



"Fiona"

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To <panel\_e@legco.gov.hk>

cc

Subject ESF Subvention

Dear Panel,

I am writing to urge you to increase the subvention for the ESF educational system as both a parent and as an employer.

As a parent, I and my husband have lived in Hong Kong for over 20 years and our three children were born here.

Whilst my husband initially was on an expat package we quickly became "local" as we grew to love Hong Kong and decided to stay even with the lower wage and no benefits. Our salaries have not increased for many years and yet the ESF keeps putting pressure on us to find more money from our already extremely tight budget because they say the subvention is not enough. The ESF provides us with our education and we chose it because of its affordability and English medium but school fees now equate to 50% of my husband's salary which puts extreme pressure on our family.

As an employer, I struggle with recruiting talented "experienced" architects to Hong Kong for the medium sized company I work for as with experience comes age and with age you tend to have a family and with school fees for an average family equating to about 75% of what we can afford to pay in salary it is impossible to convince them to come.

I strongly urge you to increase the subvention to allow the middle class tax payers a chance to educate their children without forcing them into bankruptcy or to leave.

Fiona Overton