

**Subcommittee on
Improving Barrier Free Access and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities**

Hospital Authority's Response

Upgrade of barrier-free facilities in premises and facilities under the management of Hospital Authority

Hospital Authority (HA) has committed to upgrading barrier free facilities in premises and facilities under its management in accordance with the Government's stipulated requirements to provide a barrier-free built environment for people with disabilities.

2. Before 2008, HA had already made reference to the design requirements stated in the "*Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 1997*" by the Buildings Department for HA's construction works and renovation projects. Following the promulgation of the "*Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008*" (Design Manual 2008), all newly designed and constructed HA facilities including hospitals and clinics would comply with the requirements in the Design Manual 2008.

3. Since 2010, HA has been initiating a thorough review to study and explore the feasibility of improving the environment and facilities in its hospitals and clinics, with a view to achieving the requirements of the Design Manual 2008. This review has been taking place in 3 phases, with the first phase covering all general outpatient clinics (GOPCs), the second all acute hospitals with accident and emergency services, and the third the remaining hospitals under HA's management. Where feasible, improvement works will be conducted during or soon after the review. Where more extensive upgrading works is required, such works will be arranged to tie in with major renovations for service development and expansion.

HA's Primary Care Services in Peng Chau

4. Public primary care services include public general outpatient services provided by HA, which are primarily targeted at the low-income and under-privileged groups, including the chronically ill, frail and vulnerable or

disabled elders, and low-income families. Currently, HA provides public general outpatient services on the island through Peng Chau GOPC, which had around 57% utilization rate and around 11 000 attendance in 2009. Among the attendances in Peng Chau GOPC, elderly and chronic disease patients accounted for 65% and 18% respectively.

5. For elderly people as well as persons with disabilities or using wheelchairs, staff members of Peng Chau GOPC will provide necessary assistance to them for access to the clinic. HA will continue to monitor the operation and service needs of public primary care services, and flexibly allocate manpower and other resources having regard to relevant considerations such as district demographics and service needs, with a view to providing appropriate public primary care services.

Hospital Authority
July 2011