

## Index Page

### Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Session No. : 20

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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<a href="#">S-LWB(WW)01</a>	S032	KWOK Wai-keung	170	(2) Social Security
<a href="#">S-LWB(WW)02</a>	SV014	LEUNG Che-cheung	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare
<a href="#">S-LWB(WW)03</a>	S033	LUK Chung-hung	170	(1) Family and Child Welfare

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. S032)**

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Gordon LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

- (1) Members of the public have a keen demand for an early combination of Normal Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and Higher OALA, yet the Government stated that the implementation timetable requires reassessment. When will the assessment be completed and the result announced?
- (2) I support the relaxation of the permissible limit of absence from Hong Kong for OALA. Of the applicants "not meeting the residence requirement" as stated in Table 2 of the Annex, has anyone been unsuccessful due to their residing in the Mainland and failing to complete the application procedures?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

- (1) As stated in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address, in light of the financial implications of the initiative to improve OALA, the timing of implementation will be reassessed and the Government will announce the arrangements at an appropriate juncture.
- (2) OALA applications "not meeting the residence requirement" as stated in Table 2 of the Annex in the reply to Question Serial No. 2759 refer to those who are unable to satisfy the requirement of having been a Hong Kong resident for at least 7 years, and/or having resided in Hong Kong continuously for at least 1 year immediately before the date of application ("one-year residence requirement") under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme. In view of the epidemic, the Director of Social Welfare gives consideration to disregard absences from 1 January 2020 onwards of applicants for the SSA Scheme (including OALA). Figures in the aforementioned reply include cases that are unable to satisfy the "one-year residence requirement" despite that the absences are disregarded on a discretionary basis according to the special arrangement. SWD does not have a breakdown of applicants who are unable to meet the residence requirement due to their residing outside of Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-LWB(WW)02**

**(Question Serial No. SV014)**

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Gordon LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

Further to Reply Serial No. LWB(WW)135:

Regarding the Government's allocation of \$20 billion to purchase premises for the provision of welfare facilities, how many additional aided standalone child care centre (CCC) places are expected to be provided?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

The Social Welfare Department will provide about 2 800 aided standalone CCC places through the purchase of a total of 28 suitable premises in about 3 years from 2021-22 under the programme of "Purchase of Premises for the Provision of Welfare Facilities".

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. S033)**

Head: (170) Social Welfare Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer: Director of Social Welfare (Gordon LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question:

With respect to the number of cases handled by specialised co-parenting support centres (SCSCs) to support separated/divorced families mentioned in the reply, please advise this Committee the following:

1. The number of newly opened cases and that of cumulative cases handled (with a breakdown by each of the 5 SCSCs) in the years 2019-2020 and 2020-21.
2. The number of child contact sessions and exchange sessions provided (with a breakdown by each of the 5 SCSCs) in the years 2019-2020 and 2020-21.
3. The number of programmes and activities and groups provided (with a breakdown by each of the 5 SCSCs) in the years 2019-2020 and 2020-21.
4. How many cases on the custody, access, care and control of children did the Social Welfare Department (SWD) open between 2016 and 2020, and how many social enquiry reports were prepared?
5. How many cases on the custody, access, care and control of children did SWD re-open in each of the years between 2016 and 2020?
6. During the period, on how many occasions were SWD staff required to appear before the court to give evidence for respective enquiry reports submitted?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

1. The 5 SCSCs commenced service in October 2019. The number of newly received cases and that of cumulative cases handled by each SCSC in the years 2019-2020 and 2020-21 are set out below:

Name of SCSC	2019-20 (from October 2019)		2020-21 (as at December 2020)	
	Newly received cases	Cumulative cases <sup>Note 1</sup>	Newly received cases	Cumulative cases <sup>Note 1</sup>
KID First Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre (Kowloon East)	62	-	85	62
KID First Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre (Hong Kong)	38	-	66	38
Parent-child Connect Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	88	-	36	88
Parent Child LINK Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	37	-	29	37
Circle of Love Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	32	-	40	32
Total	257	-	256	257

[Note 1] Cumulative cases cover those outstanding in the past year and remaining active in the current year.

2. The number of child contact sessions and exchange sessions provided by the 5 SCSCs are set out below:

Name of SCSC	2019-20 (from service commencement in October 2019)		2020-21 (as at December 2020)	
	Child contact sessions	Exchange sessions	Child contact sessions	Exchange sessions
KID First Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre (Kowloon East)	83	76	294	183
KID First Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre (Hong Kong)	46	30	268	118
Parent-child Connect Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	233	176	442	171
Parent Child LINK Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	56	15	198	62
Circle of Love Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	79	25	176	92
Total	497	322	1 378	626

3. The number of programmes and activities and groups organised by the 5 SCSCs are set out below:

Name of SCSC	2019-20 (from service commencement in October 2019)		2020-21 (as at December 2020)	
	Number of programmes and activities	Number of groups <sup>Note 2</sup>	Number of programmes and activities	Number of groups <sup>Note 2</sup>
KID First Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre (Kowloon East)	23	1	59	12
KID First Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre (Hong Kong)	14	3	56	9
Parent-child Connect Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	22	3	20	-
Parent Child LINK Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	19	-	41	9
Circle of Love Specialised Co-parenting Support Centre	25	-	29	13
Total	103	7	205	43

[Note 2] Group service has been suspended in individual SCSCs due to social unrest and the COVID-19 epidemic.

4. The number of newly received cases involving enquiries on child custody dispute and the number of social enquiry reports completed by Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) of SWD from 2016-17 to 2020-21 (as at the end of December 2020) are set out below:

Item	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at end-December 2020)
Number of newly received cases involving enquiries on child custody dispute <sup>Note 3</sup>	888	863	1 022	838	534
Number of social enquiry reports completed	906	838	982	901	510

[Note 3] More than 1 child may be involved in a social enquiry.

5. SWD does not have the number of re-opened cases involving the custody, access, care and control of children in the respective years.
6. The number of court attendances by FCPSU social workers between 2016-17 and 2020-21 are set out below:

Item	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at end-December 2020)
Number of court attendances by SWD social workers <sup>Note 4</sup>	55	73	90	97	57

[Note 4] It includes attendances in the hearings concerning child dispute resolution and child custody dispute.

- End -