



Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy  
Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services  
The Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

March 21, 2017

**Support for Persons Suffering from Dementia and Their Family Members**

Subcommittee Members,

Charles K. Kao Foundation for Alzheimer's Disease appreciates this opportunity to be able to express our views on today's subject to the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy.

- 1) HK has a rapidly growing aging population. It is expected the number of over 65 years old will be nearly 1/4 of our total population by 2024 according to the Census and Statistics Department.
- 2) Specific Dementia Day Care Centre operations cope now with about 10% of the over 110K of people with dementia, with another 10% of them in the nursing homes. The remaining estimated 80% are either cared for totally within the family without help or have not been medically diagnosed.
- 3) Dementia Day Centres, ideally, need staff to patient ratio of about 1: 6-8 patients. Patients have short attention spans, are easily agitated and frustrated. Mixed usage of Senior Centres for all will not work for obvious reasons.
- 4) Self financed NGO operated Dementia Centres mostly are run at a loss and are short staffed. They need some funding from government sources. The daily usage charge is around HK\$400, and many cannot afford the fees.
- 5) Proposed vouchers system is helpful, but vouchers cannot be used at some of the NGO centres. It needs re-thinking.
- 6) Without a more detailed re-think, we will have care-givers suffering from depression, jumping out of hi-rises and worse.
- 7) We need to have more public education for the community. The ½ hr TV programme commissioned by the Department of Health presently begun on Saturday evenings on Dementia is a good start. We need greater focus to draw the attention at libraries, and public places
- 8) Prevention advice, though not a guarantee of avoiding dementia problems in the elderly, should be more widespread.

Gwen Kao  
Chairman  
Charles K. Kao Foundation for Alzheimer's Disease

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