<p>150 persons with severe disability</p>	<p>49.6 (Grant from H K Jockey Club Charity Trust for five years)</p>

<p>3. <u>Community Mental Health Intervention Project</u> This project provides intensive and outreaching intervention to persons with suspected mental health problems but have yet to receive any psychiatric treatment. Different professionals including social work, medical and nursing, etc. would be involved to provide a well co-ordinated service.</p>	1 600 persons with suspected mental health problem	20.0 (full year)
<p>4. Additional residential care places in hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons, care-and-attention home for the severely disabled persons, hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons, hostel for severely physically handicapped persons, support hostels and small group home for mildly mentally handicapped children</p>	520 places	45.7 (full year)
<p>5. Additional day training and vocational rehabilitation services places in day activity centre, sheltered workshop and integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre</p>	424 places	19.1 (full year)
<p>6. Additional pre-school rehabilitation service places in early education and training centre and special child care centre</p>	201 places	11.6 (full year)

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)120

Question Serial No.

1845

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in paragraph 51 of the Budget Speech that the Government will provide an additional \$31 million in the coming year to tackle domestic violence. Will the provision be used to strengthen human resources, enhance the refuge service for women and clinical psychological counselling service, and launch the pilot project of Batterer Intervention Programme? If yes, what is the additional provision available for each subhead? Upon the allocation of additional resources, which posts will be increased and which services will be enhanced with regard to these subheads or projects?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need. Of these, about \$26 million will be allocated to set up additional Family and Child Protective Services Units, to strengthen the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, and reinforce the clinical psychological service and services of Integrated Family Service Centres. The remaining \$5 million will be allocated to provide more flexible types of child care services, such as the launching of a new day small group home service, extension of the day foster care service and strengthening the service of Mutual Help Child Care Centres by providing financial incentives to operators and subsidy to needy families. Besides, we will continue to implement the pilot project of Batterer Intervention Programme in 2007-08 with existing resources.

There will be an increase of social work officer grade posts and clinical psychologist grade posts in Social Welfare Department. For non-governmental organisations (NGOs), we will work out the details with the NGO operators concerned.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated both in paragraph 51 of the Budget Speech and Matters Requiring Special Attention in the coming year under this Programme that the Administration will monitor the strengthening of community mental health support and outreaching services, that an additional \$20 million will be provided for the promotion of mental health in the community and early identification of people with psychological disturbances. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the plans and projects to be implemented in this respect in 2007-08?
- (2) What are the objectives of these plans and expected number of beneficiaries?
- (3) What is the estimated manpower to be involved in these plans and projects?
- (4) What are the respective estimated expenditure for these projects?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) The new allocation of \$20 million will be provided for launching the Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CMHIP) in October 2007.

(2) The CMHIP aims to provide intensive and outreaching social work intervention to persons with suspected mental health problems who have yet to receive any specialised social work intervention or psychiatric treatment. The CMHIP Teams will provide initial assessment and specialised social work interventions, including casework, therapeutic/supportive group services, to such newly identified psychiatric cases. Where necessary, the CMHIP Teams will refer cases to the Hospital Authority (HA) for more detailed assessment and follow up services. Social Welfare Department (SWD) will work out the implementation details including apportionment of funds, manpower involved, output and outcome indicators, etc. in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

(3 & 4) The bulk of the new allocation will be used to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form a total of 12 CMHIP teams to deliver the new service at the 12 SWD administrative districts. Other than new resources for NGOs, additional manpower will also be allocated for Medical Social Work Units (Psychiatric) of SWD to strengthen the liaison with HA and NGOs, including the follow up on new cases.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)122

Question Serial
No.

1847

Head: 140 - Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Bureau:

Question:

Women who have newly arrived in Hong Kong and are living in poverty are facing grave difficulties in living, family relationships and employment. They are also a group subject to discrimination. In this respect, does the Administration have any plans or activities specially dedicated to them under this Programme in 2007-08 to empower them and help them fully understand their own rights? If yes, what are the expenses involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. Chan Yuen-han

Reply:

The Administration is committed to promoting the interests and well-being of women in Hong Kong. On the advice of the Women's Commission, the Administration has adopted a three-pronged strategy to promote advancement of women development, viz. providing an enabling environment, empowering women and public education.

On empowerment of women, the Women's Commission has since March 2004 launched the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP). The CBMP aims to remove barriers to women's learning opportunities, help them build up their inner strength and fully realise their potential. In the past three years, the CBMP recorded a registered enrolment of 14,200, made up of women from different walks of life, including those newly arrived in Hong Kong and/or those in the lower income group. Feedback from different channels is that participants of CBMP have developed an interest in learning and have acquired more knowledge after joining the programme. They have also become more confident and empowered in tackling problems in daily life. Also, the changes in their mindsets have brought about positive impact on their families. In 2007-08, the Administration will devote about \$10 million to continue the running of the CBMP over the next three years, and to strengthen course contents in the four broad subject areas, viz. health, financial management, interpersonal relationships and daily-life.

In parallel, different bureaux and departments within the Administration have been providing, under their respective purviews, assistance to women in need. These include the services related to employment, education, training, social security, family support, health and medical support. In addition, the 61 Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) across the territory also provide a

wide range of preventive, support and remedial services for people in need, including low-income families and new arrivals and their children. Extended hours of services have been provided at IFSCs to meet clients' needs. These efforts will continue.

In respect of the protection of the rights of women including newly arrived women and women living in poverty, the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance, enforced by the Equal Opportunities Commission and under the policy responsibility of the Home Affairs Bureau, make it unlawful to discriminate against women on grounds of sex, marital status or pregnancy and family status in specified areas of activity including employment and education.

Resources required for services and measures mentioned above are absorbed from within the existing resources of the bureaux and departments concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____
Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health and
Welfare)

Date _____
13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)123

Question Serial No.

1636

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the expenditure and the outcome analysis regarding the launching of three District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects in three districts in 2006.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The total cost of the three DEAT Projects in Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai for 2006-07 amounts to \$1.6 million. From October 2006 to the end of January 2007, a total of 74 participants were recruited and among them, two have secured full-time employment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)124

Question Serial No.

1637

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the estimate for the District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The total cost of the three DEAT Projects in Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai for 2007-08 is estimated to be \$1.8 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)125

Question Serial No.

1643

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in paragraph 51 of the Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary that further funding of “\$20 million (will be provided) to enhance outreaching services for the promotion of mental health in the community and early identification of people with psychological disturbances, so that they may be given appropriate support”. Please inform this Committee of the details of the funding and the additional services to be provided.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The new allocation of \$20 million is for implementing the Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CMHIP) scheduled to be launched in October 2007.

The CMHIP aims to provide intensive and outreaching social work intervention to persons with suspected mental health problems who have yet to receive any specialised social work intervention or psychiatric treatment. The bulk of the new allocation will be used to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form a total of 12 CMHIP Teams to deliver the new service at the 12 Social Welfare Department (SWD) administrative districts. The CMHIP Teams will provide initial assessment and specialised social work interventions, including casework, therapeutic/supportive group services, to such newly identified psychiatric cases. Where necessary, the CMHIP Teams will refer cases to the Hospital Authority (HA) for more detailed assessment and follow up services.

Other than new resources for NGOs, additional manpower will also be allocated for Medical Social Work Units (Psychiatric) of SWD to strengthen the liaison with HA and NGOs, including the follow up on new cases. SWD will work out the implementation details including apportionment of funds, manpower involved, output and outcome indicators, etc. in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)126

Question Serial No.

1647

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006, the Administration launched three District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects in three districts to help long-term and hard-to-assist unemployed employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients acquire specific skills to re-enter the labour force and secure sustainable employment. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the expenditure involved, the number of recipients benefited from the projects as well as the number of recipients who have successfully entered the labour force respectively ever since the implementation of the projects?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The total running cost of the three DEAT Projects in Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai from October 2006 to September 2008 is estimated to be \$4.5 million. Up to the end of January 2007, a total of 74 participants were recruited and among them, two have secured full-time employment.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
HWFB(WW)127

Head : 140 - Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Question Serial No.
1755

Programme : (1) – Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Paragraph 53 of the 2007-08 Budget Speech mentioned that the Administration would allocate \$96 million to implement a trial scheme in the next four years in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly dischargees who have difficulty taking care of themselves. Please provide details of the trial scheme (such as the districts for implementing the scheme, the target number of beneficiaries, the mode of delivery, and the date of commencement etc.).

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : To strengthen elderly care and support services, the 2007-08 Budget earmarked \$96 million in the next four years to implement a trial scheme in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly discharged from hospitals who have difficulty taking care of themselves.

In consultation with the Elderly Commission and relevant parties, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will work out the details of the trial scheme, including the service contents, the mode of delivery, the districts for implementing the trial scheme, the medical and social welfare interface, and the cost involved.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Date	12.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)128

Head : 140 - Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Question Serial No.

1756

Programme : (1) – Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Paragraph 53 of the 2007-08 Budget Speech mentioned that the Administration would allocate \$96 million to implement a trial scheme in the next four years in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly dischargees who have difficulty taking care of themselves. Is the \$96 million the funding for running the trial scheme for four years, or is it the overall funding for implementing the scheme in full?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The \$96 million is for implementing the trial scheme in the next four years.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Date	12.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)129

Head : 140 - Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Question Serial No.

1757

Programme : (1) – Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Paragraph 53 of the 2007-08 Budget Speech mentioned that the Administration would allocate \$96 million to implement a trial scheme in the next four years in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly dischargees who have difficulty taking care of themselves. Will the trial scheme be linked up with the existing community services for the elderly (such as the home-based and centre-based community care services and the District Elderly Community Centres etc.) in providing one-stop support services? If so, does the \$96 million include the expenditure and additional resources of the existing services?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The \$96 million is additional allocation for implementing the trial scheme in the next four years in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly dischargees who have difficulty taking care of themselves. In consultation with the Elderly Commission and relevant parties, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will work out the details of the trial scheme, including the service contents, the mode of delivery, the districts for implementing the trial scheme, the medical and social welfare interface, and the cost involved.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Date	12.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
HWFB(WW)130

Head : 140 - Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Question Serial No.
1758

Programme : (1) – Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Paragraph 53 of the 2007-08 Budget Speech mentioned that the Administration would allocate \$96 million to implement a trial scheme in the next four years in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly dischargees who have difficulty taking care of themselves. The emphasis is to “provide one-stop support services to elderly dischargees who have difficulty taking care of themselves”. Does it mean that the scheme will target at those elders who refuse to be discharged from the hospitals?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The objective of the trial scheme is to provide one-stop support services to elderly dischargees who have difficulty taking care of themselves after being discharged from hospitals and require the services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Date	12.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)131

Question Serial No.

1759

Head : 170 - Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, 164 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are operating under Lump Sum Grant (LSG). Would the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the number of NGOs that are not operating under LSG and their reasons; and
- (2) the number and contents of complaints against NGOs cutting staff remuneration package received since the launch of LSG, and whether an evaluation of its negative implications upon NGOs, staff and the community has been made?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) There are 175 NGOs receiving subventions from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in 2006-07. 164 of them are operating under the LSG mode and 11 of them are under the conventional mode of subventions. It is a conscious and voluntary decision of individual NGOs to opt for the LSG mode, taking into consideration their own circumstances and service nature.
- (2) Since the implementation of the LSG subvention system on 1 January 2001, SWD has received a total of 19 complaints concerning different aspects of the remuneration of NGO staff, such as salary, provident fund scheme, job-related allowance, etc. Under the LSG mode, there is enhancement of NGOs' corporate governance and autonomy in the deployment of funds to meet service needs in a flexible manner. SWD will continue to work closely with the welfare sector to identify areas that require fine-tuning.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration will monitor the operation of the pilot Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre in 2007-08. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) what are the details, and the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) how to enable different clients and professionals to effectively use the services offered by the centre and make referrals, and ensure that the centre can co-ordinate the services of various government departments in different districts?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (the Centre) is primarily aimed to provide support to victims of sexual violence through better co-ordination between the service units of Social Welfare Department and other departments concerned like the Police. Phase one of the services to be launched in late March 2007 will include a 24-hour hotline, arrangement of immediate intervention and follow up services, after office hours outreaching/crisis intervention services and case consultation services. Short-term accommodation services will be provided in Phase two, tentatively scheduled to come on stream in early 2008. In addition to serving victims of sexual violence, the Centre will complement existing service for victims of domestic violence and individuals/families in crisis or distress and provide after-office hours outreaching service for elder abuse cases etc. This will create synergy among related services and optimise utilisation of resources.

The Centre, operated by a non-governmental organisation, is funded by the Lotteries Fund on a pilot basis. The estimated total operating cost is \$20 million for three years. The Centre will employ a team of 29 registered social workers and supporting staff to provide round-the-clock service throughout the year.

- (2) The Centre will adopt a comprehensive and one-stop service model involving multi-disciplinary assistance for victims. A designated telephone line to enable fast track contact by professionals or referrers

will be set up. Relevant procedural guidelines and a formal referral mechanism will also be in place to ensure effective collaboration and referral among disciplines, professionals, departments/organisations, etc.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration will enhance the provision of more flexible types of child care services in 2007-08 to strengthen support to families with young children and are facing personal or family problems. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) what are the details, and the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) will the Administration consider addition of child care centre places, reduction of fees and extension of opening hours, and establishment of women's centres at districts where child poverty problem is more acute so as to let the service users plan the centre activities and lead the parents' mutual help groups?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) To enhance support to parents who are undergoing personal or family difficulties, or working long and unconventional hours, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will provide and strengthen child care services which are more flexible in service mode and operating hours. Additional resources of about \$5 million will be allocated to launch a new day small group home service, extend the day foster care service and strengthen the service provision of mutual help child care centres (MHCCC) by providing financial incentives to operators and subsidy to needy families. SWD will discuss the implementation details with the relevant service operators.

- (2) Upon harmonisation of pre-primary services in 2005, "child care centre" is re-defined as a centre serving children aged under three. In 2006-07, there are 13 aided standalone child care centres under the monitoring of SWD, providing about 690 places. As at December 2006, the enrolment rate is 88%. Families passing the financial and social need tests are eligible for half to full fee subsidy under the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme managed by the Student Financial Assistance Agency. In addition, extended hours service is provided in some child care centres to assist parents who cannot pick up their children during regular centre opening hours. As the service of the child care centres and extended

hours service are not yet fully utilised, SWD has no plan to increase the service provision for the time being.

We also have no plans to set up any designated centre for women, but we will continue to run support groups and mutual help groups for women in the Integrated Family Service Centres. We will also encourage local groups and organisations, including women groups, to set up MHCCCs on a need basis, having regard to local demands.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the one-off measures mentioned in the Budget Speech to move the Appropriation Bill by the Financial Secretary, which include providing one additional month of standard rate for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and Social Security Allowance (SSA) recipients in 2007-08 (as proposed in paragraph 75), please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of the measure as well as the expenditure and the manpower involved; and
- (2) the date and procedures of payment.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) The Financial Secretary proposed in his 2007-08 Budget Speech on 28 February to provide one additional month of standard rate CSSA payment for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients. The estimated financial implications for implementing the one-off measure is \$1.5 billion (including \$1 billion for CSSA recipients and \$0.5 billion for SSA recipients). It is estimated that more than one million recipients (including 520 000 CSSA recipients and 580 000 SSA recipients) can benefit from the proposal.
- (2) We plan to consult the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services in March 2007 and then make a submission to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council in April 2007 to seek funding approval. Subject to FC's approval, we will implement the proposed measure as soon as possible. As the CSSA and SSA Schemes are administrative schemes, no legislative amendment is necessary.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the indicator for the “Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme”, the estimated number of cases served in 2007-08 will be increased by 2 600 when compared with that in the 2006-07 revised estimate. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of work of the Scheme as well as the expenditure and the manpower involved?
- (2) the estimated number and percentage of cases served by case categories in 2007-08 and the reasons for an increase of the estimated number of cases in 2007-08 as compared with that in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The figures of 353 600 and 356 200 refer to the estimated number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases served for 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. In terms of paid cases, we estimate that the average number for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are 280 300 and 287 500 respectively. The estimated expenditure for CSSA payment in 2007-08 is \$18.3 billion. There are 1 166 staff responsible for processing and reviewing CSSA and Social Security Allowance cases in 37 Social Security Field Units.

(2) The estimates on average number of CSSA paid cases and percentage share by nature of case for 2007-08 are as follows:

Case nature	Estimated average number of cases	Percentage share (%)
Old age	150 300	52
Permanent disability	18 200	6
Ill health	23 700	8
Single parent	37 700	13
Low earnings	19 000	7
Unemployment	32 700	11
Others	5 900	2
Total	287 500	100*

* Figures do not add up to the total due to rounding.

The projection for 2007-08 is based on the recent trend of CSSA caseload. Although we have seen a decreasing trend in unemployment cases during the past year mainly due to the improving economy and our intensified efforts under the Support for Self-reliance Scheme, we expect that there will still be increases in other categories of cases. In particular, continuous increases have been observed in old age cases and disability cases which are less susceptible to the impact of an improving economy. We therefore estimate that there will be an overall increase in the number of CSSA cases in 2007-08.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the financial provision to the government sector and the subvented/private sectors under this Programme in 2006-07, would the Administration please provide information on the following:

- (1) what are the reasons for a reduction of 22.3% and 5.8% respectively in the revised estimate when compared with that in the 2006-07 original estimate?
- (2) in face of an ageing population, has the Administration assessed the impact of reducing the provision for elderly services on the society?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The reduction of the 2006-07 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate for the government sector under the Programme on "Services for Elders" was mainly due to the lower than expected cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged.

The reduction of the 2006-07 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate for the subvented/private sectors under this programme was mainly due to the rescheduling of the implementation of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services.

- (2) To prepare for the challenges of an ageing population, the provision on subsidised residential and community care services has been increasing in the past few years:

	2005-06 (Actual) (\$ million)	2006-07 (Revised Estimate) (\$ million)	2007-08 (Estimate) (\$ million)
(a) Residential Care Services	1,936.2	1,940.6	2,025.8
(b) Community Care & Support Services	962.1	968.4	1,044.7
Total ((a) + (b))	2,898.3	2,909.0	3,070.5

“Active ageing”, “ageing in the community”, “continuum of care” and “targeting resources at elders most in need” are the underlying principles of our elderly policy. To enhance the quality of life of elders, we promote active ageing. For elders in need, we provide both non-contributory financial assistance through social security and a range of highly subsidised services. To assist elders to age in the community, we provide elders in the community with subsidised home-based and centre-based community care services. For those who have long term care needs and cannot be adequately taken care of at home, we provide them with subsidised residential care services.

In 2007-08, the Government will allocate an additional \$150 million to strengthen elderly care and support services, which include:

- an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes to provide assistance to elderly singletons, particularly the hidden ones, to develop their social life, and provide referral and supporting services to those in need;
- an allocation of \$96 million ^(Note) over four years to implement a trial scheme in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly hospital discharges in need; and
- an additional \$16 million to provide subsidised residential care places in new purpose-built residential care homes for the elderly.

(Note: This sum is allocated outside Head 170-Social Welfare Department)

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)137

Question Serial No.

1927

Head : 170 - Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
187 - Agents' commission and
expenses

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the \$3.15 million bank charges on autopay transactions under this subhead, would the Administration please provide information on the following:

- (a) what are the details of banks charges on autopay transactions and the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (b) would the Administration consider discussing with the banks on exemption of bank charges payment regarding social welfare expenditure so as to undertake their social responsibilities?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (a) The provision of \$3,157,000 under this subhead is for payment of bank charges on autopay transactions for social security payments. The workflow of processing social security payments by autopay involves the generation of payment files on a daily basis by the Social Welfare Department which will then be sent to the bank electronically through a dedicated computer system. Since the whole payment process is fully automatic through computer systems, no manpower requirement is necessary.
 - (b) The estimate is already based on a special concessionary fee structure made available to the Government.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
700 – General non-recurrent

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The balance of Item 470 “Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged” under this Subhead is \$188,032,000, which accounts for 94% of the total amount. That means only 6% of the Fund has been allocated. Would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the details of granting the fund, and the expenditure and manpower involved;
- (2) whether it would consider speeding up the granting of the Fund, including taking the initiative to brief applicants on the details of application and assisting applicants in implementing their programmes; and
- (3) whether it would take the initiative to invite the business sector to participate in the programmes and make donations?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) As at March 2007, we have provided under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (PFD) matching grants totalling \$15.4 million to 50 projects with business donations, in cash or in-kind, at \$17.8 million. PFD is managed by staff deployed from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) which does not incur any cost to the Fund.
 - (5) Publicity on PFD has been arranged through experience-sharing sessions, recognition ceremonies, exhibitions, press conferences, newsletters, website and visits. To facilitate the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form partnerships with the business sector, NGOs’ proposals are uploaded on SWD’s website for information of potential business donors. Besides, four facilitating measures have been introduced since July 2006 to encourage more applications, viz. accepting applications all year round, rather than in batches; doubling the maximum grant from PFD for each project from \$0.5 million to \$1 million; allowing each NGO to have a maximum of three approved applications, instead of one in the past; and extending the scope of recognised business contributions to include contributions from

charitable trusts/foundations established and managed by local business corporations.

- (5) We have been inviting the business sector to participate in the programme and make donations through the various means mentioned in (2) above and with the assistance of chambers of commerce. These efforts will continue. We will monitor the situation and, when necessary, arrange further publicity on the PFD.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)139

Question Serial No.

1826

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :
Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many people with disabilities require the rebus service currently?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The rebus service is provided primarily for people with disabilities (PWDs) who have no alternative means of point-to-point transport service to their work place or other destinations. Scheduled route and Dial-a-ride services are provided. In 2006, rebus served 585 172 passenger trips. As some PWDs who can use public transport or have access to other means of transport do apply for rebus service, it is difficult to ascertain the total number of PWDs requiring rebus service.

With the availability of more accessible facilities, PWDs now have more choices by making use of public transport services to commute around the territory.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ALAN WONG

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)140

Question Serial No.

1827

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :
Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many people with disabilities are not adequately served by the rebus service?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The rebus service comprises dial-a-ride services (DAR) and scheduled route services. In 2006, there were 8 173 declined orders for DAR service. For scheduled route services, as at end February 2007, no people with disabilities (PWDs) having no alternative means of transport to travel to their work place were put on the waiting list for service. Some PWDs who can use public transport or have access to other means of transport do apply for rebus service. The number of PWDs awaiting scheduled route services was 47 as at end February 2007. In 2007-08, four rebuses (three for DAR and one for scheduled route services) will be added to meet the demand.

The Transport Department will review annually the fleet size of rebuses having regard to the service demand.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)141

Question Serial No.

1828

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :
Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many people with disabilities are served by each rebus?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The number of passengers served by each rebus in 2006 was about 6 800.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **15 March 2007** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Government will provide further funding of \$20 million in 2007-08 to enhance outreaching services for the promotion of mental health in the community and early identification of people with psychological disturbances, so that they may be given appropriate support. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the arrangements for the allocation and use of the funding?
- (2) What is the anticipated outcome of this project?
- (3) Concerning the enhancement of outreaching services, will additional community psychiatric nurses and health service teams be recruited?
- (4) After the identification of people with psychological disturbances, what follow up actions will be taken?
- (5) Has evaluation been made on the estimated attendance involved if the project is successful in increasing the number of people with psychological disturbances seeking treatment from the psychiatric outpatient services on their own accord? Will this further lengthen the waiting time of those currently awaiting the psychiatric outpatient services? Can the existing services cope with the demand in future? If not, how would the Administration meet the additional service demand?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (1) The new allocation of \$20 million is for implementing the Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CMHIP) scheduled to be launched in October 2007. The bulk of the new allocation will be used to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form a total of 12 CMHIP Teams to deliver the new service at the 12 Social Welfare Department (SWD) administrative districts. Other than new resources for NGOs, additional manpower will also be allocated for Medical Social Work Units (Psychiatric) of SWD to strengthen the liaison with HA and NGOs, including to follow up on new cases.
- (2) (3) & (4) The CMHIP aims to provide intensive and outreaching social work intervention to persons with suspected mental health problems who have yet to receive any specialised social work intervention or psychiatric treatment. The CMHIP Teams will provide initial assessment and specialised social work interventions, including casework, therapeutic/supportive group services, to such newly identified psychiatric cases. Where necessary, the CMHIP Teams will refer cases to the Hospital Authority (HA) for more detailed assessment and follow up services. SWD will work out the implementation details including apportionment of funds, manpower involved, output and outcome indicators, etc. in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.
- (5) The prompt engagement of persons with early signs of mental distress can help promote better mental health of the community. Hence, the Project per se should not further lengthen the waiting time for HA's psychiatric outpatient services. SWD will, in collaboration with HA, review in time the effectiveness of the Project and monitor the service demand and resource implication.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)143

Question Serial No.

1124

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Department alleges that it will continue to provide training for social workers and professionals on handling child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, suicide and sexual violence cases. Are there any substantive indicators for the Department to evaluate the effectiveness of the training? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The main purpose of training is to enhance the competence of social workers and related professionals to better handle child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, suicide and family violence cases. At the end of each training course, questionnaires are issued to trainees to collect their feedback on the usefulness of the course to their work.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)144

Question Serial No.

1126

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee whether the Administration would increase the capacity of the Enhanced Home Community Care Services (EHCCS) to meet the needs. Will all the eligible elders receive the EHCCS? If yes, please give the details. If no, please explain why not.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : All elderly applicants assessed to be of moderate or severe level of impairment by the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services are eligible for the EHCCS.

Between December 2005 and October 2006, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has increased the capacity of the EHCCS Teams in districts which have high demand. The number of EHCCS users is projected to increase from 2 885 in 2005-06 to 3 385 in 2006-07. As at end of February 2007, the utilisation rate was 82.5%. SWD will continue to monitor the service demand for EHCCS in 2007-08 and increase the service volume for districts with high service demand where necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)145

Question Serial No.

1127

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee how many training places will be provided under the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, will launch the third batch of the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector to provide an additional 110 Enrolled Nurse training places.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please inform this Committee of the outcome of the Support for Self-reliance Scheme in 2006. What are the intensified measures and expected goals for the scheme in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has implemented the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme since June 1999 and intensified its measures since June 2003 to assist the able-bodied unemployed Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients back to work. The SFS comprises an Active Employment Assistance Programme, community work and provision of disregarded earnings. In addition, SWD has commissioned NGOs to operate Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs). In 2006-07 (up to January 2007), 2 698 SFS participants have left CSSA and 10 219 participants have changed their status to low earners under CSSA as a result of paid employment. As at end January 2007, there were 37 959 participants in the Scheme.

In 2007-08, SWD will continue to implement and monitor the following projects.

- (a) The fourth batch of 40 IEAPs has been launched in October 2006 to help able-bodied employable CSSA recipients and 'near CSSA' recipients rejoin the workforce and move towards self-reliance. The services provided include basic skills training, skills upgrading training, employment and non-employment counselling as well as post-employment services. Up to January 2007, there was a total of 2 599 participants, including 2 267 CSSA participants and 332 'near CSSA' participants. Of the 156 CSSA participants who have secured full time paid employment, 44 have left the CSSA net.
- (b) The 18-month New Dawn (ND) Project has been launched since April 2006. It aims to help the single parents and child carers with their youngest child aged 12 to 14 on CSSA build up their capacity for work, integrate into society and move to self-reliance through engagement in work as early as possible. Up to the end of January 2007, a total of 7 349 participants joined the Project and 1 744 participants have secured paid employment with no less than 32 working hours in a month.

- (c) Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My Step), a 12-month project, has been launched since October 2006. It aims to provide a comprehensive package of employment assistance services as well as motivational/disciplinary training to no less than 50 long-term CSSA able-bodied unemployed youth aged between 15 and 24 to motivate and assist them to rejoin the workforce or return to mainstream schooling. Up to the end of January 2007, a total of 68 participants have been recruited.
- (d) Three 24-month District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects have been launched since October 2006. They aim to help 300 long-term CSSA able-bodied unemployed recipients living in three districts, namely Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai to return to workforce. Up to the end of January 2007, a total of 74 participants have been recruited in these three projects.
- (e) The 17-month Community Work-cum-Occupational Skills Training (CW-cum-OST) Project has been implemented since January 2006. The Project provides skill training and CW placements to 216 long-term unemployed CSSA recipients living in Kwun Tong and Kowloon City districts. Up to the end of January 2007, a total of 244 participants have been recruited in the Project.

Evaluations of the above projects listed in (b) to (e) are in progress and will be completed within 2007-08 except for (d) which will be completed at the end of 2008.

Signature	Paul TANG
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)147

Question Serial No.

1090

Head : 140 – Government Secretariat : Health, Welfare
and Food Bureau (Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme : (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration has stated that it would explore the further development of community-based elderly care services. Please provide comparison of the resources and service contents of the community care services for the elderly in 2006-07 vis-a-vis 2007-08. How will the Administration deploy new resources for this in 2007-08 to enhance the services?

Asked by : Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : “Ageing in the community” is one of the underlying principles of our elderly policy. The Government-subsidised home-based community care services and day care places for the elderly operated by the non-governmental organizations, as well as the Community Geriatric Assessment Teams and the Community Nurses of the Hospital Authority, are part and parcel of our community-based care services for elders.

To strengthen elderly care and support services, the 2007-08 Budget earmarked \$96 million in the next four years to implement a trial scheme in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly discharged from hospitals who have difficulty taking care of themselves. This will further enhance the support for elderly discharges in the community.

The 2007-08 Budget also earmarked an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes to provide assistance to more singleton or hidden elders in the community.

Apart from the additional allocation aforementioned, we have enhanced the existing community-based services as follows :

- (a) the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has over the past two years increased the service capacity of the frailty-tested Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) from 2 885 places in 2005-06 to 3 385 places in 2006-07. As at end February 2007, the utilisation rate of EHCCS was 82.5%. SWD will continue to keep in view the service demand for EHCCS and increase the service volume for districts with high service demand where necessary;

- (b) making use of the additional recurrent funding of \$20 million secured in 2006-07, SWD has increased the capacity of the non-frailty tested home care services for the elderly provided by the 60 Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) Teams. The additional capacity has started coming into place since January 2007. SWD projects that about 2 000 additional new cases will be served; and
- (c) the number of day care places for the elderly will increase from 1 975 in 2006-07 to 2 055 in 2007-08.

The expenditure on EHCCS, IHCS and day care places for the elderly is estimated to be \$629.8 million in 2007-08 Estimate as compared to \$576.0 million in 2006-07 Revised Estimate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Date	13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)148

Question Serial No.

2127

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :
Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Four additional rehabuses will be purchased in 2007-08. Among these four rehabuses, one rebus will be deployed to scheduled route (SR) service and the other three rehabuses will be deployed to dial-a-ride (DAR) service. As there will be 43 people with disabilities (PWDs) projected to wait for SR service in 2007, what is the reason to only deploy one additional rebus on SR service? What is the measure to be taken by the Administration to meet the need of the PWDs on SR service?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

At present, 62 buses are allocated for SR service while 24 buses are for DAR service. As at end February 2007, there were no people with disabilities (PWDs) having no alternative means of transport to travel to their work place were put on the waiting list for SR service. Some PWDs who can use public transport or have access to other means of transport do apply for rebus service. The number of PWDs awaiting SR service was 47 as at end February 2007. To meet changing needs, and for continuous service improvement, one new bus will be added to SR service whereas three additional buses will be acquired in 2007-08 to further relieve the demand for DAR service. The Transport Department will review regularly the fleet size of rehabuses and the routes covered having regard to the demand for the services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 15 March 2007 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)149

Question Serial No.

1102

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 that the Administration will continue to strengthen the multi-disciplinary community mental health support services. What are the details of the plan? What are the manpower allocation and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : A new allocation of \$20 million will be provided for implementing the Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CMHIP) scheduled to be launched in October 2007.

The CMHIP aims to provide intensive and outreaching social work intervention to persons with suspected mental health problems who have yet to receive any specialised social work intervention or psychiatric treatment. The bulk of the new allocation will be used to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form a total of 12 CMHIP teams to deliver the new service at the 12 Social Welfare Department (SWD) administrative districts. The CMHIP Teams will provide initial assessment and specialised social work interventions, including casework, therapeutic/supportive group services, to such newly identified psychiatric cases. Where necessary, the CMHIP Teams will refer cases to the Hospital Authority (HA) for more detailed assessment and follow up services.

Other than new resources for NGOs, additional manpower will also be allocated for Medical Social Work Units (Psychiatric) of SWD to strengthen the liaison with HA and NGOs, including the follow up on new cases. SWD will work out the implementation details including apportionment of funds, manpower involved, output and outcome indicators, etc. in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)150

Question Serial No.

1161

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (Health and Welfare Branch) Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question:

Regarding the Brief Description under Programme (3), will the Administration inform this Committee whether resources have been allocated for the implementation of international conventions and agreements on women (including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) in the 2007-08 Estimate?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The Administration is committed to the advancement of the interests and well-being of women in Hong Kong, and to discharging the treaty obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) together with relevant bureaux and departments have put in place various policies and measures to fulfill the objectives of CEDAW. In 2007-08, the Administration will continue its efforts to implement the CEDAW obligations.

Resources incurred in implementing the CEDAW are absorbed from within the existing resources of HWFB and the bureaux and departments concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Date _____ 13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In its concluding comments regarding the Second Report on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urges the Administration to allocate sufficient resources and strengthen its efforts in combating all forms of violence against women, and recommends the Government to re-establish the Hong Kong rape crisis centres. What are the details of the work carried out by the Administration regarding the committee's recommendations? What is the amount of expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : In its advanced unedited concluding comments on the Second Report of the HKSAR submitted under the CEDAW, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women commended the efforts made by the HKSAR Government to protect women against violence. It has recommended the HKSAR to continue to, inter-alia, allocate sufficient resources to combat domestic violence. In this connection, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided in 2007-08 to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need.

We will set up a Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (the Centre) to provide support to victims of sexual violence through better co-ordination between the service units of the Social Welfare Department and other departments concerned like the Police. Phase one of the services to be launched in late March 2007 will include a 24-hour hotline, arrangement of immediate intervention and follow up services, after office hours outreaching/crisis intervention services and case consultation services. Short-term accommodation services will be provided in Phase two, tentatively scheduled to come on stream in early 2008.

In addition to serving victims of sexual violence, the Centre will complement existing service for victims of domestic violence and individuals/families in crisis or distress, and provide after office hours outreaching service for elder abuse cases etc. This will create synergy among related services and optimise utilisation of resources.

The Centre, operated by a non-governmental organisation, is funded by the Lotteries Fund on a pilot basis, and the estimated total operating cost is \$20 million for three years.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)152

Question Serial No.

2395

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

Regarding Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08, the Administration will monitor and steer the progress of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme. What is the amount of resources to be allocated by the Administration to expand the said programme in the next three years and how many more women are expected to benefit?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

About \$10 million will be allocated to continue the running of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme over the next three years, and to strengthen course contents in the four broad subject areas, viz. health, financial management, interpersonal relationships and daily-life. It is expected that a total of 36 radio courses and 81 face-to-face courses will be developed and offered, and a target of 23 000 enrolment counts has been set for the coming three years. These compare with 27 radio courses and 9 face-to-face courses developed and offered, and a registered enrolment of 14 200 in the past three years.

Signature _____

Name in
block letters _____ Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health and
Welfare)

Date _____ 13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)153

Question Serial No.

2406

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare And Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

Regarding the setting up of a Family Commission in relation to “preserve and strengthen the family” mentioned in the brief description of the programme, could the Administration state:

- (a) progress of the work, the structure of the Commission, its mode of operation, projected financial provision and the manpower involved;
- (b) how existing resources would be integrated and how other commissions and related consultative and advisory bodies would facilitate the work of the Family Commission.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

- (a) The Chief Executive announced in his 2006-07 Policy Address that the Government would seriously study whether “an integrated, holistic and high-level Family Commission responsible for policies and initiatives relating to family support” should be set up and, “if so, the re-organisation and resource re-allocation that need to follow”. A Steering Committee was set up in December 2006 to take forward the Study. The Steering Committee has covered a series of topics including support services for families, family-friendly employment practices, family and parenting education, and research, etc. The Study is still in progress. The Steering Committee has not reached any firm view on institutional structure or resultant resource requirements.
- (b) The institutional arrangements have yet to be considered. No conclusion has been reached at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare
and Food (Health and Welfare)

Date _____ 14.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB (WW) 154

Question Serial No.

2136

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (2) Health

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

With regard to the brief description of "minimise the impact of disability" in Programme (2), did the Administration set aside any resources in 2006-07 for the provision of concessionary public transport fares to persons with disabilities? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

In 2006-07, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) commissioned an external independent survey agency to conduct a survey on the travelling characteristics of persons with disabilities (PWDs) who are recipients of Disability Allowance or assistance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme with 100% loss in earning abilities. The cost incurred was \$885,000.

The survey was conducted in response to a request by the LegCo Subcommittee to Study the Transport Needs and Provision of Concessionary Public Transport Fares for Persons with Disabilities set up under the House Committee. It aimed at collecting data on the general travel behaviour of the above group of PWDs for fare concession and possible financial impacts on the part of public transport operators upon offer of fare concession to this group of PWDs.

The survey was completed in December 2006, and its findings were first reported to the above Subcommittee in January 2007. Discussion on the survey findings is continuing between the Subcommittee, the public transport operators and the two Bureaux concerned, viz. HWFB and the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health & Welfare)
Date	13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)155

Question Serial No.

2255

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

As indicated in the Estimates, the increase of expenditure under this programme is due to the need to strengthen support to welfare-related policies and services. Could the Administration give an account of the specific initiatives to strengthen the services and their estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

In 2007-08, the resources reserved by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau for the welfare policy area have increased by \$25.4 million as compared with the revised estimate for 2006-07. The increase in provision is made up mainly of several one-off expenditure items, which include an additional \$10 million for family education publicity activities, \$3 million for enhancing public education on mental health, \$2 million for enhancing an existing interactive telephone information service for the elderly, \$1.2 million for increase in publicity expenses relating to the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, and provisions for promoting active ageing and recognition for carers of the elderly, as well as continuation of researches and possible commissioning of further researches on welfare-related policies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health & Welfare)

Date _____ 13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)156

Question Serial No.

2256

Head : 140 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :
Health Welfare and Food Bureau
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme : (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health
and Welfare)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Would the Administration consider earmarking funds for conducting review and study on
the mechanism of calculating the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP)?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : The Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) payment rates are reviewed
annually to take account of price changes as reflected by the movement of the Social
Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) to ensure recipients' purchasing power is
maintained. The SSAIP is specially compiled by the Census and Statistics Department on a
monthly basis to measure inflation/deflation insofar as the goods and services covered under
the CSSA standard rates are concerned.

In addition to annual adjustment and the regular monitoring of the changes of SSAIP, a
Household Expenditure Survey (HES) for CSSA Households is conducted every five years
for the purpose of updating the weighting system of the SSAIP to ensure that the index can
more accurately reflect the impact of price changes experienced by CSSA recipients.

We have completed the 2004/05 HES on CSSA Households in 2006. Upon the completion
of the 2004/05 HES on CSSA Households, we have compiled a new series of SSAIP with
October 2004 to September 2005 as the base period. The adoption of the new series reflects
more accurately the impact of price changes experienced by CSSA recipients.

The next HES for CSSA Household is scheduled for 2009-10.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Date	13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)157

Question Serial
No.

2259

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

The Administration states that the policies and services related to women will be reviewed in 2007-08. In this regard, please give an account of the specific action plans of review and their estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

With the assistance of the Women's Commission, the Administration has kept under review policies and services related to women, while promoting also the development of new or improved services for women. Key areas reviewed over the years include health care services, public housing, information technology training, employment services and job-related training, adult and continuous education, welfare services and family services, services for victims of domestic and sexual violence and violence prevention programme. In 2007-08, the Administration will work with the Women's Commission to conduct further reviews of policies and services, including on women's participation in the advisory and statutory bodies, family-friendly employment policies and practices, and employment services and protection for women etc, and recommend where appropriate areas for enhancement.

Resources incurred in the reviews are absorbed from within the existing resources of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, and the respective bureaux and departments concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters Ms Sandra LEE

Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health and
Welfare)

Post Title _____

Date 13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)158

Question Serial No.

2260

Head: 140-Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

It is mentioned that the Health and Welfare Branch will conduct regular meetings and exchanges with women's groups and service agencies. In this regard, could the Administration provide details on the arrangement of such meetings, e.g. the number of meetings and participating groups?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

To enhance mutual understanding and build up a closer partnership with the non-governmental sector, the Administration and the Women's Commission conduct regular district visits and meet with women's groups and service agencies to discuss issues of mutual concerns. In addition, we organize from time to time discussion fora and seminars, to which women's groups and non-governmental organizations are invited to participate and exchange views. For example, in June 2006 we supported the Women's Commission to organize a conference on "Together We Build a Harmonious Society" with over 400 participants attending to discuss the strategies in further promoting gender equality and advancing the status of women in Hong Kong. We will work with the Women's Commission on the detailed plan for 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____

Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Date 12.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)159

Question Serial No.

1522

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this Programme, will the Administration conduct a study on all aspects of young people behaviour or strengthen measures to help enhance the personal development of young people? If yes, what are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply : From time to time, the Administration would carry out studies on young people as necessary, either on its own or through subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs). We also provide services seeking specifically to help enhance the personal development of young people as appropriate. Some examples are set out below :

- (a) the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) commissions youth-related studies from time to time on the advice of the Commission on Youth (COY), an advisory body to the Government on youth matters. HAB also operates through the COY an "International Youth Exchange Programme" to broaden the horizon and international perspective of our youth; and a "Community Participation Scheme for Organising Study Tours to the Mainland" to enhance their understanding of and respect for Chinese culture and heritage;
- (b) to address the multifarious and changing needs of the youth, the Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres under the Young People Programme of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) have been providing, among others, preventive and developmental services to our young people including personal guidance and counseling, supportive services for those in disadvantaged circumstances, socialization programmes as well as activities on the development of social responsibility and competence;
- (c) to promote the holistic development of adolescents in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Jockey Club, with the Education and Manpower Bureau and SWD as co-organisers, has provided a one-off amount of \$400 million to implement a four-year project, namely, "P.A.T.H.S. to Adulthood: A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme" for secondary schools effective from the 2005/06 school year. The Project aims to promote the holistic development of young people by

developing competence and skills which are conducive to their development, promoting bonding with others and holding healthy beliefs and clear values. Researches are being carried out on the effectiveness of the Project; and

- (d) subvented NGOs operating young people programme and tertiary institutes also conduct relevant researches /studies /surveys on various youth issues which help throw light on policy formation, resources deployment and service monitoring as appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)160

Question Serial No.

2280

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : (1) Will the Department please set out in the table below the waiting time over the past three years for the following residential rehabilitation homes and their estimated waiting time in 2007-08:

	2004		2005		2006		2007 (estimate)	
	Average waiting time	No. of waitlisted applicants	Average waiting time	No. of waitlisted applicants	Average waiting time	No. of waitlisted applicants	Average waiting time	No. of waitlisted applicants
Discharged mental patients halfway house								
Discharged mental patients long stay care home								
Mentally handicapped (MH) integrated services centre								
Moderately MH hostel								
Severely MH hostel								
Physically handicapped hostel								
Care-and-attention (C&A) home for the severely disabled								
C&A home for the aged blind								
Small group home								
Supported hostel								

(2) Will the Department provide additional resources to reduce significantly the waiting time?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

- (1) Except for Integrated Vocational Training Centres (IVTCs) (referring to as the “mentally handicapped integrated services centre” in the question), the average waiting time and waiting list of the residential care homes for the disabled in the past three years are as follows. There are no estimated waiting list figures for the residential care homes in 2007-08 as the demand for these services fluctuates from year to year. For IVTCs, the current service capacity is able to meet service demand and there is no waiting list.

Services	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (Q1 – Q3)	
	Average waiting time (month)	Waiting list	Average waiting time (month)	Waiting list	Average waiting time (month)	Waiting list
Halfway house	6	589	6	551	5.2	495
Long stay care home	75.6	887	73.2	914	53.3	861
Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons	45.6	1 500	49.2	1 486	46.8	1 340
Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons	62.4	2 001	68.4	1 936	85.2	1 844
Hostel for severely physically handicapped persons	45.6	276	42	251	75.6	311
C&A home for the severely disabled	24	392	36	380	40	377
C&A home for the aged blind	8.4	111	10.8	81	6.7	108
Small group home	10.3	46	16.5	51	30.4	61
Supported hostel	14.4	383	22.8	535	15.6	640

- (2) Additional resources will be allocated in 2007-08 to provide 340 additional residential service places for people with disabilities. The Government appreciates the community’s demand for residential services for those with disabilities and will endeavour to address this issue.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : (1) Will the Department please set out in the table below the waiting time over the past three years for the following residential rehabilitation homes and their estimated waiting time in 2007-08:

	2004		2005		2006		2007 (estimate)	
	Average waiting time	No. of waitlisted applicants	Average waiting time	No. of waitlisted applicants	Average waiting time	No. of waitlisted applicants	Average waiting time	No. of waitlisted applicants
Training and activity centre for ex-mentally ill persons								
Day activity centre								
Home-based training and support services								
Early education and training centre								
Integrated programme in child care centre								
Occasional child care								
Special provision for autistic children in special child care centre								
Sheltered workshop								
Supported employment								
Integrated vocational training centre								
Integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre								
On the job training programme for people with disabilities								
Sunnyway								

(2) Will the Department provide additional resources to reduce significantly the waiting time?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

- (1) The average waiting time and waiting list of the Day Activity Centre (DAC), Early Education and Training Centre (EETC), Integrated Programme in Kindergarten cum Child Care Centres (IP), Sheltered Workshop (SW) and Supported Employment (SE) in the past three years are given below. As the demand for these services fluctuates from year to year, there are no estimated waiting list figures for these services in 2007-08.

Services	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (Q1 – Q3)	
	Average waiting time (month)	Waiting list	Average waiting time (month)	Waiting list	Average waiting time (month)	Waiting list
DAC	20.4	846	25.2	840	23.2	781
EETC	7.2	960	8.9	953	8.4	774
IP	4.5	957	6.1	1 081	6.2	1 004
SW	12	2 384	14.4	2 467	16.8	2 339
SE	2	245	2.7	317	2.7	296

Cases for the Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre (IVRSC) are selected from the waiting lists of SW and SE. There is therefore no separate waiting list for IVRSC. For Training and Activity Centre for Ex-mentally Ill Persons, Home-based Training and Support Services, Integrated Vocational Training Centre, On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities and Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities, the current service capacity is able to meet service demand and there is no waiting list for the service. The Occasional Child Care Service for Disabled Children is a short-term service operated within the Special Child Care Centre (SCCC) and EETC. The aim is to meet the ad hoc, temporary and usually immediate care needs of disabled children and no waiting list is kept for the service. The Special Provision Programme for Autistic Children in SCCC is provided to children already admitted to SCCC and there is no need to keep a waiting list for this service.

- (2) Additional resources will be allocated in 2007-08 to provide 200 additional places for pre-school rehabilitation services and 340 additional residential service places for people with disabilities. The Government appreciates the community's demand for residential services for those with disabilities and will endeavour to address this issue.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : For the past two years and in 2007-08, there was and will be no increase in the number of places in respect of the following rehabilitation services. What are the reasons? Does the existing number of places meet the needs of the community for these services? Will there be any increase in the number of places in respect of the following services in the future?

- (1) halfway houses for discharged mental patients;
- (2) long stay care homes for discharged mental patients;
- (3) integrated services centres for the mentally handicapped;
- (4) training and activity centres for ex-mentally ill persons;
- (5) home-based training and support service;
- (6) special provision for autistic children in special child care centres;
- (7) supported employment service;
- (8) on the job training programme for people with disabilities; and
- (9) Sunnyway – on the job training programme for young people with disabilities.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

- Reply :
- (1) Halfway House – With the additional provision of 80 places in 2005-06, the current provision of Halfway House places is 1 509. As reflected from the drop in the number of people on the waiting list for the service, i.e. from 602 by end March 2004 to 495 by end December 2006, the demand for this service seems to be on the decrease. While there is no new planned provision in 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) would continue to monitor the service demand for Halfway House closely.
 - (2) Long Stay Care Home – With the additional provision of 402 places in 2005-06, the current provision of long stay care home places is 1 407. As there are still 861 persons on the waiting list, SWD would continue to identify resources to strengthen the provisions for this service.
 - (3) Integrated Vocational Training Centre – In the annual recruitment exercises conducted by the two centres, all applications were accepted and could be absorbed by existing vacancies. The current provision of 453 day places and 170 residential places can meet the service demand adequately and no new provision will be considered for the time being.
 - (4) Training and Activity Centre for Ex-mentally Ill Persons – There are currently a total of 230 training places for this service. The central

waiting list for the service was suspended in 2004 as applications could be absorbed by existing vacancies. Therefore, new provision for this service will not be considered for the time being.

- (5) Home-based Training and Support Service – provides interim service to people with disabilities pending admission to regular day training or residential care service. Since it has a relatively high turnover rate (24.5% in 2006-07), new referrals could normally be absorbed. SWD would continue to monitor the service demand and needs for service expansion.
- (6) Special Provision Programme for Autistic Children in Special Child Care Centres – A range of services are already available in these centres to cater for the specific training needs of disabled pre-school children including those with autism admitted to special child care centres. There is no plan for further expansion for this Programme.
- (7) Supported Employment (SE) – The Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre (IVRSC) was formed in April 2004 by pooling the resources of sheltered workshop (SW) and SE to provide people with disabilities with a series of seamless and integrated vocational services in one service setting. A review conducted by SWD in 2005 concluded that IVRSC is the preferred direction of development and future provision of SE would be subsumed under the IVRSC. New provision of 383 IVRSC places (including 160 converted from SW) are planned in 2007-08.
- (8) On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities (OTJ) – Under this programme, the trainees would go through a series of training as well as counselling with a view to achieving open employment. The current 432 training places can meet the service demand. SWD would continue to monitor the utilisation of this service and need for expansion.
- (9) Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities – The programme content is similar to OTJ but is designed specifically for young people with disabilities. The current 311 places can meet the service demand. SWD would continue to monitor the utilisation of this service and the need for expansion.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)163

Question Serial No.

2286

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : (1) By using the following format, please list out the waiting time for residential care services in the past three years and that in 2007-08 :

	2004			2005			2006			2007 (estimate)		
	average waiting time	no. of elders waitlisting	no. of elders passed away while waitlisting	average waiting time	no. of elders waitlisting	no. of elders passed away while waitlisting	average waiting time	no. of elders waitlisting	no. of elders passed away while waitlisting	average waiting time	no. of elders waitlisting	no. of elders passed away while waitlisting
subvented/ contract homes (care-and-attention places)												
nursing homes												
private homes (Enhanced Bought Place Scheme)												

(2) Would the Department provide additional resources to substantially shorten the waiting time?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : (1) The information required is tabulated as follows:

	2004			2005			2006			2007 (estimate)		
	average waiting time (in months)	no. of elders waitlisting	no. of elders passed away while waitlisting	average waiting time (in months)	no. of elders waitlisting	no. of elders passed away while waitlisting	average waiting time (in months)	no. of elders waitlisting	no. of elders passed away while waitlisting	average waiting time (in months)	no. of elders waitlisting	no. of elders passed away while waitlisting
nursing homes	39.4	5 179	1 293	37.2	5 650	1 339	37.8	6 016	1 540	38	6 420	-*
subvented/ contract homes (care-and-attention places)	30.1	15 311	2 151	32.3	15 654	2 053	32.5	16 269	2 159	32	16 680	-*
private homes (Enhanced Bought Place Scheme)	10.7			10.4			9.2			9		

* No realistic estimate.

Of note is that the elders on the Central Waiting List may have been receiving different forms of subsidisation or subsidised services while waiting for subsidised RCHE places. For example, some elders may be using CSSA to stay in private RHCEs while waiting for subsidised RCHE places. Some may be receiving subsidised community support and care services while staying at home to wait for subsidised RCHE places.

- (2) In 2007-08, 662 additional subsidised residential care places will become available. 515 of them will be subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) places. 147 will be subsidised nursing places.

Besides, an additional \$16 million recurrent funding has been earmarked in the 2007-08 Budget to provide more subsidised residential care places in new contract homes.

As the population ages, the demand for subsidised residential care places will increase. The Commission on Poverty and the Elderly Commission will continue to explore ways of responding to the challenges effectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In light of the concluding remarks of the United Nations Hearing on the Second Report on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government needs to allocate adequate resources to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, and provide in its next report a breakdown of the provisions in the Budget.

The Government states in this year's Budget that further funding of \$31 million will be provided to give better care to victims of domestic violence, strengthen family welfare services and expand child care services for families in need. Please set out in table the allocation of funds as well as additional manpower and posts involved regarding the following:

- (1) Financial assistance given to victims of domestic violence for the purpose of setting up a new home and purchasing necessities;
- (2) Setting up additional Family and Child Protective Services Units;
- (3) Further strengthening support for Refuge Centres for Women;
- (4) Strengthening the provision of clinical psychological support for victims of domestic violence, particularly children witnessing domestic violence;
- (5) Enhancing the provision of more flexible types of child care services to strengthen support to families with young children and are facing personal or family problems;
- (6) Continuing to launch the publicity campaign on Strengthening Families and Combating Violence;
- (7) Monitoring the implementation of the pilot project of Batterer Intervention Programme; and
- (8) Continuing to provide training for social workers and professionals on handling child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, suicide and sexual violence.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need. Of these, about \$26 million will be allocated to set up additional Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), to strengthen the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, and reinforce the clinical

psychological service and services of Integrated Family Service Centres. The remaining \$5 million will be allocated to provide more flexible types of child care services, such as the launching of a new day small group home service, extension of the day foster care service and strengthening the service of Mutual Help Child Care Centres by providing financial incentives to operators and subsidy to needy families.

The new measures will involve increase in manpower. In Social Welfare Department (SWD), there will be an increase of 21 social work officer grade posts and 5 clinical psychologist grade posts. For non-governmental organisations (NGOs), we will work out the details with the operators concerned.

Separately, an annual provision of \$1.041 million has been allocated to an NGO to launch a pilot project on Batterer Intervention Programme (BIP) between January 2006 and March 2008. On the part of SWD, the development and implementation of the BIP is undertaken by staff of the Clinical Psychology Units and FCPSUs. There is no breakdown of funding specifically for this purpose.

In addition to the above , SWD will continue to launch the publicity campaign on Strengthening Families and Combating Violence and provide training for social workers and related professionals in the areas of child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, suicide and sexual violence. The respective provision in 2007-08 is estimated to be \$2 million and \$0.4 million. There is no increase of manpower involved in these areas.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In light of the concluding remarks of the United Nations Hearing on the Second Report on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government needs to allocate adequate resources to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, and provide in its next report a breakdown of the provisions in the Budget.

The Government states in this year's Budget that further funding of \$31 million will be provided to give better care to victims of domestic violence, strengthen family welfare services and expand child-care services for families in need. Please set out in table the allocation of funds as well as additional manpower and posts involved regarding the following:

- (1) Provision of training for social workers and professionals on a wide range of topics on handling child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, suicide and sexual violence cases, as well as on the prevention of and post-trauma care in violence cases.
- (2) Launch of a Family Support Programme to increase connection with vulnerable families;
- (3) Plan of a pilot Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre;
- (4) Strengthening support services to victims and batterers of domestic violence and families facing crises, including setting up two additional Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and enhancing the provision of social workers for FCPSUs; and
- (5) What are the quotas allocated for Government and non-governmental organisations on training on risk assessment tool in spouse battering?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has earmarked \$0.4 million to provide training for social workers and related

professionals in handling domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual violence and suicide cases. (Please also see (4) below)

- (2) In 2007-08, a provision of \$30 million has been earmarked for implementing the Family Support Programme (FSP). 43 social work officer grade posts in SWD and another 27 registered social worker posts in non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been created to implement the FSP in 2006-07.
- (3) The Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (the Centre), operated by an NGO, is funded by the Lotteries Fund on a pilot basis. The estimated total operating cost is \$20 million for three years. The Centre will employ a team of 29 registered social workers and supporting staff to provide round-the-clock service.
- (4) In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need through setting up of additional Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), strengthening the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, reinforcing the clinical psychological service and services of Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs), enhancing the provision of more flexible types of child care services, etc. 21 additional social work officer grade posts will be allocated for the FCPSUs over the territory.
- (5) Out of the 100 training places so far set up for the newly developed risk assessment tools on child abuse and spouse battering cases, 80 were allocated to social workers of FCPSUs and IFSCs of SWD and 20 to the 13 NGOs operating IFSCs, Integrated Services Centres and refuge centres for women. Separately, a briefing session was organised on 5 March 2007 for 400 participants including various stakeholders and frontline workers from SWD and NGOs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In light of the concluding remarks of the United Nations Hearing on the Second Report on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government needs to allocate adequate resources to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, and provide in its next report a breakdown of the provisions in the Budget.

The Government states in this year's Budget that further funding of \$31 million will be provided to give better care to victims of domestic violence, strengthen family welfare services and expand child care services for families in need. Please set out in table the allocation of funds as well as additional manpower and posts involved regarding the following:

- (1) Reducing two small group homes and 24 residential nursery places, and increasing ten foster care places and 12 children's home places through re-engineering residential care services for children; increasing 15 emergency foster care places and 15 emergency/short-term small group home places; reducing eight standalone child care centre places and two occasional child care units. Please state the reasons and list the average operating cost, unit cost and waiting time for the small group homes and residential homes respectively.
- (2) The number of places earmarked for victims of domestic violence and the enrolment rates of victims of domestic violence in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The re-engineering of residential child care services is a joint effort of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The aim is to better re-distribute existing resources to services that will benefit more children and better suit their needs, thereby achieving a better match between service demand and provision.

Through this exercise, the overall number of places available in the residential child care services has increased in 2006-07. Specifically, while there was a reduction of 16 regular small group home places and 24 residential nursery places, the decrease was more than made up by the provision of 10 more foster care places, 12 more places in residential

homes for children as well as 23 more emergency/short-term small group home places, resulting in a net increase of five places. The exercise involves a large number of NGO service providers and no information on the changes in their manpower is readily available. The financial resources for the residential services for children are \$367 million in 2006-07.

Upon harmonisation of pre-primary services in 2005, "child care centre" is re-defined as a centre serving children aged under three. A child care centre may consist of a day crèche section for children under two and a day nursery section for children aged two to under three. The reduction of eight places is proposed by the centre operator to convert them to become 28 half-day nursery places in view of the low demand for crèche service and increasing demand for half-day service for children aged two to under three. Arising from this conversion of places, the operator has to employ an additional child care worker at its own cost. The conversion results in an annual savings in subvention of \$0.03 million for SWD.

The reduction of two occasional child care units is the net effect of the closure of three child care centres initiated by the service operators as a result of low utilisation, with one of the three concerned units to be re-provisioned to another district with service demand. The net annual amount saved is about \$0.16 million which includes staff cost and other charges. As at December 2006, the overall utilisation rate of the occasional child care service is 62.4%.

In 2006-07, the cost per place per month for small group home is \$12,312, while the cost per place per month for foster care is \$8,202. For residential services for children other than the aforesaid two services, the cost per place per month for the 2006-07 revised estimate is \$10,284.

As for the waiting time for small group home and residential home services, it will normally range from one to three months if there is no location and home preference. Emergency placements are available for urgent cases.

All places in residential child care services and child care centres are provided for children in need, including victims of domestic violence. There is no separate quota reserved for victims of domestic violence, and we do not have separate breakdown on the enrolment of this group.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)167

Question Serial No.

2316

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Financial Secretary announced in the Budget Speech that an additional \$16 million will be earmarked to increase approximately 150 places in new purpose-built residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and purchase approximately 450 places from the private RCHEs. What are the differences between "purpose-built RCHEs" and the existing RCHEs? How is their service and nursing quality?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The major features of the purpose-built contract residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) are:

- (i) the premises are purpose-built by the Government to ensure that they meet the operational needs of RCHEs;
- (ii) the premises are awarded through tenders. Both private operators and non-government organisations may bid for the contracts;
- (iii) there is a combination of subsidised and self-financing places in a contract home;
- (iv) funding for the subsidised places is through time-defined contracts;
- (v) all the subsidised care and attention places in contract homes have to provide long term care and continuum of care. There are also nursing places in contract homes; and
- (vi) contract homes have to be licensed as an RCHE under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap 459) and be registered as a nursing home under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance (Cap 165). They have to comply with the manpower requirements as an RCHE and a nursing home.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)168

Question Serial No.

2317

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How will the increase of approximately 600 subsidised residential care places affect the number of elders waitlisting for residential care places and improve the waiting time? What criteria have been used to decide increasing 600 places? Has the Administration taken into account whether the supporting factors (such as care staff) can accommodate such an increase?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Among the additional 600 subsidised residential care places, around 150 will be provided in new purpose-built premises whilst 450 will be made available through purchasing places in private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS). At present, the average waiting time for a subsidised EBPS place is about 9 months, compared with an average 31 months for subsidised places in RCHEs run by non-governmental organisations. With the additional 450 EBPS places, more elders will be admitted to subsidised places with a shorter waiting time. Together with the 150 places to be provided in new purpose-built premises, these additional places will help alleviate the waitlisting situation.

We have taken into account the number and size of the purpose-built premises which will become available in 2007-08, and the possible role of private RCHEs in further providing subsidised residential care services in working out the projection of providing 600 subsidised places in 2007-08.

To alleviate the demand for Enrolled Nurses in the Welfare Sector, in particular in RCHEs, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, launched the first and second batches of the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for 220 Enrolled Nurses for the Welfare Sector. SWD will launch the third batch in 2007-08 to provide an additional 110 Enrolled Nurses training places.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)169

Question Serial No.

2318

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The total number of all kinds of residential care places for elders provided by the subvented sector has been reduced from 24 460 in the 2006-07 revised estimate to 23 907 in the 2007-08 estimate. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The reduction in the number of subsidised residential care places for the elderly between 2006-07 and 2007-08 is mainly attributed to the programme of converting self-care (S/C) hostel places, home for the aged (H/A) places and care-and-attention (C&A) places without continuum of care into C&A places providing continuum of care. The welfare sector supported the conversion proposal and the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in 2005. The Social Welfare Department has implemented this conversion programme since 2005-06.

The conversion exercise is conducted on a subventions-neutral basis. The C&A places created under the programme will provide continuum of care which will better meet elders' need for LTC services. As the unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a place not providing continuum of care, the number of C&A places to be created under the programme will be smaller than the number of places being replaced. There will not be displacement of elders from the participating homes as conversion will be vacancy-led, which enables existing elders to stay in their existing homes for as long as necessary. If their health condition deteriorates, they will be given priority to occupy the C&A places providing continuum of care created in their homes.

In 2007-08, we project that a total of 1 980 S/C and H/A places and 670 C&A places not providing continuum of care will be taken in for conversion. The reduction in the number of S/C and H/A places from 3 099 in 2006-07 to 1 119 in 2007-08 and C&A places from 9 933 in 2006-07 to 9 263 in 2007-08 reflects this. These places will eventually be transformed into 1 435 C&A places providing continuum of care to better meet elders' need for LTC services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)170

Question Serial No.

2319

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the amount of resources deployed in enhancing the inspection and monitoring of the residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS)? What was the outcome in 2006-07? How does the Administration monitor the effectiveness of the work to ensure the proper use of resources?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : In 2006-07, \$4.5 million was allocated to enhance the inspection and monitoring of RCHEs and contract elderly services (i.e. contract homes and the EHCCS) through enhancing the manpower and training of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) and the Contract Management Section (CMS) of the Social Welfare Department.

With the additional manpower, LORCHE has enhanced inspections and stepped up prosecution actions against non-compliant RCHEs in 2006-07. Also, LORCHE has strengthened the information exchange and referral network with relevant departments and organisations, including the Community Geriatric Assessment Teams and the Toxicology Reference Laboratory of the Hospital Authority and the Labour Department. It has also revamped the Health Worker Training Course to enhance the course contents, the training hours and the entry requirements.

The CMS has strengthened its database system for more effective monitoring of the service output of the contract homes and the EHCCS Teams.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)171

Question Serial No.

2320

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Financial Secretary stated in the Budget Speech that the Government will allocate an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes so as to encourage more elderly singletons, particularly the unidentified ones, to develop their social life, and provide referral and supporting services to those in need. Each of the 156 elderly centres will add a social worker. What is the percentage of the relevant expenditure on the \$38 million? How many times of outreaching do the 156 elderly centres carry out each year? How many outreaching social workers are there in each elderly centre?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Currently, all the 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) render outreach and support services to hidden and singleton elders. The additional \$38 million will be allocated to these centres to recruit an additional social worker to enhance their outreaching efforts to hidden and singleton elders.

Under the prevailing service agreement, each Support Team for the Elderly (STE) attached to the DECC is required to establish contact with 1 200 elders who are not known to the STE in a year. While there are no specifications as such for NECs, NECs have to conduct various outreaching services at the neighbourhood level. With the additional allocation, we will discuss with the DECCs and NECs on the output requirements.

The notional staffing for each DECC and NEC is 17 and 6 staff respectively. That said, service providers have the flexibility to adjust the staff mix according to the service needs, including outreaching services, under the Lump Sum Grant subvention mode.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Financial Secretary stated in the Budget Speech that the Government will allocate an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes so as to encourage and assist more elderly singletons, particularly the unidentified ones, to develop their social life, and provide referral and supporting services to those in need. What practical purposes will the additional social worker, who will take up a coordinating role, serve in expanding the outreaching services? What are the details of the outreaching services? What is the estimated number of single or hidden elders to be referred to different services each year?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Currently, all the 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) render outreach and support services to hidden and singleton elders. The additional \$38 million will be allocated to these centres to recruit an additional social worker to enhance their outreaching efforts to reach as many hidden and singleton elders as possible.

We expect the DECCs/NECs to mobilise volunteers and other social capital in the districts to carry out the outreaching work, whereas the additional social worker will plan for the outreaching arrangements, provide supervision to the volunteers and oversee the follow up actions. We would further discuss with the DECCs/NECs the output requirements and the outreaching arrangements.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)173

Question Serial No.

2322

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Financial Secretary stated in the Budget Speech that the Government will allocate an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes, so as to encourage and assist more elderly singletons, particularly the unidentified ones, to develop their social life, and provide referral and supporting services to those in need. Do the District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) have sufficient places to offer social and elderly services to those in need? At present, the waiting time for a DECC place is about three to four years. Are there enough resources to expand the service volume in order to serve existing and prospective service recipients, and to shorten the waiting time?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) form a territory-wide social support network for the elders in the community and their carers. Elders do not have to wait to be members of the DECCs and NECs, and can have ready access to services including counselling, case management and referrals to other service providers as necessary.

The additional \$38 million will further strengthen the manpower provision of the DECCs and NECs to enhance their outreaching and support services to singleton and hidden elders.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)174

Question Serial No.

2323

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Financial Secretary stated in the Budget Speech that the Government will allocate an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes, so as to encourage and assist more elderly singletons, particularly the unidentified ones, to develop their social life, and provide referral and supporting services to those in need. Health care of elders is a key mission of the community-based elderly services or the "Ageing in Place" policy. There is insufficient rehabilitative and preventive outreaching services like community nursing, mental health care and physiotherapy services, which are indispensable services. Are health care services for elders included in the above-mentioned outreaching services?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : "Ageing in the community" is one of the underlying principles of our elderly policy. The Government-subsidised home-based community care services and day care places for the elderly operated by the non-governmental organisations, as well as the Community Nurse Services of the Hospital Authority, are part and parcel of our community-based care services for elders.

The additional \$38 million is for strengthening the manpower of the 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) to enhance their outreaching efforts to hidden and singleton elders. The DECCs and NECs will follow up the needs of the elders after locating them, including referring them to the appropriate service agencies for services. The Administration will monitor the demand for support services arising from this initiative.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>17 March 2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)175

Question Serial No.

2324

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Financial Secretary stated in the Budget Speech that the Government will allocate an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes so as to encourage and assist more elderly singletons, particularly the unidentified ones, to develop their social life, and provide referral and supporting services to those in need. Would the Administration provide additional resources to the various types of outreaching community health care services so that the serving health care professionals could provide professional outreaching service to elders in the community?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The additional \$38 million is for strengthening the manpower of the 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) to enhance their outreach efforts to hidden and singleton elders. The DECCs and NECs will follow up the needs of the elders after locating them, including referring them to the appropriate service agencies for services. The Administration will monitor the demand for support services arising from this initiative.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)176

Question Serial No.

2325

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Financial Secretary stated in the Budget Speech that the Government will allocate an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes so as to encourage and assist more elderly singletons, particularly the unidentified ones, to develop their social life, and provide referral and supporting services to those in need. Please explain why the \$38 million allocated to the 156 elderly centres does not cover the enhancement of the manpower and frequency of the service of the various types of outreaching community health care services.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The additional \$38 million is for strengthening the manpower of the 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) to enhance their outreach efforts to hidden and singleton elders. The DECCs and NECs will follow up the needs of the elders after locating them, including referring them to the appropriate service agencies for services. The Administration will monitor the demand for support services arising from this initiative.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)177

Question Serial No.

2326

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department will set up additional Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs). What is the number of additional staff required, and where will they be deployed from? In 2006-07, what was the rate of staff wastage in FCPSUs? Will the vacancies be filled? Will such replacements be paid by the additional funding provided in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2007-08, we will reinforce the manpower of Family and Child Protection Service Units (FCPSUs) by creating an additional 21 social work officer grade posts.

In the Social Welfare Department (SWD), all social work staff are subject to transfer and posting among different services and units. Vacancies in FCPSUs and other units are filled by deployment of existing or newly recruited staff. The expenditure will be absorbed within SWD's existing resources.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

17 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In light of the concluding remarks of the United Nations Hearing on the Second Report on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government needs to allocate adequate resources to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, and provide in its next report a breakdown of the provisions in the Budget.

The Government states in this year's Budget that further funding of \$31 million will be provided to give better care to victims of domestic violence, strengthen family welfare services and expand child care services for families in need. Please set out in table the allocation of funds as well as additional manpower and posts involved regarding the following:

- (1) Preserve and strengthen the family; support families which are unable to fulfil their functions; and help families in trouble.
- (2) What are the specific plans for assisting victims of hidden domestic violence and what are the new services for them? How to carry out the publicity and what is the expenditure involved? If there is no such plan, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need. Of these, about \$26 million will be allocated to set up additional Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), strengthen the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, and reinforce the clinical psychological service and services of Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSCs). The remaining \$5 million will be allocated to provide more flexible types of child care services, such as the launching of a new day small group home service, extension of the day foster care service and strengthening the mutual help child care centres service by providing financial incentives to operators and subsidy to needy families.

There will be an increase of 21 social work officer grade posts and 5 clinical psychologist grade posts in Social Welfare Department. For

non-governmental organisations (NGOs), we are working out the details with the operators concerned.

- (2) To increase contacts with needy families who are reluctant to seek help, a Family Support Programme (FSP) has been launched in IFSCs/Integrated Services Centres, FCPSUs and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units since early 2007. Under the FSP, through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, we aim to introduce the families at risk, including families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation, to various support services available and motivate them to receive services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. Volunteers including those who have overcome family/personal problems or crises will be recruited and trained to contact these families and to provide them with support and assistance. Programme Assistants have also been employed to provide logistical support to the social workers. \$30 million annual recurrent resources have been allocated to launch the FSP.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006, the Administration commissioned non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to launch a new batch of Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs). Please provide information on:

- (1) the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and near-CSSA recipients who have joined the projects;
- (2) the number of employable CSSA recipients who have been assisted to rejoin the workforce successfully, the nature of posts secured by them and their wages;
- (3) the number of recipients who have left the CSSA net successfully; and
- (4) the expenditure involved (in 2006-07) as well as the estimated expenditure involved in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Regarding the fourth batch of IEAPs launched in October 2006 :

- (1) up to the end of January 2007, there was a total of 2 599 participants, including 2 267 CSSA participants and 332 near-CSSA participants;
- (2) out of the 2 267 CSSA participants, 156 have secured full-time paid employment. Over 70% of the jobs secured are in service work and elementary occupations. The average monthly earnings are \$5,000;
- (3) out of the 156 CSSA participants who have secured full-time paid employment, 44 have left the CSSA net; and
- (4) the estimated cost of running the fourth batch of IEAPs for two years from October 2006 is \$60 million.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, the Administration launched the New Dawn (ND) Project, a trial employment assistance project. Please provide information on:

- (1) the number of single parent and child carers on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) who have joined the project;
- (2) the number of recipients who have secured full-time and part-time employment respectively, the nature of employment secured by them and their wages;
- (3) the number of recipients who have left the CSSA net successfully;
- (4) the number of recipients who have been deducted \$200 from their CSSA payment due to failure to comply with the requirements under the project, their age, the number of members and the number of children in their households, and their family background;
- (5) the reasons why they could not join the workforce, the measures to help them solve their problems and the follow-up services provided.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The ND Project is an 18-month trial project launched in April 2006:

- (1) up to end January 2007, a total of 7 349 participants comprising 4 651 single parents and 2 698 child carers on CSSA joined the Project;
- (2) out of the 7 349 participants, 674 participants have taken up full-time paid employment and 1 070 have taken up part-time paid employment. They mainly work as cleaners, services workers, shop sales, domestic helpers and in other elementary occupations. The average monthly wage is \$4,300 for full-time employment and \$1,600 for part-time employment;
- (3) up to end January 2007, a total of 118 participants left the CSSA net as a result of taking up paid employment;
- (4) up to end January 2007, a total of 4 585 CSSA single parents/child carers with their youngest child aged 12 to 14 had \$200 deducted from

their monthly CSSA payments due to their failure to comply with the project requirements.

Most of them are aged between 40 and 59 with four or more family members. As regards the number of children in the household, it ranges from 1 to 3. Most have lower secondary education or below.

- (5) some CSSA single parents and child carers, especially those who have been on CSSA for a relatively long period and have limited or no working experience, are at a disadvantage in the labour market and would have to overcome more work barriers. Social Welfare Department will continue to provide the project participants with personalised employment assistance services and refer them, where appropriate, to join the ND Intensive Employment Assistance Projects run by non-governmental organisations so that they could receive intensive employment assistance services including basic skills training, skills upgrading training, employment and non-employment related counselling as well as post-employment services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)181

Question Serial No.

2330

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the number of fraud cases on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, with breakdown on:

Means/Financial years	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (as at 28.2.2007)
Concealing/making false representation of income (cases)			
Concealing/making false representation of assets (cases)			
Abuse of housing grants (cases)			
Concealing other information (e.g. admission to prison, records of absence from Hong Kong or the number of household members)			
Total			
Report of suspected fraud cases on CSSA (cases)			
Established fraud cases (in percentage)			
Amount of payment involved			

Asked by :

Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

The number of fraud cases on CSSA in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is 665, 764 and 798 respectively, with breakdown as follows:

Means/Financial years	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (as at 28.2.2007)
Concealing/making false representation of income (cases)	398	447	457
Concealing/making false representation of assets (cases)	188	220	232
Abuse of housing grants (cases)	45	59	60
Concealing other information (e.g. admission to prison, records of absence from Hong Kong or the number of household members)	34	38	49
Total	665	764	798
Report of suspected fraud cases on CSSA (cases)	4 699	4 912	4 387
Established fraud cases (in percentage)	14.15%	15.55%	18.19%
Amount of payment involved	\$39.6 million	\$47.6 million	\$44.8 million

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, the Administration launched the Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP). Please provide information on:

- (1) the number of young Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who have joined the programme;
- (2) the distribution of their age and sex;
- (3) the number of recipients who have secured full-time and part-time employment respectively, the category of employment secured by them and their wages;
- (4) the number of recipients who have returned to mainstream schooling;
- (5) the number of recipients who have left the CSSA net; and
- (6) the districts where they live.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Regarding My STEP launched in October 2006:

- (1) up to the end of January 2007, a total of 68 participants were recruited in the programme;
- (2) half of the programme participants are aged between 15 and 19 and the remaining ones are aged between 20 to 24. There are 40 male and 28 female participants;
- (3) as at the end of January 2007, 12 participants had secured full-time paid employment and 5 part-time paid employment. They mainly work as services workers, shop sales, clerks and in elementary occupations. Their monthly average wage is \$5,100 for full-time employment and \$1,800 for part-time employment;
- (4) one participant has returned to mainstream schooling since the end of January 2007;
- (5) as at the end of January 2007, one participant has left the CSSA net as a result of taking up paid employment; and
- (6) all the programme participants are residing in Tin Shui Wai/Yuen Long districts.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, the Administration continued to run three Enhanced Community Work Projects tailored for long-term unemployed able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients. Would the Administration provide details of:

- (1) the number of recipients participating in the projects?
- (2) the number of recipients who have secured full-time and part-time employment respectively after participating in the projects, the nature of posts secured by them and their wages?
- (3) the expenditure involved in the projects?
- (4) the number of cases that have been transferred from unemployment to low-earnings category for a continuous period of three months?
- (5) the number of recipients who have left the CSSA net successfully?
- (6) the districts where they live?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) continued to run three Enhanced Community Work (CW) projects, namely, Mosaic Public Arts (MPA) Project; Community Work Experience and Training (CWET) Programme and Community Work-cum-Occupational Skills Training (CW-cum-OST) Programme.

- (1) As at end January 2007, 44 participants were recruited in the now completed MPA Project; 1 093 participants were recruited in the CWET Programme, and 244 participants were recruited in the CW-cum-OST Programme.
- (2) As at end January 2007, a total of 251 participants in the three projects have secured full-time paid employment and 99 participants have secured part-time paid jobs. They mainly work as service workers, shop sales, clerks or in other elementary occupations. The average monthly wage is \$4,100 for full-time employment and \$1,700 for part-time employment.

- (3) The three projects are run by NGOs at \$3.4 million for 2006-07 and \$1.2 million for 2007-08.
- (4) A total of 177 participants have changed from unemployment to low-earners and sustained employment for three months or more.
- (5) A total of 43 participants have left the CSSA net as a result of taking up paid employment.
- (6) Participants of the three projects are residents of Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung districts, Sha Tin/Tai Po districts and Kwun Tong/Kowloon City districts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)184

Question Serial No.

2333

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : There is an increase of \$180.2 million in the provision for 2007-08, which includes increasing the allocation for the Infirmity Care Supplement and the Dementia Supplement. Please provide figures on the provision on these two supplements and the number of recipients in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2006-07, \$42.3 million was allocated to residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in the form of Infirmity Care Supplement (ICS) and Dementia Supplement (DS) for them to enhance their manpower to take care of 3 272 infirm and demented elderly residents. In 2007-08, an additional \$21.9 million will be allocated to the RCHEs for the same purpose. The total provision of \$64.2 million in 2007-08 will benefit a total of 3 524 infirm and demented elderly residents.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)185

Question Serial No.

2334

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration will continue to offer training for professional and non-professional staff serving demented elders in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the expenditure involved in relevant work in 2006-07, the estimated expenditure in 2007-08, and the current progress of this initiative.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2006-07, a total of 244 training places were offered to 126 professional staff and 118 non-professional staff who provide services to demented elders. The total expenditure amounts to \$112,000.

In 2007-08, a total of 240 training places will be offered to 120 professional staff and 120 non-professional staff who provide services to demented elders. The estimated expenditure is \$0.2 million. The training will be contracted out. Preparatory work is under way for delivery between June to August 2007.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)186

Question Serial No.

2335

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006-07, the Administration earmarked additional provisions of \$3.4 million and \$1.1 million to strengthen the manpower of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) and the Contract Management Section (CMS) respectively. Why is it necessary for the Administration to further strengthen the manpower of LORCHE and CMS in 2007-08? What are the details of the plan?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The LORCHE of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is responsible for monitoring the quality of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) to ensure that they comply with the licensing requirements. The CMS of SWD is responsible for monitoring the contract homes and the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) in complying with the contractual requirements.

With more and more licensed RCHEs and contract homes and the increased capacity of the EHCCS, the resources required by LORCHE and the CMS for carrying out their monitoring work have been increasing correspondingly. To cope with the increasing workload, SWD has started strengthening the manpower of LORCHE and CMS in phases in 2006-07 and will continue to do so in 2007-08, taking into account the operational needs.

In 2006-07, five additional nursing staff were recruited to strengthen the Health Inspectorate Team of LORCHE. Also, four additional staff (including a nursing staff) were recruited to strengthen the CMS.

In 2007-08, there will be an addition of Social Work Officer grade posts in LORCHE to strengthen the manpower of its Social Work Inspectorate Teams. The additional posts will be responsible for monitoring RCHEs through inspections, conducting investigations in response to complaints, instituting prosecutions against non-compliant RCHEs and promoting capacity-building in RCHEs for quality enhancement.

For the CMS, additional Social Work Officer grade post will be created in 2007-08 for monitoring the service quality of the contract services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Post Title

Director of Social Welfare

Date

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the information paper dated 16 November 2006 on "Results of the review on temporary jobs in the public sector" for the Panel on Manpower of the Legislative Council, the Social Welfare Department will retain 3 073 temporary jobs. Of these, 1 383 posts will be regularised while 1 690 posts will be extended in 2007-08. Would the Administration provide information on the following:

- (1) what is the provision for this aspect in the 2007-08 estimate?
- (2) what are the current monthly salaries for different posts?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) The total provision for the 3 073 temporary posts in 2007-08 is \$207.3 million.

(2) The monthly salaries of the various posts concerned are set out below –

Posts	Monthly Salary \$
Programme Assistant	5,120
Youth Ambassador	4,000
Peer Counsellor	8,000
Care Assistant	7,115
Community Work Organiser	7,830

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Financial Secretary announced in his Budget Speech that \$31 million will be provided to give better care to victims of domestic violence, strengthen family welfare services and expand child care services for families in need. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the respective allocation of the provision for the above three areas;
- (2) of the services involved in these three areas; and
- (3) what types of families are included in the definition of "families in need"?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) + (2) In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need. Of these, about \$26 million will be allocated to set up additional Family and Child Protective Services Units, strengthen the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, and reinforce the clinical psychological service and services of Integrated Family Service Centres. The remaining \$5 million will be allocated to provide more flexible types of child care services, such as the launching of a new day small group home service, extension of the day foster care service and strengthening the mutual help child care centres service by providing financial incentives to operators and subsidy to needy families.

(3) Families in need refer to those facing domestic violence, childcare problems, family relationship problems, etc.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)189

Question Serial No.

2342

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many people were benefited from the "Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme" in 2005 and 2006 respectively? How many of them were residing in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province? What is the related expenditure on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)? What is the administration cost for the whole scheme during the period? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The number of PCSSA recipients and the related expenditure on PCSSA payments for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows:

	Number of PCSSA recipients residing in Guangdong	Number of PCSSA recipients residing in Fujian*	Total expenditure on PCSSA payments
2005-06 (Actual)	3 173	58	\$94.5 million
2006-07 (Estimate)	3 180	115	\$100.5 million

* The PCSSA Scheme was extended to Fujian from 1 August 2005.

A non-governmental organisation has been commissioned as Social Welfare Department's (SWD's) agent to provide services for PCSSA recipients. The duties of SWD's agent include conducting annual reviews on PCSSA cases, providing transport/escort service from Hong Kong to Guangdong and vice versa for recipients genuinely in need of the service but unable to make arrangements on their own, handling enquiries and reports of changes from recipients, and processing applications for burial grant from deceased recipients' relatives or friends in the Mainland. The contract fee for hiring this agent in 2005-06 was \$1.9 million and the estimated fee for 2006-07 is \$1.8 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : During the period from 2004 to 2006, amongst the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients, how many children were born of parents, both of whom are non-Hong Kong (HK) residents, each year? What is their age distribution? What is the expenditure on CSSA involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : We did not have statistics for the period 2004 to 2006 on CSSA children whose parents are non-HK residents. Since August 2006, we have started to collect statistics on CSSA applications involving children born in HK by Mainland parents who are non-HK residents. Up to the end of February 2007, there are 89 CSSA children whose parents are Mainlanders and non-HK residents. The age profile of these children at the time of application is set out below:

Age Group	No. of Children (August 2006 – February 2007)
Below 2	27
2 - 3	44
4 - 6	9
7 - 12	6
13 - 14	2
15 & above	1
Total	89

The amount of CSSA standard rates for an able-bodied child who is a single person is \$1,955 per month, while that for a family member ranges from \$1,620 per month to \$1,295 per month depending on the number of eligible members in the family.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)191

Question Serial No.

2362

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The net increase of the number of posts in 2007-08 by the Administration is 58. Please give details of the number of post deleted and created, and explain the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : Under Programme (1) Family and Child Welfare, 73 posts will be created in 2007-08 mainly to enhance the social work and clinical psychological services and support for victims of domestic violence and families in need. The creation will be offset by the deletion of 15 posts which are either in service units that are already closed and hived off to non-governmental organisations, or are time-limited in nature.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)192

Question Serial No.

2363

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Among the posts to be created, how many will be dedicated to tackling domestic violence?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : Among the posts to be created in the Social Welfare Department, 21 social work officer grade posts and 5 clinical psychologist grade posts will be allocated to the Family and Child Protective Services Units and Clinical Psychology Units respectively to provide services and support for victims of domestic violence and families in need.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)193

Question Serial No.

2364

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please explain the criteria adopted in determining the creation and deletion of posts.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : Posts are created on a functional basis to meet operational needs of the services and are deleted when they are no longer required by the services concerned. For Programme (1) Family and Child Welfare, 58 additional posts will be created in 2007-08 to enhance the social work and clinical psychological services and support for victims of domestic violence and families in need.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : According to the "Indicators" of this programme, the number of cases served and caseload per worker for school social work and outreaching social work in the 2006-07 revised estimate are higher than the actual figures in 2005-06 whereas the relevant figures in the 2007-08 estimate are the same as those in the 2006-07 revised estimate. Would the Administration inform this Committee whether assessment has been made on the negative impact of the increase in caseload of social workers on society? What measures will be taken to ease the caseload of social workers? Would consideration be given to recruiting additional social workers, raising the salary level of social workers and capping the caseload per worker? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The average caseload of each school social worker and outreaching social worker in the past few years is comparable to those in the 2006-07 revised estimate and the 2007-08 estimate. There is no indication of a rising trend. Details are set out below:

Year	Average Caseload	
	School Social worker	Outreaching Social Worker
2003-04	87	93
2004-05	87	92
2005-06	85	89
2006-07 (revised estimate)	86	91
2007-08 (draft estimate)	86	91

School social workers and outreaching social workers form only part of the service network to assist and encourage young people to become mature, responsible and contributing members of the society. These workers would also network with other service units in case the young people require more specific services.

Futhermore, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has recently provided new resources, and implemented new measures to strengthen the social work support to the needy youth. Examples are set out below:

- (a) lining up secondary schools with the Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) in the neighbourhood to work as partner units to better meet the changing needs of students;
- (b) new provision of \$20.9 million per annum effective from 2005-06, comprising \$12.9 million and \$8 million to enhance respectively the outreaching services for young night drifters rendered by the designated ICYSCs, and the Community Support Service Schemes for young people cautioned under the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme;
- (c) earmarking \$3.7 million per annum to enhance the staffing and programme provisions of the Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers with effect from 2007-08; and
- (d) a one-off amount of \$400 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club to implement a four-year project, namely, – "P.A.T.H.S. to Adulthood – A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme" for secondary schools effective from the 2005/06 school year with the Education and Manpower Bureau and the SWD as co-organisers.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding part of the work of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in 2006, namely continuing the intensified measures under the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme to help employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients rejoin the workforce and move towards self-reliance and commissioning non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to launch a new batch of Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs) to help employable CSSA recipients and 'near-CSSA' recipients rejoin the workforce and move towards self-reliance, please provide the details of progress of the above measures. How many recipients have been assisted to join the workforce successfully? What is the average cost per recipient? How many recipients have left the CSSA net? What is their level of salary? How many recipients failed to join the workforce and why? How did the Department help them solve the problems and what are the details of the follow-up services?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Regarding the fourth batch of IEAPs launched in October 2006:

- (1) up to end January 2007, there was a total of 2 599 participants, including 2 267 CSSA participants and 332 'near-CSSA' participants;
- (2) out of the 2 599 participants, 279 (including 156 CSSA participants and 123 'near-CSSA' participants) have secured full-time paid employment. Over 70% of the jobs secured are service work and elementary occupations. The average monthly earnings is \$5,000;
- (3) among the 156 CSSA participants who have secured full-time paid employment, 44 have left the CSSA net;
- (4) the estimated unit cost per participant of the fourth batch of IEAPs is \$5,000;
- (5) 2 320 participants are receiving intensive employment assistance services provided by the operating NGOs and have not yet secured paid employment.

Among the 2 320 participants who have not yet secured paid employment, most of them have been on CSSA for a relatively long period, and have limited work related experience and skills. The operating NGOs commissioned by SWD will continue to provide them with the latest market information, employment-related and non-employment related services. They will also refer them, where appropriate, to other organisations such as Employment Retraining Board and Construction Industry Training Authority to help them acquire job skills in specific trade.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)196

Question Serial No.

2077

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the brief description for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) that SWD set up two additional Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in 2006. How much additional manpower has been employed and what grades do they belong to?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : In 2006, a total of 10 additional social work officer grade posts were created to strengthen the manpower and support for the Family and Child Protective Services Units.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)197

Question Serial No.

2078

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The projected number of supervision cases served by the family and child protection service has increased from 9 361 in the 2006-07 revised estimate to 9 559 in the 2007-08 estimate. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : The estimated increase in caseload is attributed to the enhanced public awareness of the domestic violence problem, and strengthened effort in early identification of cases under the Family Support Programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)198

Question Serial No.

2079

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The cost per family and child protection case per month will increase by \$55 per month from \$1,188 in the 2006-07 revised estimate to \$1,243 in the 2007-08 estimate. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : The increase in the cost per family and child protection case per month in the 2007-08 estimate as compared to the 2006-07 revised estimate is mainly due to the enhanced staffing provisions in serving victims of domestic violence.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, it is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 that the Department will monitor the operation of the pilot Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre. How much resource has been allocated to the centre in 2006-07 and 2007-08? What are the manpower provided for the centre and its establishment? How many of them are professionals? What are its service goals? And how does the Department monitor its operation?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : The Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (the Centre) is primarily aimed to provide support to victims of sexual violence through better co-ordination between the service units of Social Welfare Department (SWD) and other departments concerned like the Police. Phase one of the services to be launched in late March 2007 will include a 24-hour hotline, arrangement of immediate intervention and follow up services, after office hours outreaching/crisis intervention services and case consultation services. Short-term accommodation services will be provided in Phase two, tentatively scheduled to come on stream in early 2008. In addition to serving victims of sexual violence, the Centre will complement existing service for victims of domestic violence and individuals/families in crisis or distress and provide after office hours outreaching service for elder abuse cases etc. This will create synergy among related services and optimise utilisation of resources.

The Centre, operated by a non-governmental organisation, is funded by the Lotteries Fund on a pilot basis. The estimated total operating cost is \$20 million for three years. The Centre will employ a team of 29 registered social workers and supporting staff to provide round-the-clock service throughout the year.

SWD will closely monitor the effectiveness and performance of the Centre through a set of output and outcome indicators as agreed in the Service Agreement with the operator of the Centre.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, it is stated in paragraph 18 regarding the “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08” that the Department will provide additional subsidised residential care places for elders through the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS). Could the Department please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the estimated amount of resources and the number of places to be created with regard to the above plan?
- (2) the reasons for which the Department decided to increase the number of subsidised residential care places through EBPS, instead of directly awarding contracts to more contract homes? The unit cost for EBPS is the lowest among different types of subsidised residential care homes. Is that an important factor for consideration? Has the Department considered the difference in service quality between EBPS homes and other subsidised residential care homes for the elderly?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : (1) In 2007-08, 662 additional subsidised residential care places will be made available. Around 450 places will be purchased from private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS). The annual recurrent amount required is about \$30 million.

The remaining 212 places will be created in three new contract homes.

- (2) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been increasing the supply of subsidised residential care places for the elderly through two means, namely:
 - (i) creating additional places in new contract homes; and
 - (ii) purchasing places from private RCHEs.

The provision of places in contract homes depends on the availability of new purpose-built premises. Purchasing places from private RCHEs under EBPS can, on the one hand, provide readily available subsidised places and, on the other hand, provide incentive and a mechanism for enhancing the quality of private RCHEs as participating RCHEs have to comply with the EBPS requirements which are higher than the licensing requirements.

Only those private RCHEs which have fulfilled the EBPS requirements will be selected for participating in the EBPS. There are sanctions against EBPS homes in the form of cutting the number of purchased places for breaching the EBPS Agreement.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of cases served under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) will increase by 20% from 2 824 in the 2006-07 Estimate to 3 385 in the 2006-07 Revised Estimate. Has the Administration allocated additional resources to non-governmental organisations providing these services so as to meet the additional demand for service and maintain the quality of the service?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : Between December 2005 and October 2006, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has increased the provision of the EHCCS Teams in districts which have high demand to enhance their service capacity of the frailty-tested home care services for the elderly. The number of EHCCS users is projected to increase from 2 885 in 2005-06 to 3 385 in 2006-07. As at end February 2007, the utilisation rate was 82.5%. SWD will continue to monitor the service demand for EHCCS in 2007-08 and increase the service volume for districts with high service demand where necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)202

Question Serial No.

2083

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2007-08, the number of Enhanced Home and Community Care Services cases is estimated to be 3 385. How many additional resources will the Social Welfare Department provide to the service? Will additional resources be allocated to the non-governmental organisations providing the service if there is far more demand than expected?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : In 2007-08, \$96 million is earmarked for providing Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS). The Social Welfare Department will continue to monitor the service demand for EHCCS and increase the service volume for districts with high service demand where necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)203

Question Serial No.

2084

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As at end of 2006, what is the number of waitlisted cases for the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) in each of the 12 Social Welfare Department (SWD) Districts? What is the longest and average waiting time in each district?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : There is currently no waiting list for the EHCCS.

Between December 2005 and October 2006, the SWD has increased the provision of the EHCCS Teams in districts which have high demand to enhance the capacity for the frailty-tested home care services for the elderly. The number of EHCCS users is projected to increase from 2 885 in 2005-06 to 3 385 in 2006-07. As at end February 2007, the utilisation rate was 82.5% (there were 462 vacancies). SWD will continue to monitor the service demand for EHCCS in 2007-08 and increase the service volume for districts with high service demand when necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Paragraph 16 of this Programme mentions that in 2006 the Social Welfare Department (SWD):

“invited applications for the in situ expansion of the service capacity of the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Ordinary Cases) in September 2006 with target commencement of the expanded service in January 2007”

- (1) How many IHCS teams have taken part in the above services and how many new places have been created?
- (2) Has SWD provided added resources to the service providers for the new services? How much is allocated to each new place?
- (3) What is the cost per case per month under this year's appropriation? Has SWD considered that too low an appropriation will hamper the delivery of quality service?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : All the 60 Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) teams have participated in the in situ expansion of the service capacity of the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Ordinary Cases). The additional capacity has started coming into place since January 2007. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) projects that about 2 000 additional new cases will be served.

SWD has secured an additional recurrent funding of \$20 million in 2006-07 for this purpose. The cost per Ordinary Case varies according to the composition of the types and frequency of service items required by individual elders.

The average cost per case per month (covering both Frail and Ordinary Cases) is estimated to be \$1,169 in 2007-08. We have taken into account the manpower and resource inputs required by IHCS operators in working out the unit cost.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>14 March 2007</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)205

Question Serial No.

2086

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In paragraph 63 of the 2006-07 Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary said that \$20 million would be allocated to enhance the Integrated Home Care Services. Please provide details on the number of new places created with the new money.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : Making use of the additional recurrent funding of \$20 million secured in 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has increased the capacity of the non-frailty tested home care services for elders provided by the 60 Integrated Home Care Services teams. The additional capacity has started coming into place since January 2007. SWD projects that about 2 000 additional new cases will be served.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)206

Question Serial No.

2087

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of cases served under the Integrated Home Care Services has increased by 9.3%, from 26 188 in the 2006-07 Estimate to 28 615 in the 2006-07 Revised Estimate. Has the Administration allocated additional resources to the non-governmental organisations providing these services so that they can meet the additional demand and maintain the quality of service?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : Making use of the additional recurrent funding of \$20 million secured in 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has allocated additional resources to the 60 Integrated Home Care Services Teams to increase the service capacity of the non-frailty tested home care services for the elderly. The additional capacity has started coming into place since January 2007. SWD will continue to monitor the demand for service.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)207

Question Serial No.

2088

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2007-08, the number of Integrated Home Care Services cases is estimated to be 29 134. How many additional resources has the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provided to the service? Will additional resources be allocated to the non-government organisations providing the service if there is far more demand than expected?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : Making use of the additional recurrent funding of \$20 million secured in 2006-07, the SWD has increased the capacity of the non-frailty tested home care service for elders provided by the 60 Integrated Home Care Services teams. The additional capacity has started coming into place since January 2007. SWD projects that about 2 000 additional new cases will be served. SWD will continue to monitor the service demand.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)208

Question Serial No.

2089

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : As at end of 2006, what is the number of waitlisted cases for the Integrated Home Care Services in each of the 12 Social Welfare Department Districts? What is the longest and average waiting time in each district?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : As at December 2006, there were about 2 800 cases waiting for the non-frailty tested home care services under the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS). All of them are not urgent cases. The waiting time varies on a case by case basis, ranging from a few days to a few months. Detailed breakdown by districts is not readily available.

Making use of the additional recurrent funding of \$20 million secured in 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has increased the capacity of the IHCS Teams to serve the non-frailty cases. The additional capacity has started coming into place since January 2007. SWD projects that about 2 000 additional new cases will be served.

As a guiding principle, the IHCS Teams will continue to accord priorities to elders who have urgent needs for services and provide the most needed services (e.g. meal delivery) to them almost instantly.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)209

Question Serial No.

2091

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Under this programme, it is stated in paragraph 16 of the brief description that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) further expanded the service capacity of seven of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) Teams in 2006. Please inform this Committee of the amount of resources incurred by the above-mentioned expansion and the service capacity increased. Is the service funded by newly allocated resources, or by resources re-deployed by SWD from other services? How to ensure that the services which have their resources reduced are not affected by it?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : SWD increased the service capacity of seven EHCCS Teams in 2006-07 to provide an additional 203 places to meet the service demand. The contract recurrent expenses for these additional places is \$6.85 million per year, and is funded by the resources earmarked for EHCCS in the 2006-07 estimate.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has stated in "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08" under this Programme that it will:

"continue to increase the service capacity of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) where necessary".

What criteria will SWD use when deciding whether to increase the number of places? Will SWD provide non-government organisations with new resources to render the service?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : SWD takes into account the demand of individual districts for the EHCCS in deciding whether to increase the capacity of the EHCCS Teams. SWD has over the past two years increased the service capacity of EHCCS in 10 districts to meet the demand. The number of EHCCS users is projected to increase from 2 885 in 2005-06 to 3 385 in 2006-07. As at the end of February 2007, the utilization rate was 82.5%. SWD will continue to monitor the service demand for EHCCS and will increase the service volume for districts with high service demand where necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please explain why the financial provisions for the government sector and the subvented/private sectors in the 2006-07 Revised Estimate under this programme have been reduced by 22.3% and 5.8% respectively when compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate, despite the fact that the demand for some services (e.g. home care services) is greater than the original projection?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : For the government sector under the Programme on "Services for Elders", the reduction of the 2006-07 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate was mainly due to the lower than expected cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged.

For the subvented/private sectors under this programme, the reduction of the 2006-07 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate was mainly due to the rescheduling of the implementation of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)212

Question Serial No.

2094

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please explain why the financial provisions for the government sector and the subvented/private sectors in the 2007-08 Estimate under this programme will be reduced by 13.9% and 0.6% respectively when compared with the 2006-07 Original Estimate?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : For the government sector under the Programme on "Services for Elders", the reduction of the 2007-08 Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate was mainly due to the lower than expected cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged.

For the subvented/private sectors under this programme, the reduction of the 2007-08 Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate was mainly due to the rescheduling of the implementation of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Despite an ageing population, the estimate for elderly services is on the decrease instead of increase. How would the Administration respond to the challenge of increasing service demand arising from the ageing population?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : The reduction of the 2007-08 Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 Original Estimate in the Programme on "Services for Elders" is mainly due to the anticipated reduction in cashflow requirements for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged and the rescheduling of the implementation of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services.

To prepare for the challenges of an ageing population, the provision on subsidised residential and community care services has been increasing in the past few years:

	2005-06 (Actual) (\$ million)	2006-07 (Revised Estimate) (\$ million)	2007-08 (Estimate) (\$ million)
(a) Residential Care Services	1,936.2	1,940.6	2,025.8
(b) Community Care & Support Services	962.1	968.4	1,044.7
Total ((a) + (b))	2,898.3	2,909.0	3,070.5

"Active ageing", "ageing in the community", "continuum of care" and "targeting resources at elders most in need" are the underlying principles of our elderly policy. To enhance the quality of life of elders, we promote active ageing. For elders in need, we provide both non-contributory financial assistance through social security and a range of highly subsidised services. To assist elders to age in the community, we provide elders in the community with subsidised home-based and centre-based community care services. For those who have long term care needs and cannot be adequately taken care of at home, we provide them with subsidised residential care services.

In 2007-08, the Government will allocate an additional \$150 million to strengthen elderly care and support services, which include:

- an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes to provide assistance to elderly singletons, particularly the hidden ones, to develop their social life, and provide referral and supporting services to those in need;
- an allocation of \$96 million ^(Note) over four years to implement a trial scheme in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly hospital dischargees in need; and
- an additional \$16 million to provide subsidised residential care places in new purpose-built residential care homes for the elderly.

(Note: This sum is allocated outside Head 170 – Social Welfare Department)

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)214

Question Serial No.

2096

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much resources were deployed in implementing the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector in 2006-07? How many trainees have received training? How will the Social Welfare Department assess the programme?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : In 2006-07, the Social Welfare Department (SWD), in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, implemented two batches of Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector (the Programme) to provide 220 Enrolled Nurse training places. Tuition fees were fully subsidised by SWD. The financial provision involved was \$10.4 million.

The third batch will be launched in 2007-08 to provide an additional 110 Enrolled Nurse training place. Tuition fees were fully subsidised by SWD. The financial provision involved is \$5.2 million.

Graduates have to undertake to work in the Welfare Sector for at least a consecutive two years after graduation. This will help retain the graduates in the Welfare Sector, in particular residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), and alleviate the nursing shortage of the sector. SWD will assess the effectiveness of the Programme in helping the Welfare Sector recruit and retain the graduates.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)215

Question Serial No.

2097

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How much resources will be deployed in commencing a new round of the "Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector" in 2007-08? What is the target number of trainees?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, will launch the third batch of Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector to provide an additional 110 Enrolled Nurse training places. The financial provision involved is \$5.2 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in paragraph 21 under Brief Description of this programme that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Voluntary Registration Scheme (VRS) for the private residential care homes for persons with disabilities in 2006 to promote the quality of services of private homes. Would SWD inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the resources and manpower involved in launching VRS in 2006-07? What is the number of private homes joining VRS and the percentage against total number of private homes of similar nature across the territory?
- (2) How will SWD evaluate VRS to ensure that it achieves the target of promoting the quality of services of private homes?
- (3) How much resources and manpower will SWD deploy in launching VRS in 2007-08? What are the targets and indicators?
- (4) How much resources and manpower will SWD deploy to “plan for the licensing of all residential care homes for persons with disabilities”? What are the details and targets?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : (1) To implement the VRS for private residential care homes for the disabled (private homes), the SWD set up the Registration Office of Private Residential Care Homes for the Disabled (ROPRCHD) in September 2006 through internal redeployment of resources. ROPRCHD is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of eight members, including social work officer, nurse, building surveyor and fire officer. The total operating expenses of ROPRCHD in 2006-07 is \$1.3 million. As in February 2007, there were 37 private homes known to SWD, 23 of which had applied for joining the VRS. Site inspections to all 23 homes have been completed. All applicant homes are required to carry out improvement works in order to meet the requirements of the VRS. By end February 2007, two private homes have completed all the improvement works and joined the VRS.

- (2) The objective of the VRS is to encourage private homes to improve their service quality. To join the VRS, the private homes are required to comply with the requirements in terms of general management, fire safety, building safety and health care. The multi-disciplinary team of ROPRCHD will conduct regular inspections to the private homes to ensure that their service quality meets the VRS requirements.
- (3) A full-year provision of \$7.1 million has been secured to support the operation of the ROPRCHD in 2007-08. The number of staff of ROPRCHD will be increased to 12 comprising social work officers, nurses, building surveyor and fire officer. The ROPRCHD will continue to monitor the successful implementation of the VRS by paying regular site inspections to the private homes to ensure that their service quality meets the requirements. It is estimated that by mid-2007, around eight PRCHDs providing a total of 600 private home places will have completed the improvement works and can register under the VRS.
- (4) Apart from monitoring the implementation of the VRS, ROPRCHD is also tasked to prepare for the licensing of all residential care homes for the disabled following the introduction of legislation and related administrative work. In 2007-08, the ROPRCHD will consult stakeholders, including service operators and parents, on the licensing requirements and the information gathered will form the basis of the necessary legislative proposals on the licensing of such homes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in paragraph 21 under Brief Description of this programme that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Visiting Medical Practitioners Scheme to provide primary medical care and support to people with disabilities living in residential rehabilitation homes in 2006. Would SWD inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) How many residential rehabilitation homes in the subvented and private sectors are receiving the service in 2006 and what is the percentage they constitute against the total number of homes of similar nature in the territory?
- (2) How many people with disabilities are receiving the service in 2006, what is the average frequency of service per person and the percentage they constitute against the total number of people with disabilities living in residential rehabilitation homes in the territory?
- (3) What is the number of medical practitioners joining the Scheme in 2006? What are the resources involved?
- (4) How much resources will SWD deploy in 2007 in providing this service? What are the service indicators?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : (1) The Visiting Medical Practitioners Scheme (the Scheme) is implemented in residential care homes for the disabled (RCHDs) operated by or under the subvention of the SWD. A total of 145 RCHDs, i.e. 82% of all SWD/subvented RCHDs, have implemented the Scheme in 2006-07. Private RCHDs are not included in this Scheme.

- (2) The general medical practitioners engaged in the Scheme is required to visit the RCHDs, generally on a weekly basis, to provide on-site services including medical consultation, health assessment, advice on maintenance of patient records, advice on measures regarding infectious disease prevention, training/health talks for staff and residents, etc. For ex-mentally ill persons living in halfway houses and supported hostels, medical consultation is not included in the Scheme. These residents are encouraged to attend medical consultation in clinics to promote their independence. A total of 7 367 of the residents in the 145 RCHDs, i.e. 78% of all residents of SWD/subvented RCHDs in operation, benefited from the Scheme in 2006-07. As the Scheme is only newly implemented, statistics on the average frequency of service per person is not yet available.
- (3) In 2006-07, a total of 50 medical practitioners participated in the Scheme. The total fund for implementing the Scheme in the 145 RCHDs in the year was \$6.4 million.
- (4) All SWD/subvented RCHDs (including newly set-up homes) are eligible for funding to implement the Scheme. The objective of the Scheme is to enable service operators of each SWD/subvented RCHD to establish a service network with private general medical practitioners to provide primary medical care and support to people with disabilities living in these homes for the improvement of their general health and promotion of preventive care. Funding available in 2007-08 for the operation of the Scheme is \$10.4 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)218

Question Serial No.

2619

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in paragraph 51 of the Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary that the Government will provide an additional \$20 million to enhance outreaching services for the promotion of mental health. Could the Administration please provide a breakdown of the subheads of expenditure and set out the details of the responsible government departments, and the number and ranks of the manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : A new allocation of \$20 million will be provided for implementing the Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CMHIP) scheduled to be launched in October 2007.

The CMHIP aims to provide intensive and outreaching social work intervention to persons with suspected mental health problems who have yet to receive any specialised social work intervention or psychiatric treatment. The bulk of the new allocation will be used to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form a total of 12 CMHIP teams to deliver the new service at the 12 Social Welfare Department (SWD) administrative districts. The CMHIP Teams will provide initial assessment and specialised social work interventions, including casework, therapeutic/supportive group services, to such newly identified psychiatric cases. Where necessary, the CMHIP Teams will refer cases to the Hospital Authority (HA) for more detailed assessment and follow up services.

Other than new resources for NGOs, additional manpower will also be allocated for Medical Social Work Units (Psychiatric) of SWD to strengthen the liaison with HA and NGOs, including the follow up on new cases. SWD will work out the implementation details including apportionment of funds, manpower involved, output and outcome indicators, etc. in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

17 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 under this Programme that the Community Mental Health Intervention Project will be launched to provide proactive outreaching service and early social work intervention for people with suspected mental health problems and their families.

Would the Administration provide information on the resources, manpower and staffing establishment involved in the above service and whether the Administration has set out the implementation schedule and the service indicator?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : A new allocation of \$20 million will be provided for launching the Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CMHIP) in October 2007.

The CMHIP aims to provide intensive and outreaching social work intervention to persons with suspected mental health problems who have yet to receive any specialised social work intervention or psychiatric treatment. The bulk of the new allocation will be used to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form a total of 12 CMHIP teams to deliver the new service at the 12 Social Welfare Department (SWD) administrative districts. The CMHIP Teams will provide initial assessment and specialised social work interventions, including casework, therapeutic/supportive group services, to such newly identified psychiatric cases. Where necessary, the CMHIP Teams will refer cases to the Hospital Authority (HA) for more detailed assessment and follow up services.

Other than new resources for NGOs, additional manpower will also be allocated for Medical Social Work Units (Psychiatric) of SWD to strengthen the liaison with HA and NGOs including the follow up on new cases. SWD will work out the implementation details including apportionment of funds, manpower involved, output and outcome indicators, etc. in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the Brief Description that in 2006, the Department “provided specialised teams in medical social services to strengthen specialised support services for young persons with early signs of mental health problem”. What are the resources and manpower provided for, as well as the establishment of the teams in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively? What are the numbers of cases and clients served since the setting up of these specialised teams?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : Social Welfare Department has set up five specialised teams in its medical social services to strengthen support for young persons with early signs of mental health problems. The project, entitled “Child and Adolescent Mental Health Community Support Project”, provides early identification and intervention for children and adolescents aged 18 or below with mild to moderate degree of mental health problems.

These five specialised teams comprise a total of ten social workers, one clinical psychologist, one project officer and five project assistants. They work jointly with the five Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Teams of the Hospital Authority (HA) in the territory and receive clinical support (including that of doctors, nurses and other allied health professions) from the latter.

The annual funding earmarked for the project was \$2.5 million in 2005-06 and \$5.5 million each in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. As in December 2006, the total number of cases handled by these five specialised teams was 531 and the total number of persons attended the educational activities was 5 086.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)221

Question Serial No.

2103

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2006, the Department launched the Visiting Medical Practitioners Scheme to people with disabilities living in residential rehabilitation homes. How does the Department monitor the operation of this Scheme?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : The Visiting Medical Practitioners Scheme (the Scheme) is a three-year pilot project. Service operators of the subvented residential care homes for the disabled are required to provide quarterly statistical returns and annual review reports on the delivery of the Scheme in these homes. Each residential care home for the disabled is required to set up a service monitoring committee comprising health care personnel and representatives from the residents' carers/families to monitor the Scheme and to ensure that it is delivered in a satisfactory manner and meets the health care needs of the residents. An overall review would be conducted before the expiry of the three-year pilot project in 2009.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

17 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 that the Department will launch the Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CMHIP). What are the details of the Project? What are the resources and manpower provided for as well as the establishment of the Project in 2007-08? How many and what type of professionals will be involved in the Project? What are the objectives and projected number of clients?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : A new allocation of \$20 million will be provided for implementing the Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CMHIP) scheduled to be launched in October 2007.

The CMHIP aims to provide intensive and outreaching social work intervention to persons with suspected mental health problems who have yet to receive any specialised social work intervention or psychiatric treatment. The bulk of the new allocation will be used to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to form a total of 12 CMHIP teams to deliver the new service at the 12 Social Welfare Department (SWD) administrative districts. The CMHIP Teams will provide initial assessment and specialised social work interventions, including casework, therapeutic/supportive group services, to such newly identified psychiatric cases. Where necessary, the CMHIP Teams will refer cases to the Hospital Authority (HA) for more detailed assessment and follow up services.

Other than new resources for NGOs, additional manpower will also be allocated for Medical Social Work Units (Psychiatric) of SWD to strengthen the liaison with HA and NGOs including the follow up on new cases. The CMHIP Teams, comprising mainly social workers, will work with different professionals, including medical practitioners and nurses to provide well co-ordinated services. SWD will work out the implementation details including apportionment of funds, manpower involved, output and outcome indicators, etc. in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In light of the concluding remarks of the United Nations Hearing on the Second Report on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Government needs to allocate adequate resources to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, and provide in its next report a breakdown of the provisions in the Budget. What are the specific plans and how to promote the concluding remarks of the United Nations? How will assistance be provided to facilitate the psychosocial development of children witnessing domestic violence? If there is no such plan, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In its advanced unedited concluding comments on the Second Report of the HKSAR submitted under the CEDAW, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the UN Committee) commended the efforts made by the HKSAR Government to protect women against violence. It has recommended the HKSAR to continue to, inter-alia, allocate sufficient resources to combat domestic violence. In this connection, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided in 2007-08 to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need.

On publicity arrangements, the advanced unedited concluding comments of the UN Committee are already uploaded on the websites of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) and the Women's Commission (WoC) for public information. We are awaiting confirmation from the UN Committee on the status of its unedited concluding comments on various reports submitted by signatory countries. Once confirmation is to hand, we will arrange to distribute copies of the Convention together with the final concluding comments on HKSAR's Second Report to women's groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which concerned with women issues.

To promote public awareness of the CEDAW, we have launched in 2005-06 a 9-month long roving exhibition in 19 government office buildings and public libraries across the territory on the progress made in the implementation of CEDAW and the advancement of women

development in Hong Kong. We have also produced a leaflet, and a video on this and distributed them to members of the public, Legislative Council Members and public libraries, as well as over 250 women's groups and NGOs. In consultation with the WoC, we are drawing up the publicity arrangements on the final concluding comments by the UN Committee.

The Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations provide various services to support victims of domestic violence including post-trauma counselling, individual and group psychological treatment and other support services for children witnessing domestic violence. The services are mainly provided by the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Clinical Psychology Units (CPUs). In 2007-08, additional resources will be provided to strengthen the manpower of FCPSUs and CPUs to enhance support for these victims.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)224

Question Serial No.

1524

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In relation to the rebus service, please reply to the following questions:

1. What is the vehicle age of the rebususes?
2. What is the number of the rebususes the Administration plans to replace in the coming three years?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

1. The rebus fleet currently comprises 95 rebususes. The average age of the rebususes is 5.8 years as at end December 2006, ranging from 1 month to 12 years.
2. To improve the service quality of rebus, the Administration plans to replace nine rebususes in 2007-08, thereby bringing down the average age of the fleet to 5.5 years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ALAN WONG

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the launch of the New Dawn (ND) Project, a trial employment assistance project, to help Comprehensive Social Security Assistance single parent and child carer recipients with their youngest child aged 12 to 14 build up capacity to become self-reliant through engagement in employment and integrate into the community as early as possible, how many cases have been exempted from joining the project ever since its implementation and what are the reasons for exemption?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Since the implementation of the ND Project in April 2006 and up to the end of January 2007, a total of 8 949 target participants were exempted from joining the ND Project for the following reasons:

- (a) have to take care of vulnerable family members such as disabled, senile or in ill-health;
- (b) already engaged in paid employment with monthly working hours of 32 or more;
- (c) being recently bereaved;
- (d) have special problems based on the social worker's assessment; and
- (e) aged over 59 years and 5 months.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)226

Question Serial No.

2117

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the average amount per month deducted from the unemployment and low-earnings categories of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients under the provision of disregarded earnings (DE) in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : After disregarding the earnings from employment under the DE provision, the remaining earnings will be included as the monthly assessable income of those unemployed and low-earnings CSSA recipients. The monthly average of such assessable income for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 are as follows :

Year	Unemployed CSSA recipients	Low-earnings CSSA recipients
2004-05 *	\$149	\$2,484
2005-06 *	\$148	\$2,495
2006-07 (as at December 2006)	\$147	\$2,500

* Figures are as at end of March of the financial year.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the number of cases that have been suspended payment of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) by nature of case for the financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively and the reasons for the suspension. Amongst those cases, please also provide by month the number of cases that have resumed CSSA payment.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The number of cases closed during 2004-05 to 2006-07 by case nature and by closure reason are set out below:

	Number of CSSA cases closed during the financial year 2004-05						
	Closure reason						
Case nature	Excessive absences over limit	Deceased	Ineligible	Lost contact	Withdrawal	Others	Total
Old age	174	9 853	191	327	1 634	270	12 449
Permanent disability	10	235	74	117	525	91	1 052
Ill health	30	495	116	491	1 500	210	2 842
Low earnings	6	14	79	215	1 213	23	1 550
Single parent	17	23	126	526	2 735	153	3 580
Unemployment	80	341	535	3 575	6 491	1 218	12 240
Others	2	24	26	238	507	129	926
Total	319	10 985	1 147	5 489	14 605	2 094	34 639

	Number of CSSA cases closed during the financial year 2005-06						
	Closure reason						
Case nature	Excessive absences over limit	Deceased	Ineligible	Lost contact	Withdrawal	Others	Total
Old age	139	10 459	166	246	1 710	199	12 919
Permanent disability	9	191	54	95	600	80	1 029
Ill health	23	461	133	444	1 708	207	2 976
Low earnings	5	17	71	199	1 508	39	1 839
Single parent	17	22	155	571	3 383	106	4 254
Unemployment	62	308	467	2 973	6 383	694	10 887
Others	5	25	35	244	681	192	1 182
Total	260	11 483	1 081	4 772	15 973	1 517	35 086

	Number of CSSA cases closed during the financial year 2006-07 (up to February 2007)						
	Closure reason						
Case nature	Excessive absences over limit	Deceased	Ineligible	Lost contact	Withdrawal	Others	Total
Old age	85	8 739	172	202	2 011	168	11 377
Permanent disability	4	193	62	77	665	81	1 082
Ill health	10	395	113	352	1 709	161	2 740
Low earnings	0	12	63	151	1 646	22	1 894
Single parent	6	22	153	536	3 789	67	4 573
Unemployment	21	299	353	2 244	5 868	505	9 290
Others	2	16	30	286	755	272	1 361
Total	128	9 676	946	3 848	16 443	1 276	32 317

We do not keep a record of the above cases that have resumed CSSA payment. The number of CSSA re-applications received for 2004-05 to 2006-07 is set out below:

Month	Financial year		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (up to Feb 2007)
Apr	2 722	2 455	1 933
May	2 713	2 337	2 185
Jun	2 828	2 452	2 723
Jul	2 645	2 919	2 153
Aug	2 650	2 447	2 220
Sep	2 411	2 346	2 062
Oct	2 336	2 311	1 875
Nov	2 511	2 266	1 983
Dec	2 312	2 040	1 716
Jan	2 398	1 825	1 916
Feb	1 763	2 042	1 351
Mar	2 521	2 399	-
Total	29 810	27 839	22 117

Note: The case closed during 2004-05 to 2006-07 may not re-apply in the same year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)228

Question Serial No.

2119

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases by nature of case in each District Council Constituency at present.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The number of CSSA active cases by nature of case and geographical district as at the end of February 2007 are as follows:

Geographical district*	Case nature							
	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Central and Western	2 521	221	326	305	137	444	75	4 029
Eastern	8 414	1 137	1 048	1 650	778	1 208	313	14 548
Islands	1 645	249	499	876	665	990	217	5 141
Kowloon City	8 754	669	1 164	1 609	572	1 487	263	14 518
Kwai Tsing	14 114	2 171	2 042	3 419	2 249	3 682	500	28 177
Kwun Tong	19 562	1 705	2 282	4 155	2 391	3 655	545	34 295
North	7 156	666	1 350	2 178	719	1 416	402	13 887
Sai Kung	4 120	900	1 079	1 722	1 066	1 322	275	10 484
Sha Tin	9 190	1 348	1 837	2 567	1 174	1 941	405	18 462
Sham Shui Po	14 166	1 119	2 150	2 988	1 463	4 223	469	26 578
Southern	5 648	1 127	655	877	498	367	165	9 337
Tai Po	5 975	477	955	1 505	438	1 022	254	10 626
Tsuen Wan	4 992	459	559	1 269	463	1 118	235	9 095
Tuen Mun	10 030	2 187	2 249	3 145	882	3 153	440	22 086
Wan Chai	1 775	123	227	186	88	452	98	2 949
Wong Tai Sin	13 155	1 294	1 858	2 961	1 750	2 483	414	23 915
Yau Tsim Mong	5 874	493	1 062	1 422	460	3 178	265	12 754
Yuen Long	12 115	1 631	2 863	5 427	2 206	4 724	603	29 569
Others#	3 225	0	38	10	8	22	47	3 350

Total	152 431	17 976	24 243	38 271	18 007	36 887	5 985	293 800
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- Notes: * The geographical district of cases in our Computerised Social Security System is broadly similar to the boundary of the District Council Constituency.
- # Including cases of Portable CSSA (PCSSA) Scheme with recipients living in Guangdong/Fujian and those without information on geographical district.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of nursing places remains at 1 574 for the past three years. The homepage of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) shows that the average waiting time for a nursing place is 38 months, and that the most recent female elder being allocated a nursing place submitted her application in January 2002. What are the new measures to be taken by SWD in 2007-08 to shorten the elderly's waiting time for the above service? Will SWD increase the number of places to meet the huge demand?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : There has been a steady increase in the number of subsidised nursing places in the past few years. At present, there are 1 864 subsidised nursing places. 1 574 of them are in six subvented nursing homes. The remaining 290 are in seven contract homes in purpose-built premises.

In view of the demand for subsidised nursing places, SWD will continue to provide additional subsidised nursing places in new contract homes. An additional 147 subsidised nursing places will be provided in three contract homes which will commence operation in 2007-08.

All the care-and-attention (C&A) places in the existing and new contract homes provide continuum of care including nursing level of care. Also, in line with the principle that subsidised residential care places for the elderly should provide long term care (LTC) and continuum of care, SWD has since 2005-06 implemented the programme of converting self-care hostel and home for the aged places which have no LTC element, and some existing C&A places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places providing continuum of care including nursing level of care to better meet elders' need for LTC services.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)230

Question Serial No.

2124

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the commissioning of evaluation studies on the New Dawn (ND) Project, the Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP) and the District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects by the Administration in 2006-07, what are the details and findings of the evaluation studies as well as the expenditure involved? What are the details of work and the expenditure involved in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The cost of evaluation study on the ND Project is \$0.8 million. The evaluation study is in progress and is expected to be completed by mid-2007.

The total cost of the evaluation studies on the My STEP and DEAT Projects is \$0.6 million. The evaluation studies are in progress and are expected to be completed by end-2007 and end-2008 respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)231

Question Serial No.

2125

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many applications have been received from private residential care homes for the elderly to participate in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme at the invitation of the Administration in 2006-07? How many applications have been approved and what is the expenditure involved? What are the details of the scheme in 2007-08 and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The Social Welfare Department plans to purchase an additional 450 places from private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in 2007-08. The estimated annual financial provision is \$30 million

We have invited applications from private RCHEs in August 2006. Assessment of the applications received is underway, as such the number of applications received is considered market-sensitive and cannot, therefore, be disclosed at this stage. The assessment results will be ready in mid 2007.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	14 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2007-08, \$20 million will be earmarked for the implementation of the Community Mental Health Intervention Project to provide proactive outreaching service and early social work intervention for people with suspected mental health problems and their families.

- (1) Will the provision include training of front-line staff to support the early identification service?
- (2) In view of the strengthening of the early identification service and the increase in demand for treatment, will additional funding be provided for relevant treatment services?
- (3) Will the provision for outreaching services include preliminary treatment?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) The new Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CMHIP) is planned to be operated by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with good experience in providing social rehabilitation services to ex-mentally ill persons. Under the existing Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, NGOs would have the flexibility in the deployment of subvention resources to meet the service needs related to the concerned Funding and Service Agreement activities, including the training needs of frontline staff.

- (2)&(3) Hospital Authority (HA) will allocate specific funding to enhance its community psychiatric services such that complex cases that cannot be dealt with by the social workers will be supported by HA's psychiatrists and nurses. The prompt engagement of persons with early signs of mental distress can help promote better mental health of the community. Social Welfare Department will, in collaboration with HA, review in time the effectiveness of the Project and monitor the service demand and resource implication.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Temporary Financial Aid (TFA) in the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs), please advise the actual amount used (and the percentage) in each of the four batches of IEAPs and the New Dawn (ND) Project.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Up to the end of January 2007, the amount of expenditure of TFA in each of the four batches of IEAPs and ND IEAPs is as follows:

(1) IEAPs

Batch No.	Implementation Period	Actual amount of expenditure and percentage to allocation (\$ million)
1	Oct 2003 – Sep 2006	1.8 (7.4%)
2	Oct 2004 – Sep 2007 (up to January 2007)	0.8 (4.6%)
3	Oct 2005 – Sep 2007 (up to January 2007)	0.7 (5.2%)
4	Oct 2006 – Sep 2008 (up to January 2007)	0.1 (1.4%)
Total		3.4 (5.3%)

(2) ND IEAPs

Implementation Period	Actual amount of expenditure and percentage to allocation (\$ million)
Apr 2006 – Sep 2007 (up to January 2007)	0.1 (3.5%)

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Temporary Financial Aid (TFA) in the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs), please advise the actual amount used to meet participants' employment-related expense - by client type (Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) participants and near-CSSA participants) and by forms (loan and grant).

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The following sets out the amounts of TFA released under the IEAPs by client type and by forms. To give a complete picture, the TFA released for both employment-related expenses and short term basic needs are given.

Batch No. Implementation Period		CSSA participants (TFA only for employment-relat ed expenses)		'Near-CSSA' participants (TFA for both employment-related expenses and short term basic needs)	
		Loan (\$ million)	Grant (\$ million)	Loan (\$ million)	Grant (\$ million)
1st	Oct 2003 – Sep 2006	0.85	0.32	0.46	0.14
2nd	Oct 2004 – Sep 2007	0.30	0.30	0.10	0.13
3rd	Oct 2005 – Sep 2007	0.24	0.24	0.11	0.06
4th	Oct 2006 – Sep 2008 (as at end of Jan 2007)	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.02
Total		1.43	0.91	0.69	0.35

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)235

Question Serial No.

2131

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Temporary Financial Aid (TFA) in the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs), please advise the actual amount used to cover the 'near-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)' participants' short term basic needs - by forms (loan and grant).

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The amounts of TFA under the IEAPs released to cover the 'near-CSSA' participants' short-term basic needs by forms are as follows:

Implementation Period (from October 2003 to January 2007)	Short term basic needs (only for 'Near-CSSA' participants)	
	Loan (\$ million)	Grant (\$ million)
Total	0.27	0.16

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)236

Question Serial No.

2132

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Temporary Financial Aid (TFA) under the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs), please advise how much was repaid in the form of loan given to participants - by batches and by purposes (for employment-related or for short term basic needs).

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : As at the end of January 2007, the amounts of TFA released in the form of loans under the IEAPs by batches, by purposes and the amount repaid are as follows:

Batch No.	Implementation Period	Employment-related purposes (for CSSA participants and near-CSSA participants)		Short-term basic needs (only for near-CSSA participants)	
		Loan (\$ million)	Amount Repaid (\$ million)	Loan (\$ million)	Amount Repaid (\$ million)
1st	Oct 2003 – Sep 2006	1.12	0.34	0.19	0.06
2nd	Oct 2004 – Sep 2007	0.35	0.13	0.05	0.02
3rd	Oct 2005 – Sep 2007	0.33	0.07	0.02	0.004
4th	Oct 2006 – Sep 2008 (as at end of Jan 2007)	0.05	0.004	0.01	0.00
Total		1.85	0.54	0.27	0.08

Signature
 Name in block letters
 Post Title
 Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs), please advise the total number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and 'near-CSSA' persons participated in each of the four batches.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : From October 2003 to the end of January 2007, 42 215 participants (including 32 942 CSSA participants and 9 273 'near-CSSA' participants) have joined the IEAPs. The breakdown is as follows:

Batch No.	Implementation Period	No. of CSSA participants	No. of 'near-CSSA' participants
1st	Oct 2003 – Sep 2006	4 778	1 467
2nd	Oct 2004 – Sep 2007	8 705	2 874
3rd	Oct 2005 – Sep 2007	14 855	4 076
4th	Oct 2006 – Sep 2008 (as at end of Jan 2007)	4 604	856
Total		32 942	9 273

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)238

Question Serial No.

2241

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many child care centres are there in Hong Kong in 2006-07? How many students are there and how many places are provided?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply : Upon harmonisation of pre-primary services in 2005, "child care centre" is re-defined as a centre serving children aged under three. In 2006-07, there are 13 aided standalone child care centres under the monitoring of the Social Welfare Department, providing about 690 places. As at December 2006, the enrolment rate was 88%.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)239

Question Serial No.

2242

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many kindergarten teachers (not including teachers at kindergarten-cum-child care centres) are working in child care centres in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply : Upon harmonisation of pre-primary services in 2005, the staff qualifications of child care workers and qualified kindergarten teachers are mutually recognised, i.e. child care workers will be recognised as qualified kindergarten teachers while their counterparts will receive reciprocal treatment. As at September 2006, 90 child care workers were working in the 13 aided standalone child care centres under the monitoring of the Social Welfare Department. We do not have information on the number of kindergarten teachers working in these child care centres.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)240

Question Serial No.

2243

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is noted that there will be a net increase of 77 posts in 2007-08. Please list out in detail the number of posts to be deleted and created, the reasons for their deletion and creation and the assessment of its impact on service quality.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : Under Programme (2), 80 posts will be created in 2007-08 to provide front-line social security services in the 37 social security field units over the territory to meet the operational needs of our estimated increase in Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and Social Security Allowance cases. The creation will be offset by deletion of three posts which are no longer required upon completion of time-limited projects and thus the services provided by the Department will not be affected.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The number of aged blind home places has been reduced from 20 (provided by the subvented sector) in 2005-06 to zero in 2007-08. For the aged blind affected, are there any "other" elderly care services provided in the 2007-08 estimate to allow those in need to be taken care of? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : In line with the policy objectives of "Ageing in Place" and "Continuum of Care", and in view of the limited demand for aged blind homes from blind elderly who have higher self-care capability, places of aged blind homes were converted into care-and-attention (C&A) home places to serve the more frail aged blind. The conversion exercise was implemented by phases starting from January 2005 and was completed in April 2006. Upon the conversion, 100 places at C&A home for the aged blind were created to serve the more frail aged blind persons. For the blind elderly with higher self-care capability living in the community, a wide range of community care and support services including Day Care Centre for the Elderly, Enhanced Home and Community Care Services, Integrated Home Care Services and Support Teams for the Elderly are provided to enable them to continue to live in the community.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration has from 2005-06 converted in phases self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places into care and attention (C&A) places to provide continuum of care. Can this measure effectively meet the challenges of an ageing population? Has the reduction in the number of care and attention places affected any elders?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : In line with the principle that subsidised residential care places for the elderly should provide long term care (LTC) and continuum of care, the Social Welfare Department has since 2005-06 implemented the programme of converting self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places which have no LTC element, and some existing care-and-attention (C&A) places not providing continuum of care, into C&A places providing continuum of care. The welfare sector supported the conversion proposal and the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was consulted on the programme in 2005.

The conversion exercise is conducted on a subventions-neutral basis. The C&A places created under the programme will provide continuum of care which will better meet elders' need for LTC services. As the unit cost of a C&A place providing continuum of care is higher than the unit cost of a place not providing continuum of care, the number of C&A places to be created under the programme will be smaller than the number of places being replaced. There will not be displacement of elders from the participating homes as conversion will be vacancy-led, which enables existing elders to stay in their existing homes for as long as necessary. If their health condition deteriorates, they will be given priority to occupy the C&A places providing continuum of care created in their homes.

To meet the challenges of an ageing population, we have been promoting and facilitating elders to age in the community through subsidised home-based and centre-based community care and support services. Also, we have been increasing the supply of subsidised residential care places for the elderly. In 2007-08, about 600 additional subsidised residential care places for the elderly will be created in new purpose-built premises and through purchasing places from private residential care homes for the elderly.

As the population ages, the demand for subsidised residential care places will increase. The Commission on Poverty and the Elderly Commission will continue to explore ways of responding to the challenges effectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)243

Question Serial No.

2246

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Administration reduced eight standalone child care centre places and two occasional child care units in 2006. What are the reasons? What is the amount of provision saved? The number of child care centre places has been reduced despite the Government's policy of encouraging people to give birth. Is it a contravention to the Government's policy?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : Upon harmonisation of pre-primary services in 2005, "child care centre" is re-defined as a centre serving children aged under three. A child care centre may consist of a day crèche section for children aged under two and a day nursery section for children aged two to under three. The reduction of eight places is proposed by the centre operator to convert them to become 28 half-day nursery places in view of the low demand for crèche service and increasing demand for half-day service for children aged two to under three. Arising from this conversion of places, the operator has to employ an additional child care worker at its own cost. The conversion results in an annual savings in subvention of \$0.03 million for the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

The reduction of two occasional child care units is the net effect of the closure of three child care centres initiated by the service operators as a result of low utilisation, with one of the three concerned units to be re-provisioned to another district with service demand. The net annual amount saved is about \$0.16 million which includes staff cost and other charges. As at December 2006, the overall utilisation rate of the occasional child care service was 62.4%.

SWD will continue to monitor the service need of day child care services taking into account factors such as the population profile, and work out service re-engineering plans with non-governmental organisation operators when necessary.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)244

Question Serial No.

2585

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In 2007-08, the Government will continue to oversee the implementation of the Family Support Programme. What is the total number of people approached since its implementation? What kinds of problems do they have?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : To increase contacts with needy families who are reluctant to seek help, a Family Support Programme (FSP) has been launched in the Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units since early 2007. Under the FSP, through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, we aim to introduce the families at risk, including families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation, to various support services available and motivate them to receive services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. Volunteers including those who have overcome family/personal problems or crises will be recruited and trained to contact these families and to provide them with support and assistance. Programme Assistants have also been employed to provide logistical support to the social workers. As the FSP has just been launched since early 2007, service statistics are not yet available.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)245

Question Serial No.

1096

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

Please advise what specific plans will be made by the Administration to improve and extend the Comprehensive Child Development Service as mentioned under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08" [under Programme (2) Disease Prevention of the Controlling Officer's Report of the Department of Health]. What are the expenditure involved and the expected results of the implementation?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

A total of \$30 million has been allocated to launch, improve and partially extend the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) pilot. The pilot has been implemented in Sham Shui Po, Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O in phases since 2005. We have completed a review of the pilot run. The review shows that the CCDS has strengthened cross-sectoral collaboration and enhanced access to health and social services. With needy cases identified and tackled at an early stage, it is hoped that the costs imposed on the society for providing support services at a later stage could be reduced in the long run. We plan to extend CCDS to all districts in phases and strengthen social services support.

Meanwhile, improvement measures have been undertaken to address the issues identified during the pilot run, including enhancing the structural facilities at the Maternal and Child Health Centres and strengthening relevant manpower support. In 2007-08, we will extend the CCDS to Tung Chung, the whole district of Yuen Long and Kwun Tong. We will closely monitor the impact of the CCDS on social services support and when necessary, follow up on the resource requirements.

Signature

Name in block letters

Ms Sandra LEE

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare
and Food (Health & Welfare)

Post Title

Date

13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HWFB(WW)246

2620

Head : 140 Government Secretariat : Health, Welfare
and Food Bureau (Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme : (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : The Financial Secretary has in paragraph 53 of the 2007-08 Budget Speech announced that \$96 million will be allocated to implement a trial scheme in the next four years in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly dischargees who have difficulty taking care of themselves. Please provide details of the following:

- the yearly funding amount and cost breakdown;
- the Government Department(s) and organization(s) receiving the funding;
- the districts for implementing the trial scheme;
- the number of elderly beneficiaries in each district; and
- the staffing establishment for the service.

Asked by : Hon CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : To strengthen elderly care and support services, the 2007-08 Budget earmarked \$96 million in the next four years to implement a trial scheme in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly discharged from hospitals who have difficulty taking care of themselves.

In consultation with the Elderly Commission and relevant parties, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau will work out the details of the trial scheme, including the service contents, the mode of delivery, the districts for implementing the trial scheme, the medical and social welfare interface, and the cost involved.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Ms Sandra LEE
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)
Date	12.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the calculation method of the unit cost of various types of subsidised residential care places? What will be the calculation criteria if the calculation involves care staff? Are there any plans to review the calculation method of the subsidy level? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : In terms of funding mode, there are three types of subsidised residential care places for the elderly, namely places in homes run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) under the subvention mode, places in contract homes under service contracts, and purchased places under service contracts in private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS).

For subsidised places in NGO-run RCHEs under the subvention mode and subsidised places in private RCHEs participating in EBPS, the amount of Government's recurrent subsidy to the service providers is calculated by adding up the "Personal Emoluments" of the notional staff establishment (including care staff) set at prescribed salary points making reference to the civil servant pay scale and "Other Charges" for operating the service, and deducting the prescribed "Fee Income" which the service operators will receive from the elderly users.

For subsidised places in contract homes, the same formula is adopted in the calculation of Government's recurrent subsidy. However, reference will be made to the market wages in setting the Personal Emoluments for all the staff, including care staff. The amount of Government's recurrent subsidy in a particular year will also be adjusted upwards or downwards according to the Composite Consumer Price Index.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)248

Question Serial No.

2465

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Currently, subsidy from the Government will be directly paid to the organisations providing subsidised residential care places. Would the Government consider changing the subvention mode in the future by directly paying the subsidy to the elders (i.e. "money follows the elders")?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : On long-term care financing, the Administration is exploring possible options having regard to developments in the studies on health care financing options. The "Fee Assistance Scheme for Residential Care Services for Elders" can be one of the options to be studied further.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the 2006-07 budget that the Administration will provide specialised teams in medical social services to strengthen specialised support services for young persons with early signs of mental health problem. In this connection, could the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the outcome of the scheme using the concrete plan mentioned in 2006-07 as the indicator?
- (2) whether the manpower for the specialised teams in medical social services will be strengthened in 2007-08? If yes, please provide a breakdown by grades.
- (3) the expenditure earmarked for this service in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has set up five specialised teams in its medical social services to strengthen support for young persons with early signs of mental health problems. The project, entitled "Child and Adolescent Mental Health Community Support Project", provides early identification and intervention for children and adolescents aged 18 or below with mild to moderate degree of mental health problems. The progress of the project is as follow:

- (1) by December 2006, the five specialised teams have provided educational activities on youth mental health to 5 086 parents, teachers and youth workers in the community. In addition, the teams have also handled a total of 531 cases;
- (2) the Administration has no plan to increase the provision of medical social workers for these five specialised teams in 2007-08; and
- (3) the funding earmarked for the project in 2007-08 is \$5.5 million.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

17 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)250

Question Serial No.

2470

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What is the amount to be allocated to enhance the services of the District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs), taking into account the recommendations of the Report on the Study of the Re-engineered DECCs and NECs? Please provide details of the services.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In line with the recommendation of the Evaluation Study of the Re-engineered Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and District Elderly Community Centres (the Study), an additional amount of \$38 million is earmarked in 2007-08 for enhancing the manpower provision of the existing 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) to strengthen their outreach and support services to singleton and hidden elders.

Also, we are following up the other recommendations of the Study.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)251

Question Serial No.

2494

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (1), please state in detail the titles, purposes, natures, time frame of, as well as the resources allocated for the new services in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need. Of these, about \$26 million will be allocated to set up additional Family and Child Protective Services Units, to strengthen the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, and reinforce the clinical psychological service and services of Integrated Family Service Centres. The remaining \$5 million will be allocated to provide more flexible types of child care services, such as the launching of a new day small group home service, extension of the day foster care service and strengthening the service of Mutual Help Child Care Centres by providing financial incentives to operators and subsidy to needy families. These services are operated either by the Social Welfare Department or non-governmental organisations, or both. We expect to deliver these enhanced services in 2007-08 after discussing the implementation details with the relevant service operators.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)252

Question Serial No.

2495

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the brief description of Programme (1), how many domestic violence cases were handled in 2006-07 and what was the average expenditure per case? What is the budget for handling domestic violence in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Domestic violence cases are defined under this programme area as family and child protection supervision cases. In 2006-07, 9 361 such cases were handled by the Family and Child Protective Services Units. The estimated cost was \$1,188 per case per month. In 2007-08, the estimated total expenditure for the above is about \$135 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding item 5 under the brief description of Programme (1), please explain the reason for reducing two small group homes, 24 residential nursery places, eight standalone child care centre places and two occasional child care units.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The re-engineering of residential child care services is a joint effort of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the non-governmental organisations. The aim is to better re-distribute existing resources to services that will benefit more children and better suit their needs, thereby achieving a better match between service demand and provision.

Through this exercise, the overall number of places available in the residential child care services has increased in 2006-07. Specifically, while there was a reduction of 16 regular small group home places and 24 residential nursery places, the decrease was more than made up by the provision of 10 more foster care places, 12 more places in residential homes for children as well as 23 more emergency/short-term small group home places, resulting in a net increase of five places. The financial resources for the residential services for children are \$367 million in 2006-07.

Upon harmonisation of pre-primary services in 2005, "child care centre" is re-defined as a centre serving children aged under three. A child care centre may consist of a day crèche section for children aged under two and a day nursery section for children aged two to under three. The reduction of eight places is proposed by the centre operator to convert them to become 28 half-day nursery places in view of the low demand for crèche service and increasing demand for half-day service for children aged two to under three. The conversion results in an annual savings of \$0.03 million for the SWD.

The reduction of two occasional child care units is the net effect of the closure of three child care centres initiated by the service operators as a result of low utilisation, with one of the three concerned units to be re-provisioned to another district with service demand. The net annual amount saved is about \$0.16 million which includes staff cost and other

charges. As at December 2006, the overall utilisation rate of the occasional child care service was 62.4%.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)254

Question Serial No.

2497

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 under Programme (1), please state in detail the 2007-08 estimate for setting up additional Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs).

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : We will enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need through setting up of additional FCPSUs. Forming such new teams will involve both additional resources and redistribution of work and resources among existing teams. There is no separate breakdown of expenditure for the setting up of additional teams.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (2), please state in detail the titles, purposes, nature and time frame of, as well as the resources allocated for the new services in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will continue to conduct and monitor the New Dawn (ND) Project, Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP), District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects and the Community Work-cum-Occupational Skills Training (CW-cum-OST) Project.

The 18-month ND Project has been launched since April 2006. It aims to help the single parents and child carers with their youngest child aged 12 to 14 on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) build up their capacity for work, integrate into society and move to self-reliance through engagement in work as early as possible. The total cost of running the ND Project, including Intensive Employment Assistance Projects specially for single parents and child carers operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), is \$30 million, shared between the Lotteries Fund (\$22.9 million) and the SWD (\$7.1 million). Up to the end of January 2007, 7 349 participants joined the Project. Of these, 1 744 participants have secured paid employment with no less than 32 working hours in a month.

My STEP, a 12-month project, has been launched since October 2006. It aims to provide a comprehensive package of employment assistance services as well as motivational/disciplinary training to no less than 50 long-term CSSA able-bodied unemployed youth aged between 15 and 24 to motivate and assist them to rejoin the workforce or return to mainstream schooling. The cost of running My STEP by NGOs is \$1.5 million. Up to the end of January 2007, 68 participants were recruited.

Three 24-month DEAT Projects have been launched since October 2006 to help 300 long-term CSSA able-bodied unemployed recipients living in three districts, namely Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai to return to workforce. The total cost of running the three DEAT

Projects by NGOs is \$4.5 million. Up to the end of January 2007, 74 participants were recruited.

The 17-month CW-cum-OST Project has been implemented since January 2006. The Project provides skill training and CW placements to 216 long-term unemployed CSSA recipients living in Kwun Tong and Kowloon City districts. The cost of running this trial project by NGOs is 1.5 million. Up to the end of January 2007, 244 participants were recruited.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)256

Question Serial No.

2499

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (2), would the Administration allocate funds for rendering assistance to the working poor in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Under Head 170 Programme (2), the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme provides financial assistance to bring the income of needy families, including low income families, to a prescribed level to meet their basic needs. The estimated expenditure on CSSA low earnings cases for 2007-08 is \$1,472 million.

CSSA is not the only government service available to families with low-earnings. Various government services such as housing, education, health, employment, training/retraining and welfare are also available to this group.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)257

Question Serial No.

2500

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 under Programme (2), the Administration commissioned evaluation studies on the New Dawn (ND) Project, the Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP) and the District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects. What is the actual expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has commissioned academic research teams to conduct evaluation studies on the ND Project at \$0.8 million and on the My STEP and DEAT Projects at \$0.6 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)258

Question Serial No.

2501

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 under Programme (2), what are the estimates in 2007-08 for investigating the fraud and abuse cases under the social security schemes?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The estimate in 2007-08 for investigating the fraud and abuse cases under the social security schemes is \$42.6 million.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (3), please set out in detail the titles, purposes, nature, timeframe and the financial provision of the new services in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Under the Programme on "Services for Elders", the following new services will be provided in 2007-08 -

- (i) with an additional \$38 million, the existing 41 District Elderly Community Centres and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres will strengthen their outreaching and support services to hidden and singleton elders;
- (ii) three contract homes, providing a total of 212 subsidised residential care places for the elderly and 40 day care places in the same homes, will commence operation in early 2008 at an estimated annual provision of around \$18.5 million;
- (iii) in addition to (ii), we are planning for an additional 600 subsidised residential care places. 150 will be provided in new purpose-built premises. 450 will be made available through purchasing places in private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme at an annual provision of \$30 million utilising Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s in-house resources. Besides, an additional \$16 million recurrent funding has been earmarked in 2007-08 Budget to provide more subsidised residential care places in new contract homes providing both care-and-attention places and nursing places;
- (iv) a new Day Care Centre for the Elderly providing a total of 40 day care places will commence operation in March 2008 at an estimated annual provision of around \$2.6 million; and
- (v) the SWD, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, will commence the third batch of Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector in December 2007 to provide an additional

110 Enrolled Nurse training places at a financial provision of \$5.2 million.

In addition, the Government will allocate \$96 million ^(Note) over four years to implement a trial scheme in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly hospital discharges in need.

(Note : This sum is allocated outside Head 170-Social Welfare Department)

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)260

Question Serial No.

2503

Head : 140 Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :
Health Welfare and Food Bureau
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme : (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health
and Welfare)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (3), would the Administration earmark resources to
commission a study on universal pension scheme in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The Government is now studying the sustainability of Hong Kong's three pillars of
retirement protection (namely the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance
Scheme and Old Age Allowance, a Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme and
voluntary private savings) and expects to complete it in 2007. The Government will
consider the findings of the study before deciding on the future course of action.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Ms Sandra LEE

Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare
and Food (Health and Welfare)

13.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)261

Question Serial No.

2504

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (3), would the Administration earmark more resources to increase the number of care-and-attention and nursing places for the elderly in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : In 2007-08, 662 additional subsidised residential care places will become available. 515 of them will be subsidised care and attention (C&A) places (450 will be purchased from private residential care homes for the elderly. 65 in three new contract homes). 147 will be subsidised nursing places in three new contract homes.

Besides, an additional \$16 million recurrent funding has been earmarked in 2007-08 Budget to provide more subsidised residential care places in new contract homes providing both C&A places and nursing places.

As the population ages, the demand for subsidised residential care places will increase. The Commission on Poverty and the Elderly Commission will continue to explore ways of responding to the challenges effectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)262

Question Serial No.

2505

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (3), would the Administration subsidise more District Elderly Community Centres, Neighbourhood Elderly Centres, Social Centres for the Elderly and Day Care Centres for the Elderly in face of an ageing population?

Asked by : Hon. Ho Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Currently, there are 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) and 58 Social Centres for the Elderly (S/Es) which form a territory-wide social support network for the elders in the community and their carers. Over 170 000 elders are members of the DECCs, NECs and S/Es. We will continue to monitor the service need for additional elderly centres in each district.

The 2007-08 Budget earmarked an additional \$38 million to the 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes to provide assistance to more singleton or hidden elders in the community.

Also, we are helping DECCs/NECs which are operating in premises of areas smaller than the prescribed internal floor area provision to relocate or to set up branch-bases.

The number of day care places for the elderly will also increase from 1 975 in 2006-07 to 2 055 in 2007-08.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding Programme (4), please state in detail the titles, purposes, nature, time frame of, as well as resources allocated for the new services in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Under Programme (4) : Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services, the planned additional provisions and new services for 2007-08, their purposes and nature, as well as their estimated expenditure under this Programme are set out below. Except for one integrated rehabilitation services centre providing 51 places for day activity centre cum hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons and 53 integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre places which is targeted to start operation in the first quarter of 2007-08, the rest would come on stream some time during the second to the fourth quarter of 2007-08.

Additional Provisions and New Services for 2007-08	Purpose and Nature	Estimated Expenditure for 2007-08 (\$ million)
1. Addition of 161 hostel places for severely mentally handicapped persons	Residential service to provide home living for the severely mentally handicapped persons who lack basic self-care skills and require assistance in personal and some nursing care	17.2
2. Addition of 60 care-and-attention home places for severely disabled persons	Residential service to provide home living for the severely disabled persons who are in need of nursing and intensive personal care	9.2
3. Addition of 135 hostel places for moderately mentally handicapped persons	Residential service to provide home living for the moderately mentally handicapped persons who lack adequate daily living skills to live independently in the community	7.0

4. Addition of 35 hostel places for severely physically handicapped persons	Residential service to provide home living for the severely physically handicapped persons who lack basic self-care skills and require assistance in personal and nursing care	4.2
5. Addition of 8 small group home places for mildly mentally handicapped children	Residential care service for mildly mentally handicapped children who cannot be adequately cared for by their families	1.0
6. Addition of 121 supported hostel places	Residential service providing group home living for persons with disabilities (PWD) who can only live semi-independently with a fair amount of assistance from hostel staff in daily activities	7.1
7. Addition of 161 day activity centre (DAC) places	DAC provides day care and training in daily living skills and simple work skills to mentally handicapped persons	9.9
8. Addition of 40 sheltered workshop (SW) places*	SW provides PWD with a working environment specially designed to accommodate their needs, in which they can be trained to engage in income-generating work process	1.4
9. Addition of 223 integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre (IVRSC) places*	IVRSC provides PWD with a series of integrated and seamless vocational rehabilitation services in a training environment specially designed to accommodate their needs	7.8
10. Addition of 135 early education and training centre (EETC) places	EETC provides early education and training programmes for pre-school children with disability or at risk of becoming disabled	5.2
11. Addition of 66 special child care centre (SCCC) places	SCCC provides centre-based intensive training and care for moderately and severely disabled pre-school children	6.4

12.Addition of 3 community rehabilitation day centres (CRDC)	CRDC provides a short-term, transitional and time-defined rehabilitation service for discharged patients having already received medical/allied health treatment and rehabilitation therapy and are assessed to be in need of continuous rehabilitation service with a view to enhancing their independent living in the community	8.8
13.Provision of a new transitional care and support centre for tetraplegic patients (TCSC)	TCSC provides transitional residential services, ambulatory day training, and respite care to the severely disabled persons. In addition, training and supportive services would also be provided to their carers/families to facilitate the patients' return to community living	49.6 (Grant from HK Jockey Club Charity Trust for 5 years)
14.Provision of a new Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CMHIP)	The objective of CMHIP is to provide intensive and outreaching intervention to persons with suspected mental health problems but have yet to receive any psychiatric treatment. Different professionals including social work, medical and nursing, etc. would be involved to provide a well co-ordinated service	20.0

* The total new provision for IVRSC in 2007-08 would be 383 places, including 160 places converted from an existing SW.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)264

Question Serial No.

2508

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details and expenditure of the related work regarding the Administration's plan of setting up additional Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : We will enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need through setting up of additional FCPSUs. Forming such teams will involve both additional resources and redistribution of work and resources among existing teams. There is no separate breakdown of expenditure for the setting up of additional teams.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of and expenditure incurred by the support provided by the Administration for the victims of domestic violence cases in 2006-07? What are the details and expenditure of the related work in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The Social Welfare Department provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided through Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), Clinical Psychology Units, Family Support Networking Teams, refuge centres for women, Family Crisis Support Centre, residential care placements for children and child care centres etc. In 2006-07, the total provision (revised estimate) for family and child welfare services was \$1,301.6 million.

In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need through setting up of additional FCPSUs, strengthening the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, reinforcing the clinical psychological service and services of IFSCs, enhancing the provision of more flexible types of child care services, etc.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)266

Question Serial No.

2510

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of the related work of the Administration in monitoring the implementation of the pilot project of Batterer Intervention Programme and the related expenditure in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : An annual provision of \$1.041 million has been allocated to a non-governmental organisation to launch a pilot project on Batterer Intervention Programme (BIP) between January 2006 and March 2008. On the part of Social Welfare Department (SWD), the development and implementation of the BIP is undertaken by staff of the Clinical Psychology Units and the Family and Child Protective Services Units. There is no breakdown of funding specifically for this purpose.

An advisory group comprising local and overseas experts, local academics, clinical psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers has been set up to advise the SWD on the implementation and evaluation of the pilot project. From January to December 2006, a total of 11 groups were conducted with the participation of 88 batterers, including five on probation orders. Upon completion of the two-year pilot period by March 2008, it is estimated that a minimum of 27 groups will be organised.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)267

Question Serial No.

2511

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the details of and expenditure incurred by the support provided by the Administration for the Refuge Centres for Women in 2006-07? What are the details and expenditure of the related work in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : At present, there are four refuge centres for women that provide temporary accommodation and supportive services to women and their children who are facing domestic violence or family crisis. All of them are operated by non-governmental organisations with subvention from Social Welfare Department. In 2006-07, additional funding of \$1.2 million was allocated to the four centres to enhance the social work and other support for the centre users. In 2007-08, a further provision of about \$1.5 million will be provided to increase the capacity of the centres, strengthen the on-site social work support after normal working hours, enhance volunteer training and develop mutual help and after-care service for centre users.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)268

Question Serial No.

2512

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Has the social services for dealing with the "socially withdrawn youths" been included in the provision for young people in 2007-08? If yes, please state in detail the service agencies concerned and the estimated number of cases served.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Services under the Young People Programme are all provided by non-governmental organisations. Their service targets include those who are at risk or exhibiting socially withdrawn behaviours. There is no detailed breakdown in the number of socially withdrawn youth served.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Regarding the "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprises" Project, please set out in a table (1) the number of projects approved and (2) details of the projects awarded to people with disabilities and the contract price in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Under the "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprises" Project, only non-governmental organisations could apply for grants as seed money for the creation of small enterprises/businesses to provide employment for people with disabilities. The number of employees with disabilities should not be less than 50% of the total number of employees in each business. Details of projects approved in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows:

	(1) No. of business	(2)	
		Business nature	Funds allocated (\$ million)
2004-05	7	- barrier free access technology service - laundry service - telemarketing - convenience store in hospital - eco-tourism - recycling shop - rehab shop at West Rail station	4.1
2005-06	8	- convenience store - cleaning service - rehab shop in hospital - 2 restaurants at public swimming pools - school tuck shops - fast food restaurant - transport service	4.2
2006-07	7	- organic food store at West	3.5

	(1) No. of business	(2)	
		Business nature	Funds allocated (\$ million)
(up to February 2007)		Rail station - 2 rehab shops in hospitals - rehab shop at shopping mall - Café - bakery production and sales - convenience store in hospital	

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)270

Question Serial No.

2583

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How many employable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients have been assisted to rejoin the workforce successfully under the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme implemented by the Administration in 2006-07? What was the expenditure involved? What is the estimated expenditure involved for implementing the Scheme in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has implemented the SFS Scheme since June 1999 and intensified its measures since June 2003 to assist the able-bodied unemployed CSSA recipients back to work. In 2006-07 (up to January 2007), 2 698 SFS participants have left CSSA and 10 219 have changed to low earners as a result of paid employment. As at end January 2007, there were 37 959 participants in the programme. The expenditure of the SFS Scheme for 2006-07 is \$79.7 million. The estimated expenditure of the SFS Scheme for 2007-08 is \$102.9 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : Please provide information on the number of recipients under the unemployment and low-earnings categories of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, their sex, age distribution, number of years for receiving CSSA, the nature of jobs and their wages as well as the districts where they live in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Statistics on CSSA unemployed and low-earnings recipients with breakdown by selected profiles for 2004-05 to 2006-07 are as follows:

Statistics on CSSA unemployed recipients, 2004-05 to 2006-07

Age	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
15 – 19	1 675	1 571	1 578
20 – 29	2 998	2 574	2 287
30 – 39	5 105	4 523	3 891
40 – 49	14 756	12 829	10 848
50 – 59	17 278	17 114	16 145
Total	41 812	38 611	34 749

Sex	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
Male	29 418	26 440	23 026
Female	12 394	12 171	11 723
Total	41 812	38 611	34 749

Duration of stay on CSSA (year)	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
Less than or equal to 1	9 132	7 293	6 228
More than 1 - 2	8 068	5 144	3 813
More than 2 - 3	6 878	5 715	3 592
More than 3 - 4	4 622	5 226	4 401
More than 4 - 5	2 440	3 801	4 078
More than 5	10 672	11 432	12 637
Total	41 812	38 611	34 749

Geographical district #	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
Central and Western	498	422	350
Eastern	1 656	1 432	1 240
Islands	936	980	914
Kowloon City	1 762	1 531	1 376
Kwai Tsing	3 726	3 808	3 513
Kwun Tong	4 516	4 325	3 836
North	1 856	1 583	1 465
Sai Kung	1 729	1 392	1 255
Sha Tin	2 229	2 047	1 882
Sham Shui Po	4 111	3 924	3 689
Southern	481	507	451
Tai Po	1 426	1 279	1 078
Tsuen Wan	1 082	1 138	995
Tuen Mun	3 693	3 297	2 884
Wan Chai	478	443	340
Wong Tai Sin	3 028	2 720	2 487
Yau Tsim Mong	3 049	2 572	2 272
Yuen Long	5 556	5 211	4 722
Total	41 812	38 611	34 749

Occupation [^]	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
Cleaner	183	211	213
Clerk	20	16	16
Construction worker/ labourer/decoration worker	195	168	134
Delivery worker	177	172	189
Domestic helper/baby sitter	92	85	122
Driver	57	50	54
General worker/ labourer (other than those of construction)	497	534	533
Salesperson	87	83	85
Waiter/waitress	105	110	116
Watchman/guard	31	39	42
Others	407	461	437
Total	1 851	1 929	1 941

Employment earnings	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
\$0	39 961	36 682	32 808
More than \$0 – less than \$1,430 [@]	1 851	1 929	1 941
Total	41 812	38 611	34 749

Statistics on CSSA low-earning recipients, 2004-05 to 2006-07

Age	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
15 – 19	1 633	1 670	1 585
20 – 29	4 313	4 413	4 234
30 – 39	4 162	4 205	4 232
40 – 49	10 163	10 736	10 697
50 – 59	3 833	4 580	5 080
Total	24 104	25 604	25 828

Sex	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
Male	12 862	13 735	13 588
Female	11 242	11 869	12 240
Total	24 104	25 604	25 828

Duration of stay on CSSA (year)	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
Less than or equal to 1	3 261	2 635	2 376
More than 1 - 2	4 814	3 223	2 609
More than 2 - 3	4 499	4 387	2 905
More than 3 - 4	2 837	4 108	3 981
More than 4 - 5	1 718	2 736	3 519
More than 5	6 975	8 515	10 438
Total	24 104	25 604	25 828

Geographical district #	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
Central and Western	168	160	165
Eastern	1 002	989	998
Islands	804	842	837
Kowloon City	797	807	812
Kwai Tsing	2 850	3 080	3 119
Kwun Tong	2 952	3 295	3 462
North	1 092	1 151	1 116
Sai Kung	1 415	1 533	1 458
Sha Tin	1 739	1 712	1 779
Sham Shui Po	1 567	1 772	1 923
Southern	641	658	635
Tai Po	919	923	833
Tsuen Wan	566	647	704
Tuen Mun	1 579	1 594	1 575
Wan Chai	95	90	101
Wong Tai Sin	2 379	2 498	2 455
Yau Tsim Mong	537	533	574
Yuen Long	3 002	3 320	3 282
Total	24 104	25 604	25 828

Occupation^	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
Cleaner	3 340	3 579	3 782
Clerk	1 221	1 294	1 314
Construction worker/ labourer/decoration worker	1 388	1 415	1 306
Delivery worker	1 226	1 365	1 316
Domestic helper/baby sitter	437	487	537
Driver	1 019	1 105	1 085
General worker/ labourer (other than those of construction)	4 861	5 312	5 455

Salesperson	1 806	1 828	1 683
Waiter/waitress	1 384	1 423	1 430
Watchman/guard	2 049	2 265	2 273
Others	5 373	5 531	5 647
Total	24 104	25 604	25 828

Employment earnings	Year *		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Up to Feb 2007)
\$1,430 [@] - less than \$4,400	10 917	11 325	11 214
\$4,400 - less than \$6,000	7 589	8 074	7 870
\$6,000 - less than \$8,000	4 444	4 995	5 192
\$8,000 or above	1 154	1 210	1 552
Total	24 104	25 604	25 828

Notes: * Except those for 2006-07, the figures refer to the end of respective financial year.

The boundary of geographical district is broadly the same as District Council District.

^ Occupation of CSSA unemployed recipients with employment earnings but whose earnings do not qualify them under the low-earnings category as stated below.

@ CSSA low-earnings recipients refer to those who are gainfully employed and with employment earnings equivalent to or more than the standard rate of an able-bodied adult in a family comprising not more than two able-bodied adults/children (i.e. \$1,430 with effect from 1.6.2003, \$1,435 with effect from 1.2.2006 and \$1,450 with effect from 1.2.2007).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)272

Question Serial No.

2633

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : In paragraph 53 of the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary states that an additional \$38 million will be allocated to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes so as to encourage and assist more elderly singletons, particularly the unidentified ones, to develop their social life, and provide referral and supporting services to those in need. In this connection, would the Administration please provide information on the following:

- (1) In 2007-08, what new plans do these elderly centres have to proactively reach out to the singleton and hidden elders?
- (2) Each elderly centre will only receive about \$0.24 million if the additional provision is equally shared among them. Is this sufficient for the elderly centres to launch the plan, given that there are tens of thousands of elders who still do not receive any services provided by any community or elderly centres.
- (3) According to the media reports, one social worker will be added to each of the elderly centres. Can one additional social worker cope with the enormous workload relating to outreaching the elders, encouraging the elders to develop social life, and providing referral and support services?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : Currently, all the 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and 115 Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) render outreach and support services to hidden and singleton elders. The additional \$38 million will be allocated to these centres to recruit an additional social worker to enhance their outreach efforts to hidden and singleton elders.

We expect the DECCs/NECs to mobilise volunteers and other social capital in the districts to carry out the outreaching work, whereas the additional social worker will plan for the outreaching arrangements, provide supervision to the volunteers and oversee the follow up actions. We would further discuss with the DECCs/NECs the output requirements and the outreaching arrangements.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : There will not be any increase in the number of places for the On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities (OJT) in 2007-08 over that in the 2006-07 revised estimate. According to the figures provided by the Government in June 2006, 132 of the 433 people with disabilities participating in the programme have been employed for more than four months, representing a success rate of 30%. In this connection, could the Government please inform this Committee of:

- (1) whether assessment has been made as to whether the service capacity is enough to promote the employment rate of people with disabilities as a whole?
- (2) the annual financial resources allocated and the unit cost for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) OJT is only one of the training programmes aiming to enhance the employability of people with disabilities through proactive training, market driven and placement-tied approach. It is difficult to project the impact on the overall employment rate of people with disabilities based on the outcome of a single programme.

- (2) The expenditure and unit cost of the OJT in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows:

	Expenditure (\$ million)	Unit Cost (Cost per place per month) (\$)
2004-05	2.5	1,052
2005-06	5.6	1,080
2006-07 (estimate)	5.7	1,100

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

Paul TANG

Director of Social Welfare

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)274

Question Serial No.

2655

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the brief description that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will preserve and strengthen the family, support families which are unable to fulfil their functions and help families in trouble. In light of the above, has the Administration provided any new services specifically for families with new born babies, lest the mothers suffer from post-natal depression resulting in child abuse? If yes, what are the details? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, how can "zero tolerance on domestic violence" as stated in the Policy Address be achieved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The SWD provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided through Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units, Clinical Psychology Units, Family Support Networking Teams, refuge centres for women, Family Crisis Support Centre, residential care placements for children and child care centres etc. The total estimated provision for family and child welfare services in 2007-08 is \$1,431.6 million.

The Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) pilot has been implemented in Sham Shui Po, Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O in phases since 2005. CCDS aims to identify at an early stage and provide timely support to at-risk pregnant women, mothers with postnatal depression, families with psychosocial needs and pre-primary children with physical, developmental and behavioural problems. Under the CCDS, mothers with postnatal depression are identified through systematic screening conducted in the Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs). Appropriate follow-up services, including specialised counselling by visiting psychiatric nurses at MCHCs, and referrals to the psychiatric services at public hospitals or social services at the IFSCs, are

provided. We have completed a review of the pilot run and plan to extend the CCDS to all districts in phases and strengthen social services support.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the brief description that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will preserve and strengthen the family, support families which are unable to fulfil their functions and help families in trouble. In light of the above, has the Administration provided any new services specifically for the new arrival families? If yes, what are the details? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, how can “zero tolerance on domestic violence” as stated in the Policy Address be achieved? According to the Study on Child Abuse and Spouse Battering carried out by the University of Hong Kong, new arrival families are among those who are most vulnerable to domestic violence.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The SWD provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided through Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres (ISCs), Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), Clinical Psychology Units, Family Support Networking Teams, refuge centres for women, Family Crisis Support Centre, residential care placements for children and child care centres etc. To increase contact with families at risk who are reluctant to seek help, a Family Support Programme (FSP) has been launched in IFSCs/ISCs, FCPSUs and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units since early 2007. These services are also available to new arrival families.

Under the FSP, through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, we aim to introduce to the families at risk various support services available and motivate them to receive appropriate services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. The target groups include new arrival families. Volunteers including those who have overcome personal or family problems or crises will be recruited and trained to contact these families and to provide them with support and

assistance. Programme Assistants have also been employed to provide logistical support to the social workers. \$30 million annual recurrent resources have been allocated to launch the FSP.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in the brief description that the Social Welfare Department will preserve and strengthen the family, support families which are unable to fulfil their functions and help families in trouble. In light of the above, what new services will be provided by the Administration and how will the current services be consolidated? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided through Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), Clinical Psychology Units, Family Support Networking Teams, refuge centres for women, Family Crisis Support Centre, residential care placements for children and child care centres etc.

In 2007-08, additional resources of \$31 million will be provided to enhance support for victims of domestic violence and families in need. Of these, about \$26 million will be allocated to set up additional FCPSUs, strengthen the capacity of and support for refuge centres for women, and reinforce the clinical psychological service and services of IFSCs. The remaining \$5 million will be allocated to provide more flexible types of child care services, such as the launching of a new day small group home service, extension of the day foster care service and strengthening the mutual help child care centres service by providing financial incentives to operators and subsidy to needy families.

There will be an increase of 21 social work officer grade posts and 5 clinical psychologist grade posts in SWD. For non-governmental organisations (NGOs), we are working out the details with the operators concerned.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)277

Question Serial No.

2198

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare)

Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

In paragraph 52 of the Budget Speech, it was stated that the Government planned to extend the Comprehensive Child Development Service to all districts in phases and strengthen social services support. What are the details of the plan of strengthening social services support? Will the existing social support services be strengthened to cater for the needs of various districts?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

A total of \$30 million has been allocated to launch, improve and partially extend the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) pilot. The pilot has been implemented in Sham Shui Po, Tin Shui Wai, Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O in phases since 2005. We have completed a review of the pilot run and plan to extend CCDS to all districts in phases and strengthen social services support.

Meanwhile, improvement measures have been undertaken to address the issues identified during the pilot run, including enhancing the structural facilities at the Maternal and Child Health Centres and strengthening relevant manpower support. For example, additional resources have been allocated to the Integrated Family Service Centres and other social service units in 2006-07 to launch a Family Support Programme to reach out to vulnerable families which are unwilling to seek help, including those identified under the CCDS. We will closely monitor the impact of the CCDS on social services support and when necessary, follow up on the resource requirements.

Signature

Name in block letters

Ms Sandra LEE

Permanent Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food (Health &
Welfare)

Post Title

Date

13.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)278

Question Serial No.

1676

Head: 140 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau title):
(Health and Welfare Branch)

Programme: (1) Social Welfare

Controlling Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare And Food (Health and Welfare)
Officer:

Director of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Bureau:

Question:

The Administration will study the establishment of a Family Commission in 2007-08. Would the Administration inform us of the following:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure on the study of establishing the Family Commission?
- (b) What are the commencement and completion dates of the study?
- (c) Will the findings of the study be made public? If so, what is the scheduled release date?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) A Steering Committee was set up in December 2006 to take forward the Study on Family Commission. The expenditure involved in the Study is mainly staff salaries for supporting the Steering Committee's work and is estimated at about \$2.7 million, which will be absorbed within HWFB's existing resources.
- (b) The Study commenced in December 2006 and will be completed by mid-2007.
- (c) A final decision will be made by the next Administration.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Ms Sandra LEE

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare
and Food (Health and Welfare)

Date _____ 14.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)279

Question Serial No.

2522

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : How will the Administration assess the effectiveness of replacing nine rehabuses and adding four rehabuses in 2007-08? Will the four additional rehabuses be able to cope with the demand?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Rehabus provides point-to-point transport service to work places or other destinations for people with disabilities (PWDs) having no alternative means of transport. The nine rehabuses will replace the aging ones to improve service quality, while the four additional rehabuses will increase the capacity of the fleet and strengthen the service to PWDs. The Transport Department will review annually the fleet size of rehabuses and the routes covered, having regard to the demand for the services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **15 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)280

Question Serial No.

2516

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for People with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : What are the numbers of application for scheduled route (SR) service and non-scheduled route (NSR) service in 2006? What are the numbers of unsuccessful applications for SR service and NSR service? What is the reason for purchasing four additional rehabuses in 2007-08? Does the service meet the need of the people with disabilities (PWDs)?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

In 2006, a total of 413 applications for SR service were received. As at end February 2007, no people with disabilities (PWDs) having no alternative means of transport to travel to their work place were put on the waiting list for SR service. Some PWDs who can use public transport or have access to other means of transport do apply for rebus service. The number of PWDs awaiting SR service was 47 as at end February 2007. For non-scheduled dial-a-ride (DAR) service, a total of 88 213 applications were received, of which 8 173 applications were declined.

To meet changing needs, and for continuous service improvement, three rehabuses for DAR service and one rebus for SR service will be added in 2007-08 to increase the overall carrying capacity of services. Assuming the demand for services remains at the current level, the three additional rehabuses could help reduce the number of DAR declined orders by about 30%, and reduce the SR waiting list by 10 places. The Transport Department will review regularly the fleet size of rehabuses and the routes covered having regard to the demand for the services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(WW)281

Question Serial No.

2090

Head : 170 - Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question : It is stated in paragraph 16 of the Brief Description of this Programme that in 2006, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) invited tenders in respect of three purpose-built premises which will provide both subsidised and non-subsidised residential care services for elders. Two of them will also provide subsidised day care service for elders. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many places are provided by these three homes? Please set out the cost per place per month of these three homes respectively.
- (b) When will these three homes start admitting the elders?
- (c) Does SWD have any plan to increase the number of residential care places for elders in 2007-08? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : (a) Altogether the three contract homes will provide 443 residential care places, of which 212 will be subsidised residential care places and 231 non-subsidised places. Detailed breakdown of the number of places and the unit cost of the subsidised residential care places in the three contract homes are as follows:

Contract Home	No. of Subsidised Residential Care Places (Amount of Subsidy per place per month)	No. of Non-subsidised Residential Care Places	Total No. of Residential Care Places
A	88 (\$6,532)	117	205
B	51 (\$6,658)	81	132
C	73 (\$6,581)	33	106
Total	212	231	443

(b) All the three contract homes will commence service in early 2008.

(c) In 2007-08, 662 additional subsidised residential care places will become available. 212 of them will be provided in the three new

contract homes as stated above. 450 will be purchased places in private residential care homes for the elderly under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme.

Besides, an additional \$16 million recurrent funding has been earmarked in the 2007-08 Budget to provide more subsidised residential care places in new contract homes.

As the population ages, the demand for subsidised residential care places will increase. The Commission on Poverty and the Elderly Commission will continue to explore ways of responding to the challenges effectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Paul TANG</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Social Welfare</u>
Date	<u>17 March 2007</u>