

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. CB(2)1484/17-18

(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Minutes of special meeting  
held on Monday, 19 March 2018, at 9:30 am  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Chairman)  
Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Hon Alvin YEUNG  
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon LUK Chung-hung

**Members absent** : Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

**Public Officers  
attending** : Item I

Mr Caspar TSUI, JP  
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Ms Michelle LAM Wai-yip  
Assistant Director (Social Security)  
Social Welfare Department

Mr Andrew KWAN Kai-ming  
Senior Statistician (Social Welfare)  
Social Welfare Department

**Attendance  
by invitation** : Item I

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress  
of Hong Kong

Ms LAI Ka-man  
Deputy Spokesperson

自強協會輪友關注政策小組

楊鳳儀小姐  
成員

Miss WONG Tsz-yan

Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung

The Association of Parents of The Severely  
Mentally Handicapped

Mr LEE Chi-yung  
Chairman

The Lion Rock Institute

Mr NG Kin-wah  
Event Officer

殘疾人士及長期病患者就業關注組

Mr CHIU Ho-lam

主席

Mr Joey LEE Man-lung, Member of Wan Chai  
District Council

The Civic Party

Mr LUI Kai-wing

District Developer of the New Territories East

Mr SI Wai-san

New People's Party

Mr TONG Hok-leung

代表

Mrs LAI Kam-lin

Richmond Fellowship Community Network

Ms Bebe TAM Yuk-yee

Chairman

正言匯社

Mr YIP Kin-keung

Representative

Miss CHAN Ka-man

雅麗珊紅十字會校友會

李志雄先生

主席

Mr YU Kam-chung

四輪社區聯會

李偉先生  
主席

自強協會

吳恩兒小姐  
中心主任

林珍女士

Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union

Miss CHEN Hung-sau  
權益及投訴部主任

天姿作圍

倪燕女士  
幹事

關注學童發展權利聯席

何汝瑛小姐  
組織幹事

低收入權益保障組

李風清小姐  
組織幹事

Mr CHAN Wai-lun

羅麗萍女士

社區前進

賀卓軒先生  
社區幹事

楊佩艮小姐

梁麗賢小姐

Miss LAM Sin-man

李鳳琮女士

Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Miss YIM Chi-kei  
Officer (Policy Research and Advocacy)

林宗祐先生

關注家居照顧服務大聯盟

Miss LAU Oi-lam  
代表

Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres

Ms CHAN Ying-man  
Education Officer

關注綜援低收入聯盟

李大成先生  
組織幹事

關綜聯政策行動組

李彥豪先生  
組織幹事

**Clerk in  
attendance**

: Mr Colin CHUI  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in attendance** : Mr Roger CHUNG  
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Alison HUI  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

---

Action

**I. Review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)812/17-18(07) to (08) and CB(2)863/17-18(01)]

At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("USLW") briefed members on the overall situation of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme.

2. The Chairman invited the deputations/individuals to present their views. A total of 37 deputations/individuals expressed their views which were summarized in the **Appendix**.

The Administration's response to deputations' views

3. Responding to the views expressed by deputations, USLW made the following points:

- (a) the CSSA Scheme aimed to provide a safety net to meet the basic needs of those who were unable to support themselves financially because of old age, illnesses, disabilities, single parenthood, unemployment, low income, etc. Under the CSSA Scheme, there were different standard rates for various recipients to meet their basic needs. Apart from standard rates, the CSSA Scheme also provided supplements and a series of special grants to meet the special needs of different people. When comparing the average monthly CSSA payments with the average monthly expenditure of non-CSSA households in the lowest 25% expenditure group, the former was higher in all household categories;
- (b) the Administration updated the weighting system of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices ("SSAIP") scientifically every five years to take into account the latest expenditure pattern of CSSA households and the impact of price changes on CSSA recipients. SSAIP did not include

commodities and services which were provided by the Administration for free (e.g. public medical services, public education, etc.) and those which were covered by special grants under the CSSA Scheme (e.g. rent, water and sewage charges, etc.). While some expenditures (e.g. spending on food) had increased, the prices of some miscellaneous services had dropped. The latest increase of the standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme by 1.4% was higher than the average increase in Consumer Price Index ("CPI") (A) (excluding housing cost) of 1.3%;

- (c) it was worth noting that the Government's annual expenditure on social welfare was around \$80 billion in recent years. In 2017-2018, the estimated recurrent expenditure for the CSSA Scheme was around \$20.8 billion. The CSSA standard payment rates had increased by over 18% in the past five years (i.e. between 2014 and 2018). In terms of CSSA payments, the average CSSA monthly assistance for a singleton and a four-person household in 2018 were over \$6,000 and \$15,000 respectively, representing an increase of around 28% in the past five years;
- (d) since its establishment in 2011, the Community Care Fund ("CCF") had launched 45 assistance programmes which benefited about 1.5 million cases. The total commitment had exceeded \$8 billion. The Administration so far had incorporated 12 pilot programmes under CCF into its regular assistance programmes to improve support for needy persons;
- (e) as the CSSA Scheme was non-contributory, the Administration had to ensure the proper use of public funds. While the Administration had no plan to conduct a comprehensive review of the CSSA Scheme at the moment, it would keep in view the various arrangements under the Scheme and introduce targeted measures to better address the needs of CSSA recipients;
- (f) the Administration would continue to assist persons who were unable to afford private housing through boosting the supply of public rental housing. CCF had relaunched the Subsidy for CSSA Recipients Living in Rented Private Housing ("the Programme") to provide a one-off subsidy to CSSA households living in rented private housing and paying

rent which exceeded the maximum rent allowance. Under the enhanced Programme, the maximum level of subsidy provided for eligible one-person households and two-or-more-person households had been increased from \$2,000 to \$3,300 and \$4,000 to \$11,400 respectively. The enhanced Programme would last for two years and the Administration would keep in view its implementation with a view to regularizing the Programme in future;

- (g) having regard to Government's fiscal surplus this year, a series of measures was proposed in the 2018-2019 Budget to share the fruits of economic success with the community. For example, an extra allowance was provided to recipients of social security payments, which was equal to two months of the standard rate payments of CSSA or allowance payments under the Social Security Allowance Scheme;
- (h) as announced in the Budget, the Administration would provide a one-off grant of \$2,000 to each student in need to support learning. Besides, the Administration would set up a Commission on Children in mid-2018 to address children's issues as they grew up;
- (i) the Administration had commenced work in formulating a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan and the scope of the Programme Plan would cover rights of persons with disabilities, employment of persons with disabilities, promotion of inclusive society as well as supply of manpower for rehabilitation and care services;
- (j) the Administration had made enhancements to the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme (to be renamed as the Working Family Allowance Scheme with effect from 1 April 2018) to encourage self-reliance of low-income families through employment. Besides, the number of unemployment and low earning cases under the CSSA Scheme had continued to drop since 2009. This showed that CSSA recipients were mainly needy households; and
- (k) as announced in the Budget, the Administration would set up five specialized co-parenting support centres for divorced families. To facilitate women in taking up employment, the



Administration would seek additional resources to increase the provision of child care and elderly services as appropriate. Besides, the Home Affairs Bureau would commission a consultancy study through the Family Council to examine various divorce issues including maintenance payments.

Admin

Deputations/individuals expressed further views relating to the review of the CSSA Scheme (which were also summarized in the **Appendix**) and USLW undertook to provide a written response to these further views after the meeting.

4. Assistant Director (Social Security) ("AD(SS)") gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) to ensure prudent use of public funds, the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") only accepted a recommendation of a doctor of the Hospital Authority or the Department of Health, an occupational therapist or a physiotherapist of SWD or a non-governmental organization subvented by SWD for the special grant to cover costs of wheelchairs under the CSSA Scheme. The grant could cover replacement or maintenance costs of wheelchairs if sufficient justifications were provided in the recommendation, e.g. wheelchairs were no longer serviceable. SWD's offices could provide CSSA applicants with information of the organizations which could make the relevant recommendation;
- (b) in recognition of the additional expenditure incurred in attending training/retraining courses, training/retraining allowance received by a CSSA recipient could be disregarded up to a maximum of \$2,455 per month. For example, a CSSA recipient receiving a training allowance of \$2,500 was entitled to a disregarded amount of \$2,455 in the payment month following the receipt of the allowance. The remaining amount of \$45 was counted as income. From October 2016, the Administration launched a three-year pilot scheme under CCF to encourage disabled CSSA recipients to engage in employment by raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings for them by 60% from \$2,500 per month to \$4,000 per month. The Administration would review the effectiveness of the pilot scheme at an appropriate juncture. Besides, CSSA applicants' income from work in sheltered

workshops was counted in the CSSA's income test;

- (c) to ensure prudent use of public funds, CSSA applicants were required to provide quotations for the procurement of glasses when they applied for the special grant to cover costs of glasses. Regarding an individual case mentioned by a deputation at the meeting, the Administration would look into the case if relevant information could be given after the meeting;
- (d) the amount of CSSA payment would not be deducted if the recipients were unable to collect maintenance payments and had indicated to SWD their intention to take action in filing claims for the maintenance payments; and
- (e) SWD would discuss with CSSA recipients the arrangement for them to return the amount overpaid having regard to the circumstances of individual cases. In cases where the recipients either had no or insufficient savings to repay in a lump sum, recovery of overpayment by instalments could be considered.

5. Senior Statistician (Social Welfare) said that CPI was an important economic indicator for measuring inflation/deflation affecting households. The Composite CPI, CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were compiled by the Census and Statistics Department ("C&SD") to reflect changes in the prices of goods and services consumed by households in different expenditure ranges. SSAIP was a CPI which had functions like the abovementioned indices but targeted at CSSA recipients in particular. SSAIP was compiled to reflect the impact of price changes on CSSA recipients insofar as the items of goods and services covered under the CSSA standard rates were concerned. C&SD compiled SSAIP for use by SWD as a reference in making adjustments to CSSA standard rates to take account of price changes. SSAIP (then known as the Public Assistance Index of Prices) was first constructed in 1972. SSAIP comprised three basic components: (a) a basket of goods and services covered by SSAIP; (b) a weighting system (i.e. the relative importance of individual items of goods and services); and (c) monthly average retail prices of individual items of goods and services. Regarding the basket of goods and services covered by SSAIP, all items of goods and services consumed by CSSA recipients were included except those covered by special grants under the Scheme (e.g. housing, water and sewage charges) or provided free by the Administration. The prevailing practice was for the Administration to

Admin

adjust on an annual basis the CSSA standard payment rates in accordance with the inflation or deflation as reflected by SSAIP for the past 12 months. A feature article entitled "The Social Security Assistance Index of Prices" was published in the November 2016 issue of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics. At the request of the Chairman, Senior Statistician (Social Welfare) undertook to provide that article for members' reference.

### Discussion

#### *Comprehensive review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme*

6. Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed concern that the Administration had not reviewed SSAIP under the CSSA Scheme for over 20 years and had reduced the CSSA payment rates for three-person households and four-person households by 10% and 20% respectively in 1999. To his understanding, there were around 8% of low earnings cases, 60% of old age cases and 10% of single parent cases among the CSSA cases. With the limited amount of CSSA, elderly persons were forced to admit to low quality private residential care homes and single parents were not provided with adequate support services. Noting that the average monthly CSSA payments for two-or-more-person households were lower than: (a) the average monthly expenditure of households whose income was the lowest 20% in Hong Kong; and (b) 50% of the median household income in the third quarter of 2017, Dr KWOK considered that the CSSA Scheme was far from adequate to help needy persons. He asked the Administration to explain why it would not conduct a comprehensive review of the CSSA Scheme.

7. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung expressed dissatisfaction at the Administration's response to the views given and suggestions made by deputations in conducting a comprehensive review of the CSSA Scheme. He urged the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review of the CSSA Scheme as it had not done so for over 20 years. Specifically the Administration was requested to review the requirement of applying for CSSA on a household basis as it had given rise to family problems and adversely affect the relationship among family members.

8. The Chairman expressed concern that CSSA applicants' income from work in sheltered workshops was counted in the CSSA's income test while the same income would be regarded as a subsidy under the arrangement of statutory minimum wage. Sharing the Chairman's view,

Mr Andrew WAN considered that the Administration was mean to CSSA recipients during the years and the arrangement of the CSSA Scheme were self-contradictory. For example, around 40% of CSSA recipients lived under the poverty net. This showed that the Scheme failed to serve as a safety line to meet the recipients' basic needs. Besides, the Ending Exclusion Project and the New Dawn Project, which aimed at encouraging CSSA single-parent recipients to take up employment, might give rise to the problem of children being left unattended at home. Mr WAN expressed concern that even the current payment levels of CSSA were inadequate for the recipients. The Administration only provided extra allowance for CSSA recipients as a one-off relief measure in the past years, instead of reviewing the CSSA Scheme. Taking the view that the latest increase in the CSSA standard payment rates was modest and unrealistic in meeting the needs of the recipients, Mr WAN expressed concern about the effectiveness of the adjustment mechanism for the CSSA standard payment rates. Noting that the Administration would keep in view the various arrangements under the CSSA Scheme and introduce targeted measures where necessary, Mr WAN echoed Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's request for a comprehensive review of the Scheme.

9. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung said that although the Administration had introduced improvement measures to the CSSA Scheme to address the recipients' rental and other problems, the recipients had difficulty in applying for the special grants under the CSSA Scheme. Meanwhile, many recipients could not live with dignity and encountered discrimination. He shared the view of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service that the CSSA standard payment rates could not cover the recipients' living expenses since the Scheme failed to keep up with the rapid social changes and the change in the recipients' needs. Given that the Programme was far from adequate to cover the actual rent paid by CSSA recipients living in private rental housing, those recipients had to use part of CSSA to supplement their rental expenditure. Mr LEUNG considered that the Administration should conduct a comprehensive review of the CSSA Scheme and take into consideration the recipients' difficulty in their daily life during the review.

10. USLW advised that while the Government had no plan to conduct a comprehensive review of the CSSA Scheme at this stage, it would address the recipients' needs in a targeted manner by introducing improvement measures and regularizing the CCF's assistance programmes as appropriate. For example, the Administration would enhance the Programme, and had abolished the arrangement for relatives concerned to make a declaration on whether they provided the elderly persons who

applied for CSSA on their own with financial support (the so-called "bad-son statement") from February 2017. Besides, the Administration had taken and enhanced measures to help elderly persons on top of the CSSA Scheme. The Administration would continue to closely monitor the operation of the CSSA Scheme, and take into consideration the suggestions made by members and deputations in introducing improvement measures in the future.

11. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung expressed concern that the Administration's response about handling applications for the special grant to cover costs of wheelchairs was different from his understanding. He said that replacing wheelchairs was important and costly for needy persons. While understanding that the Administration should ensure the proper use of public funds, Mr LEUNG suggested that the Administration should streamline the application procedures for the special grants to cover costs of wheelchairs, glasses, etc. under the CSSA Scheme, with a view to reducing the administrative cost and safeguarding the dignity of CSSA recipients during the application process. AD(SS) responded that a recommendation of an occupational therapist or a physiotherapist was acceptable for the special grant to cover costs of wheelchairs. The information was clearly stated in "A Guide to CSSA" which was available on SWD's website, SWD would follow up the case of 自強協會 after the meeting and explore whether there was room for improvement in the relevant application procedures. The Chairman called on the Administration to study whether wheelchair maintenance workers of 自強協會 would be accredited for making recommendations for the special grant.

*(At 12:34 pm, the Chairman extended the meeting for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time to allow sufficient time for discussion.)*

#### *Labelling of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients*

12. Sharing the view of some deputations that the Administration's previous description of CSSA recipients had inappropriately labelled needy persons, Dr KWOK Ka-ki called on the Administration to apologize for stigmatizing them during the years. USLW responded that as CSSA recipients were needy persons, it was not necessary for them to have the feeling of being labelled and the public should not stigmatize them for receiving CSSA.

*Eligible age for elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance*

13. In the light of difficulties encountered by elderly CSSA recipients in their daily life, Dr KWOK Ka-ki asked about the Administration's justifications for implementing the policy of raising the eligible age for elderly CSSA from 60 to 65 ("the new policy"). USLW advised that elderly persons aged between 60 and 64 who were receiving CSSA before the new policy took effect would not be affected. The CSSA payments of disabled persons or persons in ill health, regardless of their age, would not be affected by the new policy either. The current term Government would implement the new policy which was formulated by the Government of the previous term.

**II. Any other business**

14. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
28 May 2018

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Special meeting on Monday, 19 March 2018, at 9:30 am**

**Review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme**

**Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/individuals**

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
1.	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Given that the standard payment rates of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") were determined on the basis of a review of the CSSA Scheme conducted in 1996, the Administration should review the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices ("SSAIP") to ensure that the index met the basic needs of CSSA recipients.</li> <li>● The Administration should look into the arrangements of disregarded earnings ("DE") since those arrangements had in effect discouraged able-bodied CSSA recipients from taking up employment. Besides, the Administration should also review the amount and items of the special grants provided for CSSA recipients.</li> <li>● As regards the policy of raising the eligible age for elderly CSSA from 60 to 65 ("the new policy"), the Administration should exercise discretion to provide elderly CSSA for persons in ill health who were aged between 60 and 64.</li> </ul>
2.	自強協會輪友關注政策小組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Given the requirement of applying for CSSA on a household basis, many elderly persons and persons with disabilities were ineligible for CSSA as their families could not pass the income and asset tests. Such a requirement discouraged needy persons from living together with their families and adversely affected the relationship among family members. Besides, needy persons, who did not live together with their families due to the CSSA application requirement, might not receive sufficient care from their family members. This might therefore increase the burden on the public healthcare system.</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should allow elderly persons and persons with disabilities to apply for CSSA on an individual basis in order to maintain their living standard.*</li> <li>● The Administration should increase the amount of special grants under the CSSA Scheme to cover basic fitting out expenses and essential household items.#</li> </ul>
3.	Miss WONG Tsz-yan	[LC Paper No. CB(2)1026/17-18(01)]
4.	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Given that the Administration had cut the CSSA payment rates by 11.1% in 2003, the Administration should restore the CSSA standard payment rates to the pre-2003 level.</li> <li>● Expressed dissatisfaction that the Administration did not take adequate measures to address the needs of the poor since 1996.</li> </ul>
5.	The Association of Parents of The Severely Mentally Handicapped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Given the requirement of applying for CSSA on a household basis, many needy persons were ineligible for CSSA as their families could not pass the income and asset tests. Such a requirement discouraged needy persons from living together with their families. The Administration should abolish such a requirement. The arrangements of the CSSA Scheme were in breach of Article 23 "Respect for home and the family" and Article 28 "Adequate standard of living and social protection" of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ("UNCRPD").</li> <li>● In the light of the medical needs and high medical expenses of persons with severe disabilities, the Administration should: (a) extend the grace period, which was given for deduction of CSSA due to hospitalization, to three months; and (b) exempt their carers, who were receiving CSSA, from participating in the Support for Self-reliance ("SFS") Scheme in special circumstances.</li> <li>● The Administration should: (a) subsidize needy persons to cover costs of Chinese Medicine treatment; (b) allow persons with disabilities, who lived in residential care homes and applied for CSSA, to live with</li> </ul>



No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>their families during their home leave;* (c) make public the scope of and application procedures for supplements and special grants provided under the CSSA Scheme; and (d) increase the rate of special diet allowance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expressed concern that staff members of the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") were inconsistent in approving the special grants under the CSSA Scheme to cover costs of medical and rehabilitation items.<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>
6.	The Lion Rock Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should not use taxpayers' money to provide welfare services. Instead, charitable organizations should raise funds to help needy persons.</li> <li>● The Administration and political parties aimed at rallying support of CSSA recipients through increasing provision of welfare services.</li> </ul>
7.	殘疾人士及長期病患者 就業關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In the light of employment difficulty and low salary, persons with disabilities who were ineligible for the Disability Allowance ("DA") could not afford to pay their living and medical expenses.</li> <li>● Given that the payment level of CSSA was far from adequate to cover the expenses on basic necessities, the Administration should increase the provision of allowance for elderly persons and persons with disabilities with a view to facilitating them in integrating into the society and living with dignity.</li> </ul>
8.	Mr Joey LEE Man-lung, Member of Wan Chai District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should simplify the arrangements of the CSSA Scheme through consolidating various supplements, special grants as well as standard rates, with a view to reducing administrative costs and increasing the amount of CSSA for the benefit of needy persons.</li> </ul>
9.	The Civic Party	[LC Paper No. CB(2)1068/17-18(01)]
10.	Mr SI Wai-san	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should increase the amount of CSSA to \$6,000 such that the recipients could cover the high expenses on</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		foodstuffs and basic necessities.
11.	New People's Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing assistance schemes of various government departments were inadequate in assisting CSSA households in covering the high expenses on extra-curricular activities for their children.</li> <li>The Administration should review the special grants under the CSSA Scheme such that CSSA households could cover their expenses on extra-curricular activities for their children.</li> </ul>
12.	Mrs LAI Kam-lin	[LC Paper No. CB(2)1068/17-18(04)]
13.	Richmond Fellowship Community Network	<p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)1068/17-18(02)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There should be guidelines on how to deduct the allowance after CSSA recipients took up employment.*</li> <li>SWD should provide a list of optical product manufacturers to facilitate CSSA recipients in obtaining quotations when they needed to apply for the special grant to cover costs of glasses.#</li> </ul>
14.	正言匯社	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Administration should review SSAIP and explain which items were covered by a basket of goods and services under SSAIP.*</li> <li>The new policy would affect the livelihood of CSSA recipients with disabilities who were aged between 60 and 64.</li> <li>Given that the amount of rent allowance and special diet allowance was inadequate to address the needs of persons with disabilities and they were not allowed to apply for CSSA on an individual basis, it was in breach of Article 19 "Living independently and being included in the community" and Article 28 "Adequate standard of living and social protection" of UNCPRD.*</li> </ul>
15.	Miss CHAN Ka-man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the light of the cumbersome application procedures for the special grant to cover costs of glasses, existing mechanism under the CSSA Scheme could not address special needs of persons who had to frequently change glasses.</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
16.	雅麗珊紅十字會校友會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Given that many persons with disabilities were ineligible for DA, the Administration should relax the eligibility criteria to provide DA and CSSA for those persons with a view to covering their expenses on basic necessities, e.g. fees for mobile phone service.</li> <li>● Expressed disappointment that CSSA applicants' income from work in sheltered workshops was counted in the CSSA's income test. The Administration should increase the amount of DE given that the statutory minimum wage had been increased.</li> <li>● In the light of the cumbersome application procedures for the special grant to cover costs of glasses, existing mechanism under the CSSA Scheme could not address special needs of persons with disabilities who had to frequently change glasses.</li> <li>● The Administration should provide, at SWD's offices, a list of physiotherapists and occupational therapists who could provide recommendations acceptable for the applications for the special grant to cover costs of wheelchairs. Besides, SWD should provide a grant to cover costs of renting wheelchairs during their maintenance.<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>
17.	Mr YU Kam-chung	<p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)1068/17-18(04)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should extend the meal delivery service provided for elderly persons to cover persons with disabilities.<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>
18.	四輪社區聯會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The increase of standard payment rates by 1.4% in 2018 was modest. Given a strong fiscal reserve and the fact that the Administration had cut the CSSA payment rates in 1999 and 2003, the amount of CSSA should be further increased to cover the recipients' expenses on basic necessities.</li> <li>● Expressed dissatisfaction at the Administration's failure to accept the recommendation of the United Nations that persons with disabilities, though living with their families, should be allowed to apply for CSSA on an individual basis.*</li> <li>● The Administration should review SSAIP and explain which items were covered by a</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		basket of goods and services under SSAIP.
19.	自強協會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enquired about: (a) whether a recommendation from doctors of the Hospital Authority was required for the special grant for costs of replacing wheelchairs and relevant spare parts under the CSSA Scheme; (b) whether fees for examination of wheelchairs would be covered by the special grant for costs of medical appliances under the Scheme; and (c) who could be eligible for preparing and approving those examination reports of replacing wheelchairs. Besides, various SWD's offices handled applications for the special grant to cover costs of medical appliances inconsistently.</li> <li>● SWD's staff should conduct site visits to obtain information about the complementary services in maintaining wheelchairs.<sup>#</sup></li> <li>● Expressed dissatisfaction about the Administration's inadequate justifications for not reviewing the CSSA Scheme.<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>
20.	林珍女士	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Objected to the new policy given that elderly persons had difficulty in taking up employment.</li> <li>● The Administration should take measures to understand the situation of the grassroots.</li> <li>● The CSSA Scheme was outdated since it was last reviewed in 1996.</li> </ul>
21.	Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union	<p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)1057/17-18(01)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expressed dissatisfaction about the Administration's inadequate justifications to implement the new policy despite the employment difficulty faced by elderly persons aged between 60 and 64. Besides, some CSSA recipients were required to participate in the SFS Scheme despite their disabilities and employment difficulty.*</li> </ul>
22.	天姿作圍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expressed concern that the CSSA Scheme had not been comprehensively reviewed for over 20 years and the rates could not catch up with the inflation to meet the basic needs of CSSA recipients.* The Administration should review the adjustment mechanism of</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>rent allowance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As the CSSA Scheme failed to keep up with educational needs of primary and secondary students, the Administration should provide additional allowances under the Scheme to cover expenses on extra-curricular activities, meals and dental service. Besides, the Administration should take measures to address needs of able-bodied persons who had to change glasses.</li> <li>● The Administration should review and adjust the amount of DE to cover the living expenses of CSSA recipients and encourage them to take up employment.</li> </ul>
23.	關注學童發展權利聯席	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should review the standard rates of CSSA for children as they failed to keep up with educational needs of students. Instead of providing a school-based allowance for students, the Administration should provide an additional allowance for students of CSSA households to facilitate their development.</li> <li>● Enquired whether the Administration would review the items covered by a basket of goods and services under SSAIP in order to catch up with the development in education policy and students' learning.</li> <li>● The Administration should coordinate the efforts of various bureaux in implementing measures to benefit needy children, and comprehensively review the CSSA Scheme.<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>
24.	低收入權益保障組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CSSA recipients lacked the capability to get connected to the society given that the CSSA standard payment rates and rent allowance could not cover their expenses on basic necessities. Besides, a modest increase in the CSSA rates would exacerbate the disparity between the rich and the poor.</li> <li>● The Administration had not conducted any consultation exercise on the new policy. It also lacked justifications and statistics to support its implementation. Besides, the new policy would push elderly persons aged between 60 and 64 into taking up low-paid jobs which could not give elderly persons dignity.</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expressed concern that SWD's offices had imposed inconsistent requirements in approving the rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme, and the Administration did not take adequate measures to address the needs of the poor even with a strong fiscal reserve.</li> </ul>
25.	Mr CHAN Wai-lun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration's proposal to provide extra allowance to CSSA recipients in the Budget would divide the society and inappropriately label needy persons.</li> <li>● Given that the Administration had not assessed the basic needs of CSSA recipients since 1996 and cut the CSSA payment rates in 1999, it should restore the CSSA standard payment rates to the pre-1999 level and review the CSSA rates.</li> <li>● The Administration should abandon the implementation of the new policy and allow elderly persons and persons with disabilities to apply for CSSA on an individual basis.</li> <li>● The comparison of the average monthly CSSA payments with the average monthly expenditure of non-CSSA households whose spending was the lowest 25% in Hong Kong was inappropriate, as CSSA recipients who were mostly elderly persons and persons with disabilities had greater needs than non-CSSA households. Besides, the Administration should explain which items were covered by a basket of goods and services under SSAIP.<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>
26.	羅麗萍女士	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should allow persons with disabilities (e.g. mentally handicapped persons) to apply for CSSA on an individual basis.</li> <li>● The Administration should subsidize the working poor, CSSA recipients and low-income persons to undergo a check-up annually in order to protect their health.</li> </ul>
27.	社區前進	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration's description of its proposal to provide extra allowance to CSSA recipients in the Budget (e.g. "出雙糧", "出三糧") would divide the society.</li> <li>● Given that both the policy objective of</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		encouraging children to provide for their parents and the arrangement of "bad son statement" would give rise to family disputes, the Administration should allow elderly persons and persons with disabilities to apply for CSSA on an individual basis.
28.	楊佩艮小姐	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should comprehensively review the CSSA Scheme since it was last reviewed in 1996. Besides, the Administration should review SSAIP and explain which items were covered by a basket of goods and services under the index.</li> <li>● The Administration should abandon the implementation of the new policy since grass-roots elderly persons had difficulty in taking up posts which needed to perform manual work.</li> <li>● Expressed dissatisfaction at the Administration's reluctance to accede to deputations' request for a comprehensive review of the CSSA Scheme.<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>
29.	梁麗賢小姐	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● After the implementation of the new policy, elderly persons aged between 60 and 64 could not receive elderly CSSA, other supplements and special grants. Given that this group of elderly persons had difficulty in taking up employment, they could not cover the high expenses on basic necessities. The Administration should therefore abandon the implementation of the new policy.</li> <li>● The Administration had not conducted any consultation exercise on the new policy. It also lacked justifications and statistics to support its implementation.*</li> <li>● Given that doctors could not easily assess the working capability of needy persons during medical assessment, they should be comprehensively assessed by a team of doctors, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and representatives from organizations supporting persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
30.	Miss LAM Sin-man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should have a comprehensive plan in reviewing the CSSA Scheme.* Besides, statistics should be provided to explain adjustments to the Scheme.</li> <li>● In the light of long waiting time for out-patient service, the grassroots had difficulty in seeking medical treatment. Besides, the grassroots could not afford the high expenses on rentals and social activities.</li> <li>● Housewives were not given adequate protection for their lives which was similar to retirement protection for people at work.#</li> </ul>
31.	李鳳琼女士	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should explain which items were covered by the standard payment rates to meet the basic needs of CSSA recipients. The Administration should conduct a public consultation exercise to understand the basic needs of CSSA recipients since it had not done so for over 20 years.</li> <li>● Given a modest increase in the standard payment rates, CSSA recipients could not cover their expenses on basic necessities.</li> </ul>
32.	Hong Kong Council of Social Service	<p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)1068/17-18(03)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Given that the average monthly CSSA payments were lower than the average monthly expenditure of households whose income was the lowest 20% in Hong Kong, the Administration should assess the basic needs of CSSA recipients to review the rates.*</li> <li>● The Administration should increase the amount of DE given that it had not been reviewed since 2007 and the statutory minimum wage had been increased.*</li> </ul>
33.	林宗祐先生	<p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)1068/17-18(05)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration should establish a committee to review the CSSA Scheme so as to better benefit elderly persons.#</li> </ul>
34.	關注家居照顧服務大聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Administration had not conducted any consultation exercise on the new policy. It also lacked justifications and statistics to</li> </ul>



No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>support its implementation. While many persons with disabilities and chronic disease patients were ineligible for DA, this group of elderly persons were not eligible for receiving special grants under the CSSA Scheme after the implementation of the new policy if they were aged between 60 and 64.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The new policy was inconsistent with the eligibility criteria for other welfare support services provided for elderly persons aged between 60 and 64, e.g. respite service and community support services for the elderly.*</li> <li>● The Administration should allow elderly persons and persons with disabilities, though living with their families, to apply for CSSA on an individual basis.</li> <li>● Expressed concern that SWD's staff had imposed inconsistent requirements in approving various grants under the CSSA Scheme. The Administration should improve transparency of the vetting criteria and put in place a complaint mechanism in this regard.<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>
35.	Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres	[LC Paper No. CB(2)1026/17-18(02)]
36.	關注綜援低收入聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expressed dissatisfaction that the Administration had cut the CSSA rates without sufficient justifications in 1999 and 2003, and implemented the Ending Exclusion Project as well as the New Dawn Project to push CSSA single parent recipients with young children to seek employment. During the years, the Administration's description of the CSSA recipients (e.g. "綜援養懶人") and relevant publicity would stigmatize needy persons.*</li> <li>● Given that many CSSA recipients lived under the poverty line and the CSSA Scheme was last reviewed in 1996, the Administration should comprehensively review the Scheme.</li> </ul>
37.	關綜聯政策行動組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Though the Administration had regularly provided extra allowance to CSSA recipients, over 40% of them still lived under the poverty line. Besides, the rent allowance</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>could not cover the actual rent paid by CSSA recipients. Given that the Administration had cut the CSSA payment rates in 1999 and 2003, it should provide a timetable on comprehensively reviewing the CSSA Scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The Administration should: (a) explain the items covered by a basket of goods and services under SSAIP;* and (b) assess the basic needs of CSSA recipients scientifically.</li><li>● The Administration should subsidize able-bodied persons to cover costs of glasses, dental service and Chinese Medicine treatment.</li><li>● Enquired about the Administration's views on areas of the CSSA Scheme that could be reviewed. The Administration should revert to the inflation forecast methodology for adjusting the CSSA rates, and restore the grants which were cut in 1999 and 2003.#</li></ul>

\* Views reiterated by the deputations/individuals when they expressed further views on review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme.

# Further views expressed by the deputations/individuals on review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme.