



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

By Fax

Our ref.: HWF/H/LEG/9 05
Your ref.:

Tel.: 2973 8203
Fax: 2840 0467

6 July 2007

Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Mary SO)

Dear Miss So,

**LegCo Panel on Health Services
Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS**

At the Panel meeting held on 12 March 2007, Members discussed the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong and raised several related issues. The Administration's response is set out below for Members' perusal please.

Breakdown of the programmes and projects supported by the AIDS Trust Fund by type and amount involved in each of the past five years

The following table shows the expenditure in the audited accounts (on an accrual basis) of the AIDS Trust Fund (ATF) for the past five financial years, with breakdown by type relevant to the three Sub-committees of the Council for the ATF.

Financial Year Type	2001-02 (\$'000)	2002-03 (\$'000)	2003-04 ¹ (\$'000)	2004-05 ¹ (\$'000)	2005-06 (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
Publicity and education	9,426	10,865	18,450	1,892	17,421	58,054
Medical and support service	12,554	10,303	21,414	3,280	13,790	61,341
Ex-gratia payment	634	0	0	1,019	8,058	9,711
TOTAL	22,614	21,168	39,864	6,191	39,269	129,106

The amount of funding for ATF for use in the coming five years, as well as the types of programmes and projects which ATF intended to fund and the percentage concerned

ATF calls for funding applications twice a year for programmes and projects on HIV/AIDS prevention. In considering the funding priorities, the Council for the ATF will take into consideration the HIV/AIDS strategies as recommended by the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA). There is currently no pre-set ceiling for funding allocation. According to past experience, the average annual amount disbursed by the three Sub-Committees under the Council for the ATF is around \$26 million.

In addition, the ATF launched a Special Project Fund on 1 December 2006 to provide financial support for community-based HIV prevention programmes specifically for men having sex with men (MSM). A sum of \$9 million from the ATF has been apportioned to the Special Project Fund for two financial years, i.e. 2007-08 and 2008-09.

The Administration to consider including AIDS patients, people who were HIV positive and frontline AIDS workers on the Advisory Council on AIDS

Membership of ACA is appointed on an ad personam basis, taking into account relevant factors such as the individual's personal abilities, expertise, experience, commitment to public service, etc. The objective is to ensure that persons most capable of meeting the needs of the ACA are appointed. Appointment is made to facilitate the participation of a good mix of different expertise from community leaders, academics, health professionals and others. For the current term of the ACA (2005-08), several Members are professionals who have frequent contact with HIV/AIDS patients, while some Members have working experience in running HIV/AIDS prevention projects.

¹ The ATF introduced three-year programme funding in 2003-04 to improve the continuity of service. Most of the non-government organizations working on AIDS applied for the three-year programme funding in 2003-04 for the first time and few applications were received in 2004-05. Hence the significant drop in expenditure in 2004-05.

In addition, the ACA already works closely with non-government organizations that are involved in AIDS work. The ACA's Community Forum on AIDS (CFA) provides a platform whereby the views and expertise of organizations and individuals involved in HIV/AIDS advocacy, education and services can be directly shared and collected, to support policy formulation at the ACA level. Its terms of reference are to –

- (a) enhance communication between the Council and HIV/AIDS service delivery organizations and workers;
- (b) examine needs and identify gaps in the community;
- (c) recommend measures conducive to promoting acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS; and
- (d) provide a platform for collaboration in combating HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Members of the CFA also come from a variety of non-government organizations working on AIDS. Besides, ACA Chairman and CFA Chairman meet with and also pay visits to non-government organizations from time to time to share and exchange views on the latest issues and developments regarding HIV/AIDS.

The Administration to consider providing free HIV testing service to non-local sex workers

The AIDS Counselling and Testing Service of the Department of Health provides **free** and **anonymous** HIV testing to people who may be at risk of HIV infection, irrespective of their resident status or occupation. Counselling and testing at the clinic can be arranged through calling the AIDS Hotline at 2780 2211.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Pamela LAM)
for Secretary for Food and Health