

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Meeting on 18 November 2013

Re: The Subject of Hearing of the Second Report of HKSAR under
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Supplementary Information provided by the Administration

To help ordinary schools cater for students with special educational need (SEN), including those with hearing impairment (HI), the Education Bureau (EDB) has been providing them with additional resources on top of the regular subvention, professional support and teacher training. With regard to additional resources, apart from the Learning Support Grant (LSG), there are also the Enhanced Speech Therapy Grant, funding for remedial teaching, additional teachers to cater for secondary students with low academic achievement and the Capacity Enhancement Grant, etc. Schools should pool together and deploy the LSG and other school resources flexibly for employing additional teaching staff and assistants and/or procuring professional services to provide appropriate support for students with SEN, including speech training for students with HI. Schools could also apply for the Top-up Fund for purchasing special furniture and equipment (such as FM Systems for HI students) and carrying out minor conversion works for students with disabilities.

For those HI students whose learning and communication problems persist despite school-based support, the EDB will refer them for “Enhanced Support Service for HI Students Attending Ordinary Schools” (ESS). Under the ESS, EDB provides additional resources for special schools for children with HI. Experienced resource teachers (RTs) will provide after-school support to HI students studying in ordinary schools. The RTs will also pay school visits to provide support to the students and share teaching strategies with teachers in ordinary schools through case conferences, workshops, seminars and class observations so as to enhance the learning effectiveness and to facilitate the integration of the HI students into ordinary schools.

Apart from the above additional resources, the EDB has also been

rendering free audiological services to HI students, which include the provision of hearing aids, audiological re-assessments, hearing aid tuning, making of earmould, maintenance of hearing aids and replacement of hearing aids every three years, etc. For children who are confirmed not to benefit from using hearing aids but suitable for cochlear implant, the Hospital Authority would provide them with cochlear implantation at public charges. The Samaritan Fund will provide financial assistance to patients in need for the costs arising from replacing the external speech processor and accessories of the cochlear implant.

Education Bureau
February 2014