

Building an Age-friendly Community





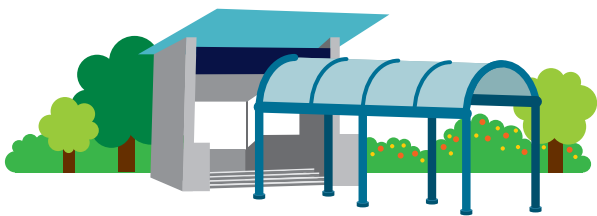
In response to the continuous growth of our elderly population, apart from enhancing healthcare and social welfare services for the elders, the Government will direct resources on building an age-friendly environment to enable more elderly people to age in place and achieve active ageing. To this end, we will strengthen the daily support for the elderly in various aspects, including road transport, community facilities and living environment.

Enhancing Pedestrian Facilities - Improve Accessibility for the Elderly

- We are enhancing progressively the barrier-free access facilities of existing public walkways under the Universal Accessibility Programme. The Government has already completed over 20 projects and will press ahead with the rest, that is about 180 in all 18 districts to improve accessibility for the elderly and other members of the public. These projects include three priority projects selected by each of the 18 District Councils (DCs). It is expected that about 80% of the projects will be completed in phases by 2018.
- The Government plans to further invite the 18 DCs to nominate, starting the fourth quarter of this year, not more than three walkways in each district for incorporation into the second phase of the Universal Accessibility Programme. The walkways that the DCs may nominate for enhancement will no longer be confined to public walkways maintained by the Highways Department, provided that certain criteria be met.



- Hong Kong has many hillside buildings, and slopes and staircases are quite common. We plan to take forward the construction of three lift and pedestrian walkway systems in Tsing Yi, Kwai Chung and Kowloon City respectively. We will also build an elevated walkway in Tseung Kwan O and a footbridge in Tsuen Wan to provide convenient access for the elderly and other members of the public. We plan to commence the projects progressively starting the fourth quarter of this year.
- Covers will be provided on certain walkways connecting to public transport facilities so that the elderly and members of the public can walk under shelter without being exposed to the weather. The Government will invite the DCs to nominate suitable walkways, and the works are expected to commence in phases starting from 2018.
- We will upgrade the barrier-free facilities at over 3 000 government premises.



- We will implement appropriate measures to further enhance accessibility for pedestrians and improve quality of life. Such measures include waiving the land premium for lease modification to encourage the private sector to take early actions to implement the planned pedestrian connection facilities, such as footbridges and subways. This will help create a safer walking environment to meet the needs of an ageing population. We will use Kowloon East as a pilot area for implementing this new policy.

Transport – Promoting an Active Lifestyle among the Elderly

- The Government will examine the application of technology to extend the pedestrian green time to facilitate the elderly and the disabled to cross signalised road junctions.
- The “Hong Kong eTransport” provides one-stop point-to-point public transport route search service. To facilitate its use by the elderly, the Transport Department will enhance the system to provide voice recognition input and audio route search results output functions.
- The Government will offer subsidy to franchised bus companies for expediting the installation of display panels at suitable sheltered bus stops to facilitate access to real-time bus arrival information by waiting passengers (elderly passengers included). We expect to complete the installation of several hundreds of display panels within the first phase of around three years.



- The Government will offer subsidy to franchised bus companies for the installation of seats at bus stops for the convenience of elderly passengers and those in need. We expect that seats will be installed at over 1 000 suitable bus stops within the first phase of around three years.

Enhancement of Public Facilities

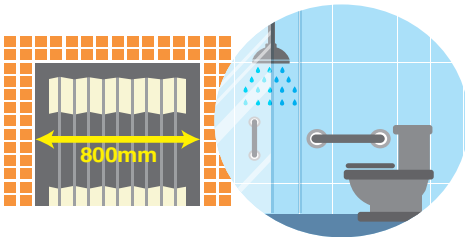
The Government will improve cultural, recreational and municipal facilities to meet the actual needs of the elderly and encourage them to integrate into the community.

Such enhancement measures include:

- providing additional chairs in existing public facilities such as markets and columbaria, and new lifts at markets. Further age-friendly facilities will be installed in existing public toilets, and the area of one of the water closet compartments in new public toilets will be enlarged to serve as a priority water closet compartment for the elderly where practicable;
- providing priority seats for the elderly in indoor facilities such as swimming pools and sports centres;
- installing additional elderly fitness equipment in outdoor leisure venues of the 18 districts; and
- enhancing the hardware facilities in public libraries to promote reading among the elderly, and providing equipment suited to the needs of elderly people (including seats and reading aids) in public libraries in phases starting late 2016.



Ageing in Place



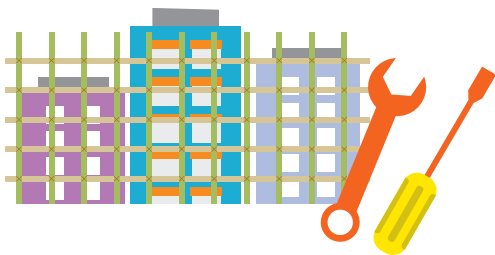
- The concept of universal design has been adopted in all newly-built public rental housing (PRH) estates to create an environment in which people of different generations and with different physical abilities can live in harmony. Universal design facilitates “ageing in place” through the provision of comprehensive barrier-free facilities

in residential buildings and flats as well as common areas. For example, building entrances, corridors and flat doors have been widened to 800 millimetres to give wheelchair users decent space to move around conveniently and safely. A sunken shower area and power sockets at one metre above floor level are provided in each of these residential flats. Such facilities facilitate the elders to continue living in the same flat even in their old age and when their mobility is compromised without the need to carry out any major modification.

- Facilities in old PRH units will be modified to meet the special needs of eligible elderly.
- Regarding public facilities, newly built PRH estates are equipped with specific barrier-free access connecting all residential blocks and major facilities in newly-built housing estates. There will be dropped kerbs at major junctions, tactile guide connecting all residential blocks and major facilities in the estates, as well as handrails and non-slip floor tiles at suitable locations. In addition, recreational and leisure facilities such as Tai Chi area and fitness equipment will be provided to cater for the needs of the elderly.
- The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) plans to increase the provision of recreational facilities for the elderly such as fitness equipment, pavilions and benches, in about 100 PRH estates with a higher proportion of elderly residents; or to change the use or design of public space in these estates to meet the needs of tenants.



- Barrier-free facilities such as lifts will be installed at existing PRH estates, properties of HA and relevant walkways maintained by the Highways Department to facilitate access by the elderly and people in need.



- At present, a number of building rehabilitation assistance schemes are run by different organisations for property owners, including the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners administered by the Hong Kong Housing Society. The scheme provides a maximum grant of \$40,000 for elderly owner-occupiers with financial difficulties to repair and maintain their buildings.

Age-friendly Communities

The Government will provide additional resources for DCs to promote the building of age-friendly communities at the district level, and encourage DCs to participate in the World Health Organization's "age-friendly community" accreditation scheme. Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Sai Kung have obtained the accreditation of the World Health Organization and become the first batch of age-friendly communities.



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Home Affairs Bureau
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Food and Health Bureau
Development Bureau