

Joint Meeting on 25 June 2007
Panel on Health Services & Panel on Welfare Services

Submission from Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association (HKPA)

Urge for Rectification of the Starting Salaries of Entry Rank Physiotherapist from MPS 13 (\$17,145, for higher diploma) to MPS 16 (\$19,860, for degree and related grades)

The existing qualification grouping of physiotherapists under Civil Service Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region does not commensurate with the level of university education and professional training received by physiotherapist. Physiotherapists are classified under qualification grouping 3 (I) which is higher diploma grades.

Justification of the request for rectification of starting salary of entry rank physiotherapist

- ◆ Existing services needs – soaring complexity & extended scopes of health care services including physiotherapy, in pace with the great advancement of knowledge & technology in healthcare in recent decades
- ◆ Increased expectation of healthcare users for quality physiotherapy services
- ◆ According to the mandatory legal requirement for entry level physiotherapist registration, physiotherapist graduated after 1995, must be a degree holder, in order to acquire registration for practice in Hong Kong.
At Section 4 of Chapter 359J, it is stipulated that a person shall be qualified for registration if he holds-
 - (a) a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physiotherapy awarded by the Hong Kong Polytechnic or The Hong Kong Polytechnic University;
 - (b) a Professional Diploma in Physiotherapy issued by the Hong Kong Polytechnic on or before 1 January 1995;
 - (c) a certificate issued by the Hong Kong Government School of Physiotherapy of the Medical and Health Department on or before 1 January 1981; or
 - (d) a certificate from the Board that he has passed an examination relating to physiotherapy conducted under section 15A of the Ordinance for the purposes of section 12(1)(a) of the Ordinance.
- ◆ In line with the requirement of the Law of Hong Kong, all physiotherapists educated in Hong Kong were awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University from 1993 onwards. All entry level physiotherapists possess Bachelor of Science Degree in Physiotherapy at the minimum, with majority of serving physiotherapists possessing Master of Science or above qualification.
- ◆ Justice & equity to all allied health professionals. The quality and standard of the university education received by them is at par with other allied health professionals such as speech therapists and dieticians offered in other universities in Hong Kong. It is therefore unfair and undesirable to segregate physiotherapist professions and other professionals of the allied health category including speech therapists and dieticians, who receive starting salary as degree holders, in two different qualification groups and hence will receive two different starting salaries in the new benchmark pay.