



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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4 December 2017

Ms Maisie LAM
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Lam,

Provision for Public Dental Care Services

During the discussion on the captioned subject at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services held on 17 July 2017, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information. Our response is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

2. The Government launched the Elderly Health Care Voucher (“EHV”) Pilot Scheme in 2009 to subsidise Hong Kong elders aged 70 or above to use private primary care services, including dental services. In January 2014, the EHV Scheme was converted from a pilot project into a recurrent programme. The annual voucher amount for an eligible elder has been increased to \$2 000. As at end May 2017, 809 dentists had enrolled in the EHV Scheme. Since 1 July 2017, the eligibility age for the EHV Scheme has been lowered from 70 to 65. It is anticipated that about 400 000 more elders will benefit in the first year of implementation of the enhanced measure.

3. According to the statistics of the Department of Health, the number and percentage of eligible elders who had made use of the EHV, as well as the number of EHV claim transactions and amount of EHV claimed on dental services in Hong Kong over the past five years are provided as follows:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of elders who had made use of EHV (as at end of year)	424 000	488 000	551 000	600 000	649 000
Number of eligible elders (i.e. elders aged 70 or above) ^{Note}	714 000	724 000	737 000	760 000	775 000
Percentage of eligible elders who had made use of EHV	59%	67%	75%	79%	84%
Number of EHV claim transactions on dental services	19 239	36 783	73 586	109 840	119 305
Amount of EHV claimed on dental services (in \$'000)	7 751	20 805	55 131	98 563	105 455

Note Source: Hong Kong Population Projections 2012-2041 and Hong Kong Population Projections 2015-2064, Census and Statistics Department. The eligibility age for the EHV Scheme has been lowered from 70 to 65 with effect from 1 July 2017.

4. We thank Members for their attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Anita LO)
for Secretary for Food and Health