

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Comprehensively improving the public dental out-patient services
and the dental care scheme”
moved by Hon WONG Kwok-hing
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 19 November 2008**

Motion as amended by Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

That oral health is an important factor affecting people's health and quality of life, yet many people are not able to receive proper treatment when they have oral health problems; the Government on the one hand promotes oral care among the entire population, but on the other hand the public dental out-patient services and dental care services in Hong Kong are seriously inadequate, resulting in the grassroots who cannot afford the charges of private dental clinics not being able to receive timely dental treatment even when they have dental diseases, and at the same time, the present dental care scheme remains to be available to primary schools only, this Council urges the Government to provide additional resources to improve oral care for the entire population, the public dental out-patient services and the dental care scheme, including:

- (a) providing public dental out-patient services to members of the public at the medical and health organizations run by the Government in various districts;
- (b) public dental out-patient services must include comprehensive dental treatment, such as dental examination, scaling, extraction, filling, endodontic treatment and crowning, etc, and providing out-reaching dental services for the elderly living in residential care homes;
- (c) setting up a dental care scheme for secondary school students;
- (d) setting up a dental care scheme for the poor elderly aged over 60;
- (e) studying the provision of small dental clinics in elderly health centres; and
- (f) reviewing the policy and goals in respect of oral health, and drawing up an implementation timetable and a detailed plan to comprehensively improve the public dental out-patient services and the dental care scheme; as it takes time to improve public dental out-patient services, the Government should first set up a fund to subsidize the people in need to use the dental services of private or non-profit-making organizations.