

**For information on  
16 July 2021**

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services  
Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Silver Age Card**

**Enhancement and Anti-abuse Measures under  
the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for  
the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities**

**Purpose**

This paper sets out the arrangement of the enhancement and anti-abuse measures under the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (\$2 Scheme), including the implementation date of lowering of the eligible age from 65 to 60 and the application timetable and methods for the Personalised Octopus Card (P-Card) tailor-made for the \$2 Scheme.

**Background**

2. The Government launched the \$2 Scheme in 2012 for elderly persons aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities to travel on designated public transport modes at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip with a view to achieving the policy objective of building a caring and inclusive society in Hong Kong. The Government announced in January 2021 the enhancement and anti-abuse measures under the \$2 Scheme including the lowering of the eligible age from 65 to 60 on the strict condition that persons aged 60 to 64 must apply for and use a tailor-made P-Card carrying their personal photo and name in Chinese and English name, benefitting more than 600 000 persons; and extending the \$2 Scheme to red minibuses, kaitos and the tramways on condition of their strict compliance with the Transport Department (TD)'s monitoring conditions prior to their admission.

**Latest Situation**

3. The Government announced on 30 June 2021 that the eligible age of the \$2 Scheme would be lowered to 60 with effect from 27 February

2022. Beneficiaries aged 60 to 64 must apply for and use the JoyYou Card, a P-Card tailor-made for the \$2 Scheme, to enjoy the \$2 concessionary fare. The JoyYou Card will carry the personal photo and name of eligible beneficiaries for identification. Each eligible beneficiary will be issued with one card only. The \$2 Scheme will also be extended to cover red minibuses, kaitos and the tramways on the same day.

### **Application Timetable**

4. New beneficiaries aged 60 to 64 should apply for the JoyYou Card, a P-Card tailor-made for the \$2 Scheme, from 2 August 2021 in phases according to the applicants' years of birth. There is no need to rush as the JoyYou Cards issued prior to the effective date (i.e. 27 February 2022) can only be used as normal Adult Octopus Cards. Eligible persons aged 60 to 64 should therefore submit their applications according to the timetable below:

<b>Application period</b>	<b>Year of birth (as shown on the Hong Kong Identity Card)</b>
2 to 31 August 2021	1957
1 to 30 September 2021	1958
1 to 31 October 2021	1959
1 to 30 November 2021	1960
1 to 31 December 2021	1961
From 1 January 2022 onwards	Persons reaching the age of 60 in three months

### **How to Apply for a JoyYou Card**

5. Eligible persons aged 60 to 64 may submit their applications via the Octopus App or by post. The mobile application and the application form are available for download on the JoyYou Card webpage ([www.octopus.com.hk/joyyou/en](http://www.octopus.com.hk/joyyou/en)). Paper application forms can be obtained from 2 August 2021 at over 330 distribution points, viz. 97 Mass Transit Railway stations with Customer Service Centres (except Racecourse Station), 20 Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of District Offices, four Licensing Offices of the TD as well as over 210 District Elderly Community Centres, Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and Social Centres for the Elderly subvented by the Government. A list of these distribution

points and videos detailing the steps for application can also be found in the webpage.

6. The Octopus Cards Limited (OCL) will send the JoyYou Card to the applicant's Hong Kong postal address within four weeks upon receipt of the completed application form. The Government will subsidise the \$20 administrative fee for eligible first-time applicants meaning that they are not required to pay any administrative fee to the OCL. JoyYou Card holders should load the card with an amount higher than \$50 before initial use to cover the \$50 refundable deposit charged by the OCL. For enquiries on the JoyYou Card, please visit its webpage or call the service hotline (2266 2222).

### **Arrangement for Existing Beneficiaries**

7. Current beneficiaries aged 65 or above of the \$2 Scheme may continue to use their Anonymous Elder Octopus or P-Cards to enjoy the \$2 concessionary fare. Arrangements for them to apply for the JoyYou Card will be announced in the first quarter of 2022. Besides, eligible persons with disabilities may continue to enjoy the \$2 concessionary fare by using their existing P-Cards with valid "Persons with Disabilities Status" and need not apply for the JoyYou Card.

### **Advice Sought**

8. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Labour and Welfare Bureau  
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