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## Chapter 6

# Building a Caring, Inclusive Society, Improving People's Livelihood

## Preamble

The current-term Government strives to forge a caring and inclusive society whilst developing our economy. To this end, the Government will continue to provide financial support for people and families in need through various measures, including the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, and the enhanced Working Family Allowance Scheme and Old Age Living Allowance.

The Government will sustain its efforts in poverty alleviation with the support of the Commission on Poverty (CoP) led by the Chief Secretary for Administration. The CoP will continue to review the analytical framework of the poverty line and update the poverty line, implement a number of assistance programmes through the Community Care Fund and promote social innovation through the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund. A poverty line analysis shows that the poverty rate in 2016 was 14.7%, representing a significant drop of 5.2 percentage points subsequent to policy intervention, with the size of the poor population staying below 1 million for the fourth consecutive year. The poverty situation by and large remained stable.

Ethnic minorities form an integral part of the local community and their population has been growing at a fast pace. However, some ethnic minorities have encountered difficulties in adaptation and social integration owing to language barriers and cultural differences. As the

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service needs of ethnic minorities have become more diversified, the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minorities Affairs, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, will co-ordinate, review and monitor the support for ethnic minorities. We will introduce measures in various aspects, including interpretation service, education, social welfare, employment and social integration to strengthen our support for them.

Children's growth and development is one of the priority policy areas of the current-term Government. We have set up the Commission on Children, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, in June 2018 with cross-bureau and departmental representation to engage the children concern groups in addressing the issues that children face while growing up. The Commission has started its work in this regard. The Government will also strengthen measures focusing on children's healthy growth and development. Among other things, the Government will launch a pilot scheme in the 2018/19 school year to provide social work services in phases for about 150 000 pre-primary children and their families, and set up five specialised co-parenting support centres to provide support to children of separated/divorced families.

Regarding elderly services, our objective is to enable our senior citizens to live in dignity and to provide the necessary support to promote their sense of belonging, security and worthiness. We will continue to implement the various recommendations as set out in the Elderly Services Programme Plan, including the implementation of a series of new measures to strengthen community care and support services as well as enhance the service quality of residential care homes for the elderly.

Meanwhile, we will continue to strengthen the support for persons or families with special needs, including persons with disabilities, persons with mental illness and ex-mentally ill persons, children with

special needs as well as their parents and carers. We will also render better support for children and victims of domestic violence.

The family is the cornerstone of our society and the key to maintaining social harmony and stability. On policy formulation, we have tasked the Family Council to advise bureaux and departments on the impact of various government policies on families. The Government will continue to collaborate with various sectors in the community to create a family-friendly culture in order to promote and encourage more diversified and flexible family-friendly employment practices.

On the issue of abolishing the arrangement of “offsetting” severance payment and long service payment with employers’ mandatory contributions under the Mandatory Provident Fund System, having carefully considered the views expressed by the business and labour sectors on the Government’s preliminary idea in the past few months, we decided to put forward an enhanced package and increase our financial commitment to address the concerns of both sectors. We will also introduce measures to further strengthen the protection of employees’ occupational safety and health.

In face of an ageing population, increasing prevalence of chronic and lifestyle-related diseases and rising healthcare cost, the Government will formulate long-term healthcare policies and plan on future resources to safeguard the health and well-being of the public. Enhanced efforts and extra resources will be put in place to promote health education, primary care and community care so as to promote public health and reduce the need for in-patient services. Apart from strengthening healthcare manpower, the Government will also advocate cross-sector (engaging the healthcare, social welfare and education sectors) and cross-profession collaboration to consolidate and enhance medical and healthcare services in a comprehensive manner. The practice of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong has a solid

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foundation. The Government will leverage on this advantage to actively promote the development of Chinese medicine on different fronts. Amidst the rapid development in medical technology, we will promote medical research and innovation and facilitate their wider clinical application to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of local healthcare services.

## Policy Initiatives

### **Poverty Alleviation, Elderly Care and Support for the Disadvantaged**

#### **Commission on Poverty**

- With its new composition, structure and functions, the new-term Commission on Poverty will continue to support the implementation of the Government's poverty alleviation strategies through maintaining communication with stakeholders and exploring innovative means to provide assistance for the needy groups. (CSO)

#### **Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund**

- Continue to support social entrepreneurs through the engagement of intermediaries, engage partners in formulating and implementing collective impact initiatives, promote the "Creating Shared Value" concept in the business sector, provide rental subsidy to social entrepreneurs and ventures for leasing co-working spaces, explore new funding modes, and sustain public awareness of and support for social innovation. The Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund will engage an intermediary to develop and operate a gerontechnology platform to address the challenges and tap the opportunities brought by an ageing population. (ITB)

#### **Poverty Alleviation**

- Continue to closely monitor the implementation of various social security schemes, including the Higher Old Age Living Allowance launched in June 2018. (LWB)

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## Helping Low-income Families

- Continue to implement the enhanced Working Family Allowance Scheme. Moreover, the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency will process the individual-based applications for the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy from April 2019 onwards to provide more efficient and convenient service for applicants. (LWB)
- Continue to support individuals and families who have difficulties in coping with their daily food expenditure through extending the short-term food assistance service up to 2020-21. (LWB)

## Enhancing Upward Mobility

- Continue to implement projects under the Child Development Fund to promote the long-term development of children from a disadvantaged background, with a view to alleviating inter-generational poverty. (LWB)

## Supporting the Disadvantaged and Caring for the Young

- Provide subvention to non-governmental organisations for setting up five cyber youth support teams to reach out to at-risk and hidden youths to provide early intervention and support. (LWB)
- Raise the ceiling of cash assistance under the District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development to \$2,000 per person per year, and increase the number of annual quotas to 10 000 to better cater for the development needs of deprived children and youths at the district level. (LWB)

## Supporting Families

- Set up a policy study group to explore the possibility of integrating and co-ordinating family-related policies under the purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau, including children, women and elderly policies. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Launch a three-year pilot scheme in the 2018/19 school year to provide social work services in phases for about 150 000 pre-primary children and their families in more than 700 aided child care centres, kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-child care centres in Hong Kong for early identification of and providing assistance to pre-primary children and their families with welfare needs. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Explore to provide after school care services for children aged three to six in suitable welfare facilities. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Regularise the community support programme for residents of new public rental housing estates through the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund to help the new residents and families integrate into the community as soon as possible. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Set up four small group homes on top of the continued increase in the number of residential child care places in phases so as to enhance support and protection for children and families in need. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue to launch an environment improvement programme for small group homes to meet the needs of children receiving residential care service. (LWB)

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- Continue to provide about 300 additional aided long full-day child care places in phases for children aged below three. (LWB)
  - Continue to launch a three-year Community Care Fund pilot scheme to relax the income limit for the low-income families under the Fee Waiving Subsidy Scheme for After School Care Programme and provide 2 000 additional full fee-waiving subsidy places, so as to strengthen the support for low-income families. (LWB)
  - Continue to strengthen child protection services and provide support for families with domestic violence problems through the provision of preventive, supportive and specialised services for victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services include rendering outreach service to protect abused children, supporting children who have witnessed or been exposed to domestic violence and victims of domestic violence, helping perpetrators and individuals with the risk of using violence stop their violence, and increasing the number of places and manpower of refuge centres for women. Publicity and public education efforts will also be made to combat domestic violence. (LWB)
  - Provide support services for victims of sexual violence. (LWB)
  - Strengthen support for divorced/separated families with children's interests as the paramount concern, including the set-up of five specialised co-parenting support centres from 2019-20 onwards to co-ordinate and arrange children contact, as well as to strengthen support for children and their divorced/separated parents with parenting needs. (LWB)
  - Set up a medical social service unit at the newly commissioned Hong Kong Children's Hospital. (FHB)



- Set up a dental clinic under the Department of Health in the Hong Kong Children's Hospital to provide services for pre-school children with special oral healthcare needs. (FHB) (New Initiative)
- Continue to strengthen our volunteer network and matching platform for promoting a caring and volunteering culture. (HAB)

### Supporting Families to Meet Child Care Needs

- Formulate planning ratio for the provision of child care centre places. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Enhance the existing manning ratios for qualified child care workers serving in day and residential child care centres within the 2019/20 school year so as to improve service quality. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Increase the level of subsidy for child care centre service within the 2019/20 school year so as to alleviate parents' financial burden in paying service fees. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Enhance the service quality of the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project by strengthening the training for home-based child carers and raising their incentive payments within 2019-20. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Re-engineer in phases the existing mutual help child care centres from 2019-20 onwards so as to further meet the child care needs in the community. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Launch a two-year Child Care Training Programme to equip grandparents with contemporary child care knowledge and skills so as to strengthen the support for nuclear families. (LWB) (New Initiative)

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- Continue to strengthen the promotion of breastfeeding and encourage the implementation of breastfeeding-friendly measures in the community and workplaces, as well as to review and assess the overall effectiveness of implementing the “Hong Kong Code of Marketing of Formula Milk and Related Products, and Food Products for Infants & Young Children” through the Committee on Promotion of Breastfeeding under the Food and Health Bureau, with a view to enhancing sustained breastfeeding and promoting breastfeeding as a norm for infant and young child feeding widely accepted by the general public. (FHB)
  - Step up measures to enhance the provision of babycare facilities and lactation rooms in the community. Such measures include imposing a mandatory requirement for the provision of babycare facilities and lactation rooms in the sale conditions of government land sale sites for new commercial developments comprising office premises and/or retail outlets, eating places, etc.; and mandating the provision of babycare facilities and lactation rooms in certain new government premises. The Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health are, in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments, working out detailed requirements and revising relevant guidelines. (FHB)

### **Enhancing Services for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Mental Illness**

- Enhance support for persons with special needs (especially children) and their parents through:

- converting the Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services into a regular government subsidy programme, providing on-site rehabilitation services for children with special needs who are studying in kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres through interdisciplinary service teams co-ordinated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and increasing the number of service places from about 3 000 to 5 000 in October 2018 which will be further increased to 7 000 in October 2019;
- enhancing the professional and support services provided under the On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services, including strengthening the establishments of speech therapist and social worker of the inter-disciplinary service teams, and setting up mobile training centres;
- enhancing social work services of Special Child Care Centres and Residential Special Child Care Centre;
- strengthening care and nursing support for children with severe disabilities receiving residential care services;
- implementing a pilot project, through the Lotteries Fund, on the provision of support for children who show signs of special needs and are waiting for assessment in kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres;
- providing direct psychological treatment on top of consultation service for persons with special needs (especially children) and their parents to help them deal with their family and emotional problems;

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- providing training subsidy for eligible children on the waiting list of subvented pre-school rehabilitation services so that they can receive self-financing services run by NGOs while waiting for subvented services so as to facilitate their learning and development, and waiving the means test for children on the waiting list for subvented special child care centre service; and
  - strengthening support for parents and relatives/carers of persons with disabilities, including children or young persons with special needs, through setting up new parents/relatives resource centres. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Strengthen community support services for persons with disabilities and their families through:
- setting up five additional District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities (DSCs) and enhancing rehabilitation training and service of these centres in order to enhance service capacity and quality of DSCs;
  - increasing the number of Support Centres for Persons with Autism from three to five to strengthen support for persons with autism and their parents/carers; and
  - increasing the resources and expanding the scope of home-based care services to serve an additional 1 800 persons with disabilities living in the community and strengthening transport support for home-based care services in order to enhance home-based rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. (LWB) (New Initiative)

- Strengthen the professional support provided by medical social workers in the hospitals of the Hospital Authority. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Review the training and care needs of ageing service users of Day Activity Centre cum Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons and Sheltered Workshop/Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre cum Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons so as to explore the need and feasibility of developing a new service mode to better address the service needs of ageing service users. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Explore the need and feasibility of developing a new service mode for sheltered workshops to better address the vocational training needs of service users. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Review the barrier-free access for persons with disabilities in local community/living environment by benchmarking against the accessibility standards and practices in overseas cities; conduct site inspections on the existing level of accessibility and consult stakeholders in order to formulate a strategy for eliminating barriers; and recommend practical measures, including application of information and communication technology, introduction of incentive schemes and launch of thematic training and education programmes, with a view to further enhancing the accessibility of the local community/living environment. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Formulate a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan for persons with disabilities. (LWB)
- Promote the spirit and core values enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, the rehabilitation sector and the public at large. (LWB)

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- Improve rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities by increasing the number of places of pre-school children service, day service and residential service, and places provided under the Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities. (LWB) (New Initiative)
  - Provide home care service for persons with severe disabilities and integrated support service for persons with severe physical disabilities on a territory-wide basis, and provide these service users with one-stop support services (including casework counselling, occupational therapy/physiotherapy, nursing care service and personal care service) co-ordinated and arranged by case managers in accordance with their needs to enable them to continue living in the community and integrate into society. (LWB)
  - Set up a “special needs trust” to provide affordable trust services for parents of children with special needs. (LWB)
  - Set up the Arts Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities to foster arts development for persons with disabilities. (LWB)
  - Enhance support for the operation and development of self-help organisations through providing funding for the Financial Support Scheme for Self-help Organisations for Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illnesses. (LWB)
  - Continue to provide professional support for hearing impaired persons, visually impaired persons and their families through multi-service centres for hearing impaired persons and rehabilitation and training centres for visually impaired persons. (LWB)

- Expand the target groups of Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness to secondary school students with mental health needs in order to strengthen professional support for them. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Enhance speech therapy services to ageing or service users with severe disabilities so as to assist them in dealing with swallowing problems. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Enhance the primary medical service for ageing service users at residential care homes for persons with disabilities by increasing subvention for the Visiting Medical Practitioner Scheme. (LWB)
- Implement measures to provide assistance and facilitation for persons with disabilities in applying for government jobs to ensure that they have equal opportunity in this respect; and enhance internship programmes within the Government for students with disabilities to strengthen their competitiveness in job seeking. (CSB)
- Enhance vocational rehabilitation support for persons with disabilities through: providing job attachment allowance for trainees of supported employment service and wage subsidy for employers offering job trials to these trainees; and strengthening post-placement follow-up service in vocational rehabilitation service units by extending the follow-up period from 6 months to 12 months. (LWB)
- Promote the employment of persons with disabilities by:

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- providing job attachment allowance and wage subsidy under the On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities and the Sunnyway — On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities to create job attachment opportunities for persons with disabilities;
  - providing subsidy for employers who hire employees with disabilities to procure assistive devices and/or carry out workplace modifications through the Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities;
  - providing financial incentive for mentors rendering workplace assistance and guidance to employees with disabilities;
  - regularising the psychological and emotional counselling services provided for job seekers with disabilities by the Labour Department;
  - promoting the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme to mobilise employers in the public and private sectors to employ more persons with disabilities;
  - continuing to implement the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme to encourage employers to hire and train job seekers with disabilities through the provision of an allowance, thereby enhancing the employment opportunities of job seekers with disabilities; and
  - providing support for businesses funded under the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project to create more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. (LWB)



- Enhance transport services for persons with disabilities through improvement to rebus service, and examine ways to further improve the accessibility of transport services for persons with disabilities. (LWB/THB)
- Provide bus service for the day activity centres cum hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons and community rehabilitation day centres. (LWB)
- Continue to implement the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to enable elderly people aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities to travel on the MTR lines, franchised bus routes, ferry routes and green minibus routes covered by the scheme at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip, with a view to building a caring and inclusive society by encouraging these people to participate more in community activities. A comprehensive review of the scheme will be conducted in 2018-19. (LWB)

## Elderly Care

- Strengthen the community care and support services for the elderly by providing an additional 2 000 service quota under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services. (LWB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Provide an additional 1 000 vouchers (bringing the total to 7 000) under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to support ageing in place for elderly persons with moderate or severe impairment. (LWB) ([New Initiative](#))

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- Implement a new scheme to set up day care units for the elderly at qualified private and self-financing residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) to increase the supply of day care services. (LWB) (New Initiative)
  - Provide designated residential respite places in private RCHEs participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme to relieve the stress of carers. (LWB) (New Initiative)
  - Continue to organise territory-wide public education activities to enhance public understanding of dementia. (LWB)
  - Reinstate by end-2018 the population-based planning ratios in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines in respect of subsidised residential care services and community care services, district elderly community centres and neighbourhood elderly centres. (LWB) (New Initiative)
  - Promote the research of new technologies that improve the quality of living of the elderly and encourage its application in residence, community and elderly homes. We also plan to launch the \$1 billion Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care in December 2018 to subsidise elderly service units to try out and procure/rent technology products. The initiative will also cover rehabilitation service units. (LWB/ITB)
  - Consider the possibility of allowing subsidised units of elderly and rehabilitation services greater flexibility in the importation of care workers. (LWB)

- Continue to implement the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly by adopting “money-following-the-user” approach with a view to offering elderly persons in need of residential care service an additional choice and providing an incentive for RCHEs to improve their services. (LWB)
- Continue to implement the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services to encourage more young people to join the care service profession in the welfare sector. (LWB)
- Consider suitable sites and operating mode for setting up integrated elderly services centres on a pilot basis to provide one-stop, multi-disciplinary healthcare and social services for the elderly at the community level. (FHB/LWB)

### **Service Quality of Residential Care Homes**

- Purchase an additional 5 000 EA1 places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme in the next five years to increase the supply of subsidised residential care places for the elderly and enhance the overall service quality of private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue to implement a series of measures to strengthen the monitoring of RCHEs and residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) and enhance their service quality on a sustained basis. Measures include:
  - continuing to review the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance, the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance and related codes of practice;

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- launching a five-year scheme to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of all RCHEs and RCHDs in the territory to enrol in Qualifications Framework-based training courses;
  - launching a five-year scheme to provide full subsidies for all private RCHEs to join accreditation schemes;
  - setting up district-based professional teams under a four-year pilot scheme to provide outreach services for residents in private RCHEs and RCHDs, so as to support their social and rehabilitation needs; and
  - conducting a consultancy study to review the existing licensing and regulatory regimes for RCHEs and RCHDs, including exploring the feasibility of formulating performance indicators for quality assurance. (LWB)

## **Creating an Age-friendly Community**

- Establish a web-based learning portal to help the elderly and people in need acquire digital skills in a fun and accessible manner, so that they can benefit from the advancement in digital technology in their daily lives. (ITB)
- Continue to implement the Opportunities for the Elderly Project and the Elder Academy Scheme to encourage elderly persons to actively take part in community affairs and pursue lifelong learning. (LWB)
- Continue to promote the building of age-friendly communities at the district level, including the participation of individual districts in the World Health Organization's "age-friendly community" accreditation scheme. (LWB)

- Continue to provide more fitness facilities for the elderly in government recreation and sports venues to encourage the elderly to participate regularly in health-building activities. (HAB)

## Social Security

- Facilitate elderly persons' retirement on the Mainland by:
  - continuing to implement the Guangdong Scheme and the Fujian Scheme to provide monthly Old Age Allowance for eligible elderly persons who choose to reside in Guangdong or Fujian; and
  - expanding the Guangdong Scheme and the Fujian Scheme to provide monthly Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) (including both the Normal OALA and the Higher OALA) for eligible elderly persons who choose to reside in Guangdong or Fujian. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Enhance the employment support for able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients through joint efforts of departments and agencies to provide more focused employment and retraining services for promoting self-reliance. (LWB) (New Initiative)

## Social Welfare Planning and Administration

- Launch a new phase of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses for non-governmental organisation (NGOs) to apply for the development or redevelopment of the sites they own, thereby increasing the provision of much-needed welfare facilities. (LWB) (New Initiative)

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- Support NGOs' development of non-profit making elderly apartments, which will be included in projects aiming at providing much-needed welfare facilities as the core components under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses, by charging these organisations nominal premium and nil administrative fee, with a view to encouraging them to maximise the development potential of the sites, and providing suitable and affordable accommodation for elderly persons who are living in sub-standard housing, living in/applying for public rental housing or having special social needs. (LWB) (New Initiative)
  - Continue to explore the feasibility of purchase of premises for the operation and provision of elderly and rehabilitation services so as to address the shortage of premises. (LWB)
  - Continue to encourage private developers to provide various welfare facilities, including day child care centres, residential child care centres, day care centres for the elderly and residential care homes for the elderly in their development projects. (LWB/DEVB)

## **Facilitation for Non-governmental Organisations and Social Enterprises**

- Review the leasing arrangements for government properties to facilitate non-governmental organisations and social enterprises to lease and use suitable government properties. (FSTB) (New Initiative)

## **Lump Sum Grant**

- Continue to conduct the Review on Enhancement of Lump Sum Grant Subvention System with the social welfare sector through the relevant task force lately established. (LWB)

## Family Council

- Work with the Family Council to ensure that family perspectives are duly considered in the policy-making process, and adopt an elaborate Family Impact Assessment checklist for assessing the impact of public policies on families. (HAB)
  
- Work with the Family Council to:
  - advocate a pro-family environment and further promote family core values of “Love and Care”, “Respect and Responsibility” and “Communication and Harmony” as well as the positive messages and values on family formation to encourage the community to attach importance to family; and
  - foster a culture of loving families. (HAB)
  
- Introduce family education packages through the Family Council to address the needs of different types of families; and promote family education at the district level in collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments. (HAB)

## Women

- Continue to implement gender mainstreaming in major government policies and initiatives across the board, collaborate with the Women's Commission to promote gender mainstreaming and gender awareness in various sectors of society and extend the network of gender focal points. (LWB)

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- Continue to promote the interests and well-being of women on various fronts through supporting the Women's Commission and its four working groups which devise and oversee work in four strategic areas, including enabling environment, collaboration and promotion, empowerment and training, and health and support. (LWB)
  - Continue to promote women's participation in the work of government advisory and statutory bodies. (LWB)

## **Commission on Children**

- The Commission on Children chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration amalgamates the efforts made by relevant bureaux and departments and children concern groups to focus on addressing children's issues as they grow. To strengthen the protection of children's interests and welfare, the Government will allocate additional resources for the Commission on Children from 2019-20 onwards. (LWB)

## **Strengthening Support for Ethnic Minorities**

- The Steering Committee on Ethnic Minorities Affairs, under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, will coordinate, review and monitor the Government's work on support for ethnic minorities. The Government will implement the following measures to enhance support for ethnic minorities: (CSO)
  - improving the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality for application to all government bureaux and departments as well as related organisations providing services to ethnic minorities; (CMAB)



- providing support for the Chinese learning of non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students, including:
  - continuing to commission school-based support services for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools; and
  - continuing to provide support measures to primary and secondary schools admitting NCS students to facilitate the implementation of the Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework; (EDB)
- providing tiered subsidies to kindergartens joining the kindergarten education scheme and admitting NCS students to further support these students starting from the 2019/20 school year; (EDB)
- providing additional resources to public sector ordinary schools to enhance support for NCS students with special educational needs, with a view to helping them cope with different learning stages and adapt to the school life; (EDB)
- providing additional funding to secondary schools admitting NCS students to support their learning of Chinese History using the Chinese language. In addition, the Ad Hoc Committee on Supporting Non-Chinese Speaking Students Learning Chinese History and Chinese Culture will provide recommendations on support to tie in with the implementation of the new junior secondary Chinese History curriculum; (EDB)

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- enhancing manpower support to Labour Department (LD) to launch a pilot programme in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide employment services for ethnic minority job seekers through a case management approach; (LWB)
  - enhancing retraining support for ethnic minorities, including expanding the dedicated Chinese language courses under the Employees Retraining Board, providing more designated industry-specific training courses and allowing more flexibility in the educational attainment criteria for enrolment in dedicated Chinese language courses; (LWB)
  - submitting legislative amendment proposals to the Legislative Council by end-2018 for implementing eight prioritised recommendations (of which six involve the Race Discrimination Ordinance) under the Discrimination Law Review as proposed by the Equal Opportunities Commission; (CMAB)
  - continuing to engage staff proficient in ethnic minority languages to provide services at selected job centres of the LD on a pilot basis; (LWB)
  - continuing to implement the Employment Services Ambassador Programme for Ethnic Minorities to engage trainees of the Youth Employment and Training Programme who can communicate in ethnic minority languages as Employment Services Ambassadors at job centres, industry-based recruitment centres and job fairs of the LD to provide employment services for ethnic minority job seekers; (LWB)

- introducing an internship programme within the Government for ethnic minority university students on a pilot basis to enable them to gain work experience and strengthen their competitiveness in job seeking; (CSB)
- strengthening welfare support for ethnic minority communities by reaching out to ethnic minorities in need through designated outreaching teams which will be operated by NGOs and comprise ethnic minority staff to assist them in receiving relevant welfare services; (LWB)
- allocating more resources to NGOs to raise the awareness of domestic violence and sexual violence among ethnic minorities through community education programmes and other means, and to encourage victims to seek help; (LWB)
- providing subsidy for special child care centres and early education and training centres to strengthen support for pre-school ethnic minority children with special needs; (LWB)
- setting up specialised ethnic minority units in parents/relatives resource centres for persons with disabilities to step up community support for ethnic minority families; (LWB)
- providing civil servants with induction training on cultural sensitivity or equal opportunities and other job-related training; and (CSB)

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- enhancing the interpretation services for ethnic minorities to facilitate their access to public services, including introduction of interpretation services in Vietnamese; strengthening the services of support service centres for ethnic minorities, particularly those provided for ethnic minority new arrivals and youths; and organise more district-based activities to encourage interaction and exchange between the ethnic minority and local communities. (HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

## **Enhancing Primary Healthcare Services and Disease Prevention/Control**

- Map out a cancer strategy in 2019 to set out the strategic direction for prevention and care services for the period between 2020 and 2025 drawing reference from World Health Organization's recommendations, international practices and local situations. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Encourage Government bureaux/departments to lead by example to actively implement the measures under the "Towards 2025: Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Control Non-communicable Diseases in Hong Kong" to reduce the burden posed by non-communicable diseases through promoting healthy diet, physical activity and reducing tobacco and alcohol-related harm. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- On the advice of the Advisory Committee on Mental Health, the Government will commission universities to conduct territory-wide mental health prevalence surveys covering children, adolescents and elderly to gather information on the mental health status of the Hong Kong population for planning the way forward for mental health services. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- Further to the “Joyful@HK” Campaign, which was a three-year, territory-wide mental health promotion and publicity campaign launched by the Department of Health (DH) in 2016, the Government has earmarked a recurrent annual funding of \$50 million to embark on an on-going mental health promotion and public education initiative. The new initiative aims to eliminate stigmatisation towards persons with mental health needs through education, with a view to building a mental-health friendly community. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Introduce free cervical cancer vaccination for school girls of specific age group as a public health strategy for the prevention of cervical cancer in Hong Kong. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- To increase the seasonal influenza vaccination coverage rate, the DH will launch a pilot scheme for providing free outreach seasonal influenza vaccination services at primary schools, increase the subsidy under Vaccination Subsidy Scheme and expand its eligible groups to cover adults between 50 and 64 in 2018-19. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- The Steering Committee on Primary Healthcare Development is developing a blueprint for promoting primary healthcare development. The Government will invest resources accordingly to enhance public health. (FHB)

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- The Food and Health Bureau is actively preparing for the establishment of a district health centre in Kwai Tsing. According to the recommendation of the Steering Committee on Primary Healthcare Development, the Centre would provide a range of professional services (e.g. nursing service, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and counselling service on the use of medication). We seek to strengthen collaboration between the health and social care sectors and public-private partnership in a district setting, with a view to enhancing public awareness in disease prevention and self-health management, offering greater support for patients with chronic diseases, and relieving the pressure on specialist and hospital services. Our target is for the Centre to commence services around the third quarter of 2019. In light of experience gained, we will develop in phases district health centres for other districts. (FHB)
  
  - The Colorectal Cancer Screening Pilot Programme has been running smoothly since its launch in September 2016 and has, as planned, identified and/or offered early treatment for people who are more likely to have or already have the disease. The Government started regularisation of the Programme in August 2018 and will extend it in phases to cover individuals aged between 50 and 75. (FHB)
  
  - The Steering Committee on Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis was established in July 2018. To map out strategies to effectively prevent and control viral hepatitis, the committee will formulate an action plan in the coming year to eliminate the threat of viral hepatitis to public health in Hong Kong. The action plan will serve as a blueprint for co-ordinating the work of the Government and other stakeholders in this regard. (FHB)

## Positioning and Long-term Development of Chinese Medicine

- Recognise Chinese medicine services as an integral part of the development of the healthcare system in Hong Kong by providing defined Chinese medicine services with government subsidy through:
  - the future Chinese medicine hospital (CMH) offering a combination of in-patient and out-patient services;
  - Chinese medicine out-patient services in 18 Chinese Medicine Centres for Training and Research at district level; and
  - in-patient services with Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine treatment in specific public hospitals. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- A dedicated \$500 million fund has been established and managed by the Chinese Medicine Unit of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) to promote the development of Chinese medicine. The fund will be used to provide support in areas such as applied research, Chinese medicine specialisation, knowledge exchange and cross-market co-operation, and help local Chinese medicines traders with the production and registration of Chinese proprietary medicines. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- The FHB has set up a dedicated unit to oversee the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, including deciding the positioning of Chinese medicine in the public healthcare system. A dedicated unit, the Chinese Medicine Hospital Project Office, has also been set up under the FHB to oversee the development of the first CMH. (FHB)

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- To cater for the development of Chinese medicine, we will include information about Chinese medicine in the sharable scope of the Electronic Health Record Sharing System, continue to standardise clinical and medical terminologies of Chinese medicine, and develop the Chinese Medicine Information System On-ramp so as to facilitate the access to and sharing of patients' information by Chinese medicine practitioners who choose to use the system in the future. (FHB)
  - Continue to gauge the views of the trade and relevant stakeholders through the Chinese Medicine Development Committee to help formulate and review the policy relating to the development of the Chinese medicine. Views on the development of the CMH will also be sought. (FHB)
  - On the development of the CMH, the proposed CMH will be constructed by the Government and operated by a non-profit-making organisation. The CMH, offering 400 beds in phases, will provide in-patient and out-patient services. We expect to commence the tendering procedures for selecting an operator in the second half of 2019. (FHB)
  - To provide the healthcare professionals required by the CMH for the provision of integrated Chinese-Western medicine services with Chinese medicine playing a predominant role, we will organise various training courses with universities and other institutes, including relevant courses for registered Chinese medicine practitioners, Chinese medicine pharmacists, medical practitioners, nurses and other healthcare professionals. (FHB)



- The Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute temporarily set up at the Hong Kong Science Park has commenced operation in phases since March 2017. We will construct a Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute building, and through the development of internationally-recognised reference standards for Chinese medicines and related products and the transfer of technology, empower the industry to strengthen quality control of their products and develop Hong Kong into an international hub for scientific research on Chinese medicines testing and quality control. (FHB)
- Continue to compile Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards for Chinese materia medica commonly used in Hong Kong and actively conduct the pilot study to set standards for Chinese medicines decoction pieces under the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards Project. (FHB)

## Strengthening Healthcare Services

- Expand the Community Care Fund Elderly Dental Assistance Programme to cover all elderly persons receiving the Old Age Living Allowance, and refine the service scope of the programme in early 2019. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Strengthen mental health services to provide more appropriate support to persons with mental health needs by:
  - extending the Student Mental Health Support Scheme to cover more schools in the 2018/19 school year with clinical psychologists' support introduced and service elements of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Community Support Project (CAMcom) integrated to facilitate early identification of students with mental health needs and enhance the multi-disciplinary support services to students in the school setting;

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- further strengthening the multi-disciplinary teams for Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Service of the Hospital Authority (HA) and enhancing the nursing support with a view to increasing the capacity of specialist outpatient clinics and providing more personalised and timely multi-disciplinary support services;
  - strengthening the manpower of Child Assessment Service under the Department of Health (DH) with a view to handling cases pending assessment in a more timely manner;
  - extending the multi-disciplinary service model to the common mental disorder clinic in HA's Hong Kong East Cluster within 2019-20 with a view to providing more personalised intervention service to target patients; and
  - extending the Dementia Community Support Scheme to the 41 District Elderly Community Centres in the territory within 2019-20 to provide cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary support services for elderly persons with mild or moderate dementia and their carers in the community through a medical-social collaboration model. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Improve the means test mechanism of the Samaritan Fund and Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programme with a view to providing more suitable and timely support to patients in need. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Increase the number of public hospital beds and operating theatre sessions, and enhance the endoscopic and diagnostic radiological services, so as to enhance the service capacity for addressing the ever rising healthcare needs. (FHB)

- Increase the quota for general out-patient and the attendances in specialist out-patient clinics, enhance the Accident & Emergency services and improve the waiting time for out-patient and emergency services. (FHB)
- Widen the scope of the HA Drug Formulary to improve the drug treatment for patients in public hospitals. (FHB)
- Strengthen the services for chronic diseases through, for example, enhancing the capacity of cancer and diabetic services, and increasing the service quota of haemodialysis for renal service. (FHB)
- The HA will enhance the collaboration among healthcare professionals to deliver more comprehensive healthcare services by:
  - employing all locally trained medical graduates and providing them with necessary specialist training;
  - expanding the coverage of clinical pharmacy services to improve clinical care for patients and alleviate workload of doctors;
  - launching a pilot programme on drug refill services for selected high-risk patients living in elderly homes with a view to improving patient services, enhancing medication safety and reducing excessive drug storage, providing elderly homes with IT and pharmacy support a barcode summary of dispensed medication to facilitate their creation of drug profiles for medication management, and exploring with stakeholders longer term options for enhancing pharmacy services for elderly persons living in elderly homes; and

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- enhancing the services of nurse clinics so as to facilitate patients' early access to treatment and continuity of care. (FHB)
  - Progressively enhance the HA's management and treatment of life-threatening diseases. The 24-hour intravenous thrombolytic therapy for stroke patients will be rolled out to all hospital clusters in 2019-20, and the 24-hour emergency percutaneous coronary intervention service will be rolled out to the Hong Kong West, Hong Kong East and Kowloon East clusters. The HA will also enhance its cardiac catheterisation laboratory and cardiac care unit services. (FHB)
  - As the Pilot Study of Newborn Screening for Inborn Errors of Metabolism, which has been implemented since October 2015, has proven effective, the DH and the HA have regularised the screening service in four public hospitals and will extend the screening service to all public hospitals with maternity wards in phases. Kwong Wah Hospital will provide the Inborn Errors of Metabolism screening service in late 2019. (FHB)
  - Continue to promote the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme, which subsidises elderly persons aged 65 or above to use private primary care services. At the same time, the Government is reviewing the effectiveness of the scheme with a view to ensuring that the scheme will enhance the provision of primary care services for the elderly, including preventive care. (FHB)
  - Strengthen support for elderly patients with fragility fractures by increasing the HA's operating theatre sessions in designated hospitals, and enhance physiotherapy service for elderly patients. (FHB)

- Continue to strengthen medical-social collaboration through the joint efforts of the HA and the Social Welfare Department with a view to providing a full range of transitional care services and the required assistance for those elderly patients discharged from public hospitals, enabling them to age at home after the transitional period. (FHB)
- Expedite the delivery of the 10-year Hospital Development Plan, for which a provision of \$200 billion has been set aside. (FHB)
- Continue to utilise the one-off grant of \$13 billion allocated to the HA in 2014 to carry out minor works projects to improve facilities in public hospitals and clinics. (FHB)

### **Ensuring Long-term Sustainability of Healthcare System**

- Commence the planning of the second 10-year Hospital Development Plan with a view to meeting the long-term demand for public healthcare services. (FHB) (New Initiative)
- Upgrade and improve the healthcare teaching facilities of the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to meet the long-term healthcare manpower demand. (FHB) (New Initiative)
- Improve clinic facilities in the Department of Health (DH). The department will carry out refurbishment and improvement works for clinics under its charge in phases starting from 2019-20. (FHB) (New Initiative)

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- Having regard to the preliminary recommendations of the Steering Committee on Genomic Medicine, the Government will conduct a large-scale genome sequencing project in Hong Kong, in order to enhance the clinical application of genomic medicine, and promote innovative scientific research on genomic medicine to cater for future medical development in Hong Kong through the establishment of genome data of local population, genome sequencing infrastructure and talent pool. Our initial plan is to sequence about 20 000 genomes under the Hong Kong Genome Project. The Food and Health Bureau will form an expert group comprising experts from the clinical, academic and research sectors to advise the Government on the project details. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
  
  - Lay the foundation for healthcare manpower planning. Measures include:
    - increasing the number of University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded first-year-first-degree places in healthcare-related disciplines by over 150 from about 1 780 to about 1 930, and providing for the first time UGC-funded taught postgraduate places in dentistry and increasing taught postgraduate places in clinical psychology in the 2019/20-2021/22 UGC triennium;
    - subsidising 1 320 students (covering 1 160 places in nursing, 50 places in physiotherapy, 50 places in occupational therapy, 45 places in medical laboratory science and 15 places in radiography) to pursue self-financing bachelor degree programmes in healthcare disciplines under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors in the 2019/20 school year, representing an increase of 460 places compared with that of the 2018/19 school year;

- promoting and encouraging qualified non-locally trained doctors to practise in Hong Kong by the Food and Health Bureau, Hospital Authority (HA) and DH, with the support of overseas Economic and Trade Offices, and proactively recruiting qualified non-locally trained doctors through limited registration by the HA and the DH in order to alleviate the imminent manpower shortage in the public healthcare system;
  - putting in place a structured mechanism in the HA to ensure that there is sufficient training relief, protected time and minimum training hours available for healthcare professionals, in particular frontline healthcare professionals;
  - planning for medical specialist training with the HA and the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine with regard to the needs to balance operational service needs and manpower situation as well as facilitate specialty and long-term service development; and
  - without affecting the employment and career prospects of locally-trained doctors, proactively rehiring retired healthcare professionals and providing more flexibility in hiring part-time healthcare professionals to serve in public hospitals by the HA in order to meet short-term service needs. (FHB) ([New Initiative](#))
- Set up a big data analytics platform in the HA to facilitate the identification of useful information that helps develop healthcare policies, enhance clinical and healthcare services, improve healthcare quality and safety, and promote innovation in healthcare services. (FHB)

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- The DH will re-engineer the resources for information technology development, staffing structure and operation workflow; comprehensively increase the application of information and communications technology; and strengthen the development of public health data. The DH will also put in place a comprehensive clinical information management system and other related systems so as to enhance its capability of meeting various public health challenges and deliver higher quality services to the public. (FHB)
  - Fully implement and promote the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme as well as provide tax deduction to encourage the public to purchase Certified Plans so that they may choose to use private healthcare services when needed, thereby alleviating the long-term pressure on public healthcare system. (FHB)

### **Safeguarding Public Health and Upholding Health Services Standard**

- Set up a full-fledged Office for Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities in the Department of Health to undertake the statutory enforcement work upon passage and commencement of the Private Healthcare Facilities Bill, with a view to ensuring patient safety and protecting consumer rights. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)



- Invite the regulatory bodies of healthcare professions to submit proposals on how to make continuing professional education and/or development a mandatory requirement in order to upkeep the professional competency of healthcare professionals; invite the Dental Council of Hong Kong to review the Dentists Registration Ordinance so that the regulatory framework of dental profession can keep pace with time; invite the Nursing Council of Hong Kong to study and implement voluntary registration scheme for advanced nursing practice and pave the way for setting up a statutory registration system; improve the arrangements for clinical supervision and specialty training by the Hospital Authority (HA); and invite the Supplementary Medical Professions Council to review the regulation and development of allied health professions and submit proposals to the Government. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Complete the review of the Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions, and commence the study on how to formulate a statutory registration regime for relevant accredited professions. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Examine proposals to improve the handling of abortion in a holistic manner, including provision of facilities. (FHB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Introduce as soon as possible the Bill to the Legislative Council for “pre-market control” and “post-market control” of medical devices for better protection of public health. (FHB)
- Consider formulating a more robust policy and legislative framework to facilitate end-of-life care planning and the provision of palliative care outside hospital settings. (FHB)
- Study the extension of statutory no-smoking areas at public transport facilities. (FHB)

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- Formulate legislative proposals for a ban on the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and advertising of electronic cigarettes and other new smoking products. (FHB) ([New Initiative](#))
  - Formulate legislative proposals for the regulation of advanced therapy products to safeguard public health. A clear regulatory framework would also facilitate the development of innovative medical products. (FHB)
  - Strengthen collaboration with relevant organisations to promote organ donation and encourage the public to register their wish at the Centralised Organ Donation Register. The HA will launch the pilot Paired Kidney Donation Programme in Q4 of 2018. (FHB)

## Retirement Protection and Labour Issues

### Retirement Protection

- On the issue of abolishing the arrangement of “offsetting” severance payment (SP) and long service payment (LSP) with employers’ mandatory contributions under the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) System, having carefully considered the views of the business and labour sectors, we decided to put forward an enhanced package and increase our financial commitment. The Government will assist employers in setting up designated saving accounts (DSAs) under their own name to prepare in advance for their potential SP or LSP expenses in future. Employers will contribute 1% of their employees’ monthly relevant income to their DSAs until reaching 15% of the annual relevant income of all their employees. The Government will also provide employers with a two-tier subsidy under which the period of the second-tier subsidy will be substantially extended from the originally proposed 12 years to 25 years. The Government’s total financial commitment is estimated to increase from \$17.2 billion under the preliminary idea to \$29.3 billion. We believe that this package should go a long way in helping enterprises to adapt to the policy change, particularly the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and establishments which are more prone to large-scale retrenchments. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- The Government and the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority have completed the preliminary scoping of the eMPF, a centralised electronic platform which will enhance the administrative efficiency of MPF schemes, thereby providing more room for fee reduction. We will continue our work on this front with a view to launching the electronic platform as soon as possible. (FSTB)

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## Labour

- Strengthen the protection of rights and benefits of employees injured at work by:
  - strengthening the rehabilitation services for employees injured at work;
  - enhancing the Claims Support Services to help resolve disputes relating to employees' compensation;
  - implementing a new screening process for the follow-up procedures for sick leave relating to work injury to speed up case processing; and
  - strengthening the enforcement of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Enhance the protection of non-skilled employees engaged by government service contractors in respect of their employment terms and conditions as well as labour benefits through implementing improvement measures. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Consider and follow up on the recommendation report submitted by the Minimum Wage Commission on the review of the Statutory Minimum Wage rate. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Secure support for the early passage of the Employment (Amendment) Bill 2018 which was introduced into the Legislative Council on 20 June 2018 so as to implement the proposal for increasing statutory paternity leave from the existing three days to five days. (LWB)

- The Government has completed the review of the statutory maternity leave (ML) and proposes to extend statutory ML from the current 10 weeks to 14 weeks. For the ML pay in relation to the additional four weeks, the current rate of ML pay (i.e. four-fifths of the employee's average daily wages) should apply and be subject to a cap of \$36,822 (i.e. the four weeks ML pay of employees with monthly wage of \$50,000). The cost for this extra ML pay will be funded by the Government by way of reimbursement to the employer. The Labour Department (LD) will report the outcome of the review to the Labour Advisory Board and seek its views on the proposal within this year. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Strengthen LD's work in processing and disseminating job vacancy information so as to more effectively assist job seekers to find jobs and employers to recruit workers. (LWB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)
- Continue to promote the employment of elderly persons by enhancing the employment support services for elderly job seekers. We will continue to organise various publicity activities to raise public awareness of the part played by elderly persons in the potential labour force and encourage employers to adopt friendly employment practices for the elderly. (LWB)
- Continue to provide on-the-job training allowance of up to \$4,000 per month for employers for a period of 6 to 12 months under the Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-aged, so as to give employers additional financial incentive to engage elderly job seekers aged 60 or above who have left the workforce or are unemployed in full-time or part-time jobs and provide them with on-the-job training. (LWB)

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- Enhance the awareness of workers imported under the Supplementary Labour Scheme about their employment rights and step up enforcement actions to protect their rights. (LWB) (New Initiative)
  - LD will continue to enhance the protection of labour rights of foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) and step up enforcement and prosecution against unscrupulous employment agencies, with a view to maintaining Hong Kong as an attractive workplace for FDHs. (LWB) (New Initiative)
  - Allow the importation of labour on an appropriate, limited and targeted basis to relieve the manpower shortage of individual sectors on the premise of according employment priority to local workers. (LWB)

## **Occupational Safety and Health**

- Further safeguard construction workers' occupational safety and health through new initiatives like conducting more in-depth surprise inspections and enhancing participation in site safety management committee meetings of public works projects. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Further reduce employees' health risks associated with standing at work through issuing new guidelines, promotional visits and inspections. (LWB) (New Initiative)
- Develop an online platform through which employees can use mobile electronic devices to report unsafe working conditions to the Labour Department (LD) for prompt follow-up actions. (LWB) (New Initiative)

- Formulate appropriate strategies and measures in light of the risk situation of different industries and work procedures to safeguard the occupational safety and health of people at work through strengthening inspection and enforcement, publicity and promotion, as well as education and training. (LWB)
- Increase the penalties in the existing occupational safety and health legislation with a view to strengthening the deterrent effect, thus further safeguarding the occupational safety of workers. (LWB)
- Step up promotion of the existing complaint channels to encourage employees to lodge complaints about unsafe working conditions, so that the LD can conduct more targeted inspections. (LWB)
- Continue to collaborate with trade associations, workers' unions, professional bodies, related organisations and other government departments to explore and promote measures to enhance work-at-height safety to further protect the safety of workers working at height. (LWB)
- Continue to launch large-scale promotional programmes to raise the occupational safety and health standard of the construction industry, food and beverage services sector, etc. and the occupational safety and health awareness of relevant stakeholders. (LWB)

## Religion

- Continue to liaise with various religious organisations and, having regard to their needs, play a co-ordinating role in local religious affairs. (HAB)

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## District Economy

- Keep supporting the continuous development of social enterprises through various means including the provision of start-up funds and strengthening support platforms to promote cross-sector collaboration and build up the capacity of social enterprises. (HAB)
- Continue to implement the pier improvement programme to enhance the structural and facility standard of a number of public piers in remote areas in order to respond to public requests and improve the accessibility of some remote scenic spots and natural heritages. We are carrying out site investigation works and technical studies for about 10 public piers in the New Territories and outlying islands under the first phase of the programme and will proceed early and progressively with relevant detailed design work, with a view to commencing construction works in 2019. (DEVB)