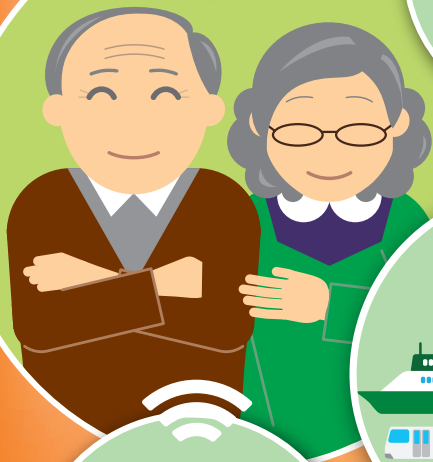


Caring for the Elderly



Elderly people have contributed substantially to building Hong Kong. They are the valuable assets of our society. A spectrum of services are provided by the Government for the elderly to care for them and cater for their needs. Various schemes have also been rolled out to encourage the elderly to stay active and promote a sense of worthiness among them, enabling them to lead a fulfilling life.

\$2 Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme

The scheme enables 1.12 million elderly persons aged 65 or above to travel on general MTR lines, franchised buses, ferries and most green minibus routes anytime at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip.



Senior Citizen Card

The Senior Citizen Card facilitates those aged 65 or above to enjoy concessions, discounts or priority services offered by government departments, public organisations and over 2 000 private enterprises.

Elder Academy Scheme

The Elder Academy Scheme encourages the elderly persons to engage in continuous learning and acquire new knowledge. This allows them to keep pace with the times, lead a fulfilling life and achieve active ageing.



Elderly Centres

The 210 subvented elderly centres in Hong Kong provide diversified community support services for elderly persons and their carers. Since 2012-13, a total of \$900 million has been allocated for implementing the Improvement Programme of Elderly Centres. It aims to improve the physical settings and facilities of elderly centres and encourage active participation of the elderly in community activities and volunteer services.

Social Security

Elderly persons aged 70 or above may apply for the non-means-tested Old Age Allowance (currently benefitting 220 000 people). Those in need of financial support may, having regard to their financial conditions (assets and income), apply through declaration for the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) (for those aged 65 or above; currently benefitting around 430 000 people) or the means-tested Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) (for all ages; currently benefitting 170 000 elderly recipients aged 60 or above).

Subsidised Care Services

To help the elderly obtain appropriate care, we will:

- provide more subsidised places for community care services and residential care services to meet the long-term care needs of frail elderly persons;
- strengthen the inspection and monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly;
- convert existing EA2 places of the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme to EA1 places which are of a higher quality;
- set up a dedicated team to provide assistance for participants of the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly; and
- implement a pilot scheme under the Lotteries Fund to enhance the training for foreign domestic helpers in taking care of elderly persons.



Retirement in the Mainland

Elderly persons who choose to retire in the Mainland may continue to receive help under various initiatives.

These include:



- the Guangdong Scheme, which provides Old Age Allowance for eligible elderly persons who choose to live in Guangdong;
- the Portable CSSA Scheme, which allows eligible elderly CSSA recipients to continue to receive cash assistance if they choose to retire in Guangdong or Fujian; and
- the Pilot Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong, which provides elderly persons waitlisting for subsidised residential care places in Hong Kong with an option to choose to live in the two elderly homes located in Shenzhen and Zhaoqing run by Hong Kong non-governmental organisations.

Community Care Fund Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of the Elderly Persons from Low Income Families

Launched in June 2014, the pilot scheme aims at providing carers of elderly persons from low-income families with an allowance to help supplement their living expenses so that elderly persons in need of long-term care can, with the help of their carers, receive proper care and age in their familiar community. The target quota is 2 000 carers.

Community Care Fund Elderly Dental Assistance Programme

Since September 2015, OALA recipients aged 80 or above are eligible for free removable dentures and related dental services. The first phase covers 130 000 elders. The Programme will be expanded in phases to cover other OALA recipient age groups.



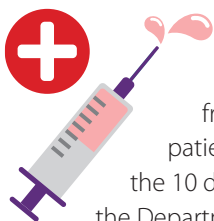
Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme



Health care vouchers are provided for each elderly person aged 70 or above and the annual voucher amount is \$2,000. The vouchers may be used for private primary and preventive care services offered by medical practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners,

dentists, chiropractors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, radiographers, medical laboratory technologists and optometrists. Starting October 2015, eligible elders can also use their health care vouchers to meet the fees for out-patient healthcare services provided by designated medical centres of the University of Hong Kong – Shenzhen Hospital.

Government Vaccination Programme



Free seasonal influenza vaccination is provided to elderly people aged 65 or above. They can choose to have free vaccination at the 73 general out-patient clinics of the Hospital Authority and the 10 designated Elderly Health Centres of the Department of Health under the Government Vaccination Programme. They can also receive subsidised vaccination at private clinics through the Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme, or free vaccination at residential care homes for the elderly under the Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme.

Healthcare Services for the Elderly

To cope with the increasing service demand and enhance service quality, we will:



- implement a pilot scheme through medical-social collaboration at suitable elderly centres to provide integrated community care services for demented elderly persons in the community;
- strengthen healthcare services for the elderly by setting up the 5th joint replacement centre in the territory and enhancing the service of the Community Geriatric Assessment Teams, including the provision of outreach medical service for more residential care homes and better support for terminally ill patients living there; and
- implement a series of measures to shorten the waiting time for specialist out-patient services in public hospitals,

including allowing patient-initiated cross-cluster new case booking and enhancing primary care services.

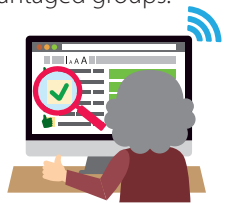
ICT Outreach Programmes for Elderly

The ICT Outreach Programmes for Elderly are implemented to allow elderly people to experience the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in enhancing their quality of life. Various activities are organised for the institutionalised elderly, "hidden" elderly and elderly people receiving day care centre services or home care services, teaching and encouraging them to broaden their social circles and connect with the community with the use of technology. Government funding is also provided for social service organisations to develop mobile apps that cater for the needs of the elderly and other disadvantaged groups.



Web Accessibility Campaign

The Government pursues a multi-pronged strategy in promoting wider adoption of barrier-free website design to facilitate browsing and use of online information and services by members of the public (including the elderly and persons with disabilities).



Care for the Elderly

- The Hong Kong Housing Authority will continue to implement various initiatives in public rental housing (PRH) estates to foster mutual support among family members and care for the elderly; as well as collaborate with voluntary groups in organising activities such as "Volunteer for Seniors Day" and "Elderly Fall Prevention Roadshows", to show love and care for the elderly and promote healthy living.
- The Community Investment and Inclusion Fund will help build mutual help networks among residents of PRH estates in different districts to strengthen the care and support for elderly singletons and elderly couples.

“Age-Friendly Hong Kong” Project

- The “Age-Friendly Hong Kong” project aims to raise public awareness of age-friendly cities, with a view to creating a favourable living environment for the elderly in Hong Kong.
- Co-organised by RTHK Radio 5 and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the three-year project will be launched in March 2016 and includes:
 - Cultural heritage guide training session for the elderly, enabling them to guide their family members in tours of the heritage sites in the 18 districts;
 - Life story telling, allowing the elderly to share their memories and life experience; and
 - Elderly Academy, offering life-long learning programmes in six areas.



Senior Citizens Day

To show respect for our elderly and promote the message of caring for them, we have designated the third Sunday of November each year as Senior Citizens Day.

On 15 November last year, the Chief Executive and the Principal Officials of the Government held a tea reception at the Government House to celebrate the Senior Citizens Day with about 100 elderly people from 18 districts.

Telephone Enquiry: 3142 2088

Labour and Welfare Bureau

Food and Health Bureau

Home Affairs Bureau

Transport and Housing Bureau

Innovation and Technology Bureau