

For information  
on 23 November 2020

## **Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services**

### **Study of Support for Carers**

#### **Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the progress of the study of support for carers.

#### **Existing Support Services for Carers**

2. Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) implements various services and pilot schemes to assist elderly persons and persons with disabilities to live in the community. Some support services are also provided to carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

3. Subvented community support services for elderly persons and their carers are provided through 211 District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres, 92 home care service teams, 88 Day Care Centres / Units for the Elderly; and around 530 respite places are available for elderly persons. Apart from these, the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients, the Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment, the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly and the Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment also provide community support for elderly persons and their carers. In view of foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) playing the role of primary carer of elderly persons in many families, the Government has also implemented the Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Elderly Care to better equip FDHs with skills to care for elderly persons, thereby enhancing their quality of life in the community and supporting their ageing in place.

4. Subvented community support services for persons with disabilities and their carers are provided by 19 Parents/Relatives Resource

Centres, 17 Social and Recreational Centres for the Disabled, 16 District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities, 5 Support Centres for Persons with Autism, 8 service teams for Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities and Integrated Support Service Teams for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities; and around 490 respite service places are available for persons with disabilities.

5. In addition to the above, the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families and the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities respectively provide financial support to eligible carers of elderly persons and carers of persons with disabilities. The Pilot Scheme on Providing Subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance Recipients in Paid Employment to Hire Carers provides a subsidy for eligible persons with disabilities to hire carers to assist them in travelling between their homes and workplaces, with a view to encouraging them to stay in employment.

6. The above support services for carers include providing carers with information, training service, counselling service, outreaching service, assistance to form mutual assistance groups, demonstrations and loans of rehabilitation equipment, cash support, as well as providing eligible elderly persons and persons with disabilities in need with home-based or centre-based care services, residential respite services and day respite services.

### **Study of Support for Carers**

7. With an ageing population and changes in social environment, the number of carers and support services needed are expected to increase. To address this, LWB has launched a study on support for carers to explore more thoroughly the needs of carers and formulate a more comprehensive policy. LWB has commissioned a multi-disciplinary consulting team of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to assist in carrying out the study. The consulting team will seek to understand from carers, service providers, professionals and other stakeholders the needs and service expectations of carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities. The consulting team will also analyse carer policies and support services of other economies and consider various factors including finance, feasibility and sustainability in order to put forward recommendations on support for carers.

## **Progress of Study**

8. The consulting team is currently conducting data collection and analyses for the study on support for carers. The study and recommendations are expected to be completed in 2021. An overview on the study of the consulting team is at the **Annex**.

## **Advice sought**

9. Members are invited to note the progress of the study of support for carers.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau**  
**Social Welfare Department**  
**November 2020**

# Consultancy Study on Needs and Support Required of Carers of Elderly Persons and of Persons with Disabilities in Hong Kong

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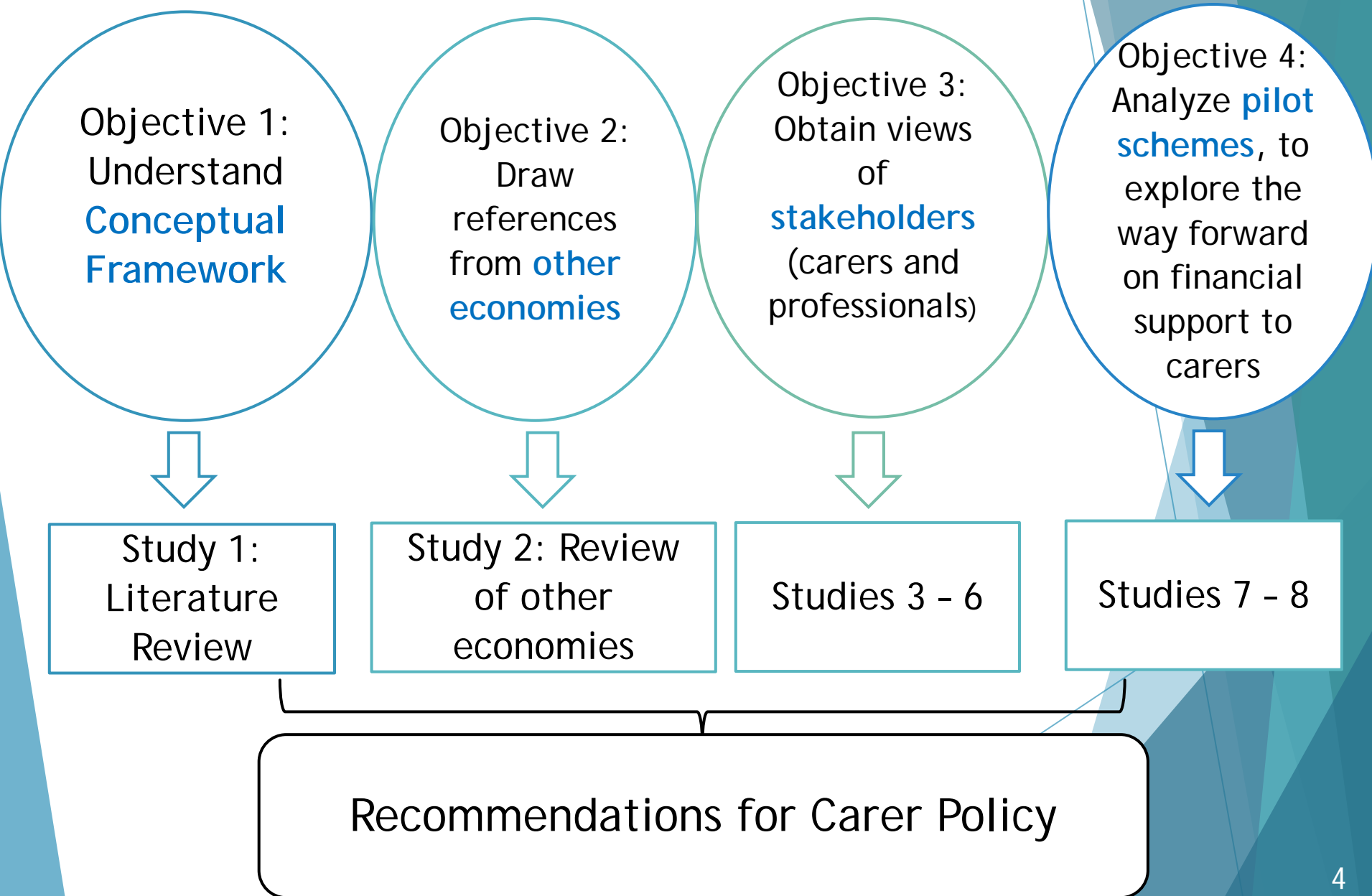
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## ■ Aim of Research

- ▶ To obtain empirical findings about the needs and support required of carers of elderly and PWDs through **triangulation** of research methods and data sources.
- ▶ The findings of the consultancy study will assist the Labour and Welfare Bureau to formulate an **evidence-based carer-centred policy**.

## ■ Research Overview



# Study 1

Aim :

- ▶ To understand **theories, policies, and practices** on carer support in **Hong Kong** and other parts of the **world**
- ▶ Design : Review of two groups of literature

Group 1	<b>Empirical studies</b> about carers in Hong Kong, <b>theories</b> about carers, carer <b>policies, support, and services</b>
Group 2	<b>Existing services</b> for carers of elderly persons and carers of PWDs



# Literature collection and summary

	Literature Collection
<p>Group 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Empirical studies in Hong Kong</li><li>- Theories</li><li>- Policies and services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Journal articles</a></li><li>• Database: PubMed, PsycInfo, Web of Science, Scopus, EBSCOHost, and JSTOR</li><li>• Publication year : 2010 - 2020</li><li>• Keywords related to carers of elderly persons and carers of PWDs</li></ul>
<p>Group 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Existing services in Hong Kong</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Information about regularized services, pilot schemes, and new initiatives</a></li><li>• Exhaustive <a href="#">Internet search</a></li></ul>

# Study 2

Aims :

- ▶ To examine **good carer practices and policies** in other economies
- ▶ Design: Literature review and case study in three steps

Step 1	Overview of carer policies in <b>various economies</b> around the world
Step 2	In-depth analysis of <b>four selected economies</b>
Step 3	Case study and field trip of <b>one selected economy</b>

# Preliminary selection of places for in-depth analysis

## > Analysis on other economics

- ▶ Policy search about Australia, Canada, China (Mainland and Taiwan), Japan, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom, and USA is being conducted.
- ▶ Will conduct in-depth analysis of four selected economies, and then choose one selected economy to undergo case study and field visits

# Studies 3 and 4

## Aims :

- ▶ To identify **needs, strengths, and service expectations** in carrying out caregiving role from the perspective of **carers of elderly persons** (Study 3) and **carers of PWDs** (Study 4)

## Design :

- ▶ **3-stage mixed method approach**

Stage 1 is a qualitative research, Stage 2 is a cross-sectional survey (quantitative research), and Stage 3 is another round of qualitative research.

# Studies 5 and 6

## Aim:

- ▶ To develop a typology of normative **needs** and **service expectations** of carers of elderly persons (Study 5) and of carers of PWDs (Study 6) from the perspective of **stakeholders**

## Design:

- ▶ **3-stage mixed method approach**

Stage 1 is a qualitative research, Stage 2 is a cross-sectional survey (quantitative research), and Stage 3 is another round of qualitative research.

# Study 7

Aims :

- ▶ To explore **financial support** for carers of elderly persons, including the way forward of **“Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families”**

# Study 8

## Aims :

- ▶ To assess the effectiveness of the two pilot schemes, namely **Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled**, and **Pilot Scheme on Providing Subsidy for HDA Recipients in Paid Employment to Hire Carers**
- ▶ To explore the way forward of these two pilot schemes and the **Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities** in coordination with other existing or pilot services

# ■ Study Progress

Study	Progress
Study 1	Submitted research analysis and findings
Study 2	Collecting relevant information
Study 3	Completed 1 <sup>st</sup> Stage Focus Group of Carers, conducting data analysis; Preparing 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage Survey
Study 4	Completed 1 <sup>st</sup> Stage Focus Group of Carers, conducting data analysis; Preparing 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage Survey
Study 5	Completed 1 <sup>st</sup> Stage Focus Group of Stakeholders; Preparing 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage Survey
Study 6	Preparing 1 <sup>st</sup> Stage Focus Group of Stakeholders and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage Survey
Study 7	Preparing Focus Group/ Personal Interviews
Study 8	Collecting relevant information