

Chapter VI

Improving People's Livelihood

My Belief

“Care for children, family support, patient care, poverty alleviation and elderly care are essential for building a compassionate and inclusive society.”

“The Government currently has a fiscal reserve in excess of \$1,000 billion. We are well positioned to use our accumulated fiscal surpluses, which are wealth derived from the community, wisely to benefit the community. On the premise of ensuring the health of our public finance, I will adopt forward-looking and strategic financial management principles in making investment for Hong Kong and relieving our people’s burdens..... We must adopt a people-oriented approach and be attentive to the needs of the people.”

To promote social harmony and achieve sustainable development, our economic development has to be inclusive and beneficial to different sectors of society. The practice of capitalism and market economy in Hong Kong was not in conflict with the Government’s social policies to actively improve people’s livelihood. Two figures can exemplify the determination of the HKSAR Government to improve people’s livelihood: about 60% of the recurrent government expenditure was allocated to education, healthcare and welfare, and an increase of 86% in social welfare expenditure over the past six years.

With limited public resources, implementing policy initiatives on improving people's livelihood is not just a matter of demand and supply, but also an issue of allocation of resources our society has to face. To make better use of the resources, we should promote cross-sector and cross-profession collaboration as well as public-private partnership in adherence to the following principles:

- (1) pro-child;
- (2) pro-family;
- (3) pro-work;
- (4) pro-user; and
- (5) pro-health.

Hong Kong people are by nature kind and willing to help others. The Government should further engage in tripartite co-operation with the community and the business sector to build a harmonious society.

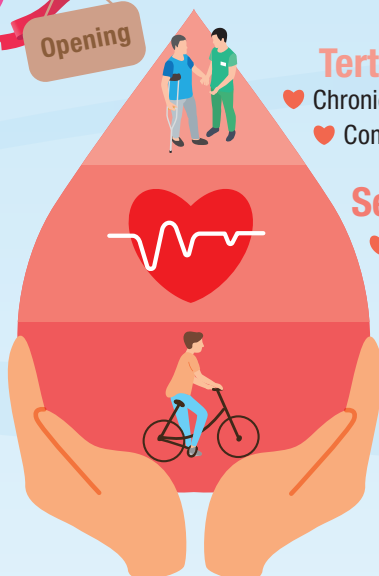
Early Stage Work

- Set up the Steering Committee on Primary Healthcare Development
- Established the Primary Healthcare Office

Sep 2019



Opening



Tertiary Prevention

- ♥ Chronic disease management
- ♥ Community Rehabilitation

Secondary Prevention

- ♥ Health risk assessment
- ♥ Chronic disease screening

Primary Prevention

- ♥ Enhance health literacy
- ♥ Promote healthy lifestyle through health coaching

Chapter VI Improving People's Livelihood



2020

Introduce "District Health Centre (DHC) Express" Scheme in 11 districts

In Operation 
District Councils Consulted 



By Jun 2022

- Roll out DHC in 6 other districts
- Consult all District Councils on locations of DHCs



Sustained
Implementation

DHC in 18 districts



Boosting Chinese Medicine Development

June 2019



\$500 million



中醫藥發展基金
Chinese Medicine Development Fund



From Q1 2020

18 Chinese Medicine Centres for
Teaching and Research

Over

600 000

Subsidised out-patient
service quota

Standard Fee

\$120



Integrated chinese-western
medicine in-patient service

\$200/day

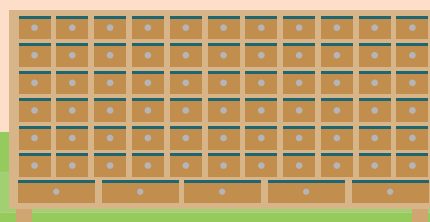


\$120/day



Earliest by 2024

Commissioning of the
**Chinese Medicine Hospital and
Government Chinese Medicine
Testing Institute**

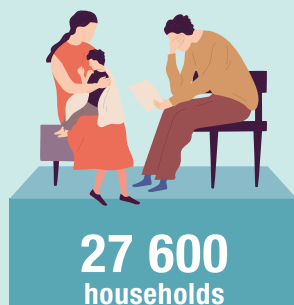




Poverty Alleviation

From April 2018:

- Extending the scheme to cover singletons
- Increasing rates of allowance
- Allowing household members to aggregate working hours
- Relaxing income limit



Low-income Working Family Allowance 2018



45 500 households

Working Family Allowance 2019

+65%



Supporting the Disadvantaged and Caring for the Young

Pre-school Rehabilitation Services places



2019-20 (Estimate)



2018-19



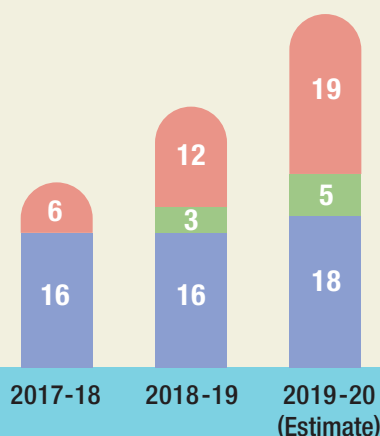
2017-18



+46%

- Integrated Programme in Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centre
- Special Child Care Centre
- Early Education & Training Centre
- On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services

Number of Community Support Services Centres for Persons with Disabilities



- Parents/Relatives Resource Centre
- Support Centre for Persons with Autism
- District Support Centre (increase to 21 in 2022)

Progress Made

A total of 152 new initiatives were announced in the 2017 and 2018 Policy Addresses and Policy Agendas, of which 151 have been completed or are progressing on schedule.

Key initiatives completed or major progress made by the current-term Government are as follows:

Healthcare Services

Primary Healthcare

- The Steering Committee on Primary Healthcare Development and the Primary Healthcare Office were set up in November 2017 and March 2019 respectively to steer the development of primary healthcare services. (FHB)
- The first District Health Centre (DHC) in Kwai Tsing District has commenced operation since September 2019, with satellite centres to be set up in five sub-districts within one year. We have earmarked suitable sites for setting up DHCs in 17 other districts and secured the support of the relevant District Councils (DCs) on the locations of seven DHCs. (FHB)

Prevention and Control of Diseases

- The Towards 2025: Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Control Non-communicable Diseases in Hong Kong was launched in May 2018 to reduce the burden posed by non-communicable diseases on Hong Kong. (FHB)

- The eligible groups under the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme were expanded in the 2018/19 season to cover people aged between 50 and 64, and outreach vaccination services were provided for primary school students, resulting in an increase in the overall seasonal influenza vaccination uptake rate by 46% when compared with that of the 2017/18 season. The School Outreach Vaccination Pilot Programme has been regularised from the 2019/20 season onwards to cover more primary schools. Besides, starting from the 2019/20 school year, human papillomavirus vaccination will be provided to Primary Five female students. (FHB)
- The Hong Kong Cancer Strategy was launched in July 2019, covering directions, strategies and expected outcomes in areas ranging from cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, technology and support, research and surveillance activities. (FHB)
- The Dementia Community Support Scheme was regularised and has been expanded to cover all 41 district elderly community centres in Hong Kong since May 2019. (FHB)
- The multi-disciplinary service model of the common mental disorder clinic has been extended to five hospital clusters. (FHB)
- Three territory-wide mental health prevalence surveys covering children, adolescents and elderly persons were launched in 2019. (FHB)

- The Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019 was introduced into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in February 2019. The bill is to prohibit the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and advertisement of alternative smoking products, including e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn products and herbal cigarettes. (FHB)
- Eleven bus interchange facilities located at tunnel portal areas or leading to expressways or tunnels have been designated as no smoking areas. (FHB)

Development and Positioning of Chinese Medicine

- The Chinese Medicine Unit and the Chinese Medicine Hospital Project Office were set up under the Food and Health Bureau in May 2018, and a tendering exercise was launched in September 2019 for the selection of a suitable non-profit-making organisation to operate the future Chinese medicine hospital. (FHB)
- With effect from December 2018, additional recurrent resources have been provided for 18 Chinese Medicine Centres for Training and Research to increase the salaries of Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) at all ranks as a measure to enhance the prospects of CMPs. (FHB)
- A \$500 million Chinese Medicine Development Fund was launched in mid-2019 to enhance the overall standard of the Chinese medicine industry, including nurturing talent for the industry, promoting Chinese medicine-related research and studies, and enhancing the public's knowledge of Chinese medicine. (FHB)

Enhancing Healthcare Services

- A triennium funding arrangement for the Hospital Authority (HA) has been introduced since 2018-19. The Government has undertaken to increase the HA's recurrent funding progressively on a triennium basis, having regard to population growth and demographic changes. The Government's recurrent subvention for the HA in 2018-19 and 2019-20 was \$63.5 billion and \$68.8 billion respectively. (FHB)
- The means test mechanism under the Samaritan Fund and Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programmes has been relaxed since early 2019. The enhancement measures include modifying the calculation of annual disposable financial resources for drug subsidy application by counting only 50% of the patients' household net assets and refining the definition of "household" adopted in financial assessment. (FHB)
- Continuously extending the scope of the assistance programme to provide individual patients with subsidies for specific drug treatments according to their clinical needs. (FHB)
- The HA launched a Big Data Analytics Platform on a pilot basis in December 2018 for local academics to explore the HA's clinical dataset for developing research ideas and carrying out collaborative research projects with the HA. (FHB)

- A new three-year programme Healthy Teeth Collaboration was launched in July 2018 to provide free oral check-ups, dental treatments and oral health education for adults aged 18 or above and with intellectual disabilities. Moreover, Special Oral Care Service has been set up in the third quarter of 2019 in the Hong Kong Children's Hospital to provide dental care for pre-school children under six with intellectual disabilities. (FHB)
- An outreach dental programme in Special Child Care Centres (SCCCs) under the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been implemented to provide children under six with intellectual disabilities with free on-site dental check-up and oral health education. If necessary, children can be referred to the Special Oral Care Service at Hong Kong Children's Hospital for follow-up treatment. (FHB)
- Under the Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly, a total of 23 outreach dental teams have been set up in ten non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide free outreach dental services for elders in residential care homes, day care centres and similar facilities in the territory. The target group of the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme was expanded to cover elderly persons aged 65 or above receiving the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), and the service scope of the programme was refined in February 2019. The programme has been extended for three years up to February 2022. (FHB)

Sustainable Development of Healthcare System

- The HA will employ all qualified local medical graduates and provide them with relevant specialist training. (FHB)

- The Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme has been fully implemented since April 2019. Tax deduction is provided for relevant premiums of Certified Plans. (FHB)
- Relevant ordinance has been amended to allow paired and pooled organ donations in Hong Kong. The HA launched a pilot Paired Kidney Donation Programme in the fourth quarter of 2018. (FHB)

Enhancing Public Health Regulation

- The Private Healthcare Facilities Bill was passed by the LegCo in November 2018, under which a new regulatory regime for private hospitals, day procedure centres, clinics and health services establishments would be implemented to ensure public safety and enhance consumer rights. (FHB)

Employees' Benefits and Support

Labour Protection

- The HKMC Annuity Limited launched the HKMC Annuity Plan in July 2018. Continuous sales model has been adopted and a number of enhancement measures have also been introduced for the ongoing annuity plan, including the relaxation of the maximum premium to offer greater protection and flexibility to annuitants. (FSTB)
- Strengthened the protection of the rights and benefits of employees injured at work, including enhancing Claims Support Services; establishing a platform with relevant stakeholders for implementing a pilot scheme on enhancing the follow-up procedures for sick leave relating to work injury; and strengthening the enforcement of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282). (LWB)

- Implemented a series of measures for strengthening the protection of the occupational safety and health of employees, including conducting more in-depth surprise inspections targeting work sites with high risk processes or poor safety performance; stepping up participation in site safety management committee meetings of public works projects; issuing the Guidance Notes on Safety and Health of Hand-dug Tunnelling Work and the Guidance Notes on Standing at Work and Service Counter Design; producing publicity materials to encourage employees to lodge complaints against unsafe working conditions through a hotline; and developing an online complaint platform. (LWB)
- Increased the Statutory Minimum Wage rate from \$34.5 per hour to \$37.5 per hour with effect from 1 May 2019. (LWB)
- New measures for enhancing the protection of non-skilled employees engaged by government service contractors have taken effect since April 2019. (FSTB)

Enhanced Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities

- Enhanced the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme to encourage employers to hire and train job seekers with disabilities, including increasing the allowance payable to employers and extending the maximum period of allowance. (LWB)
- Extended the follow-up period for post-placement support for On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities, Sunnyway-On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities and supported employment service from 6 to 12 months. (LWB)

- Since 2018, the success rates of persons with disabilities as well as those for other candidates have been published to enhance the transparency of civil service recruitment, and the places under the Internship Scheme for Students with Disabilities has been doubled from an average of 50 to 100. (CSB)

Employees' Welfare

- Implemented five-day statutory paternity leave with effect from 18 January 2019. (LWB)
- Extended the maternity leave for all female employees of the Government to 14 weeks. As at 30 September 2019, more than 1 500 government employees benefitted from this initiative. (CSB)
- Set up the sixth families clinic and enhanced the clinical psychological services and specialised dental services for civil service eligible persons. (CSB)

Social Welfare Planning and Administration

- Launched a new phase of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses in April 2019 for NGOs to apply for the development or redevelopment of the sites they own, thereby increasing the provision of much-needed welfare facilities. (LWB)

Pro-child

- Injected \$300 million into the Child Development Fund in 2018-19 for launching more projects which aim to boost the self-motivation and confidence of children from low-income families and help them plan for their future. (LWB)

- Established the Commission on Children in June 2018 to focus on addressing children's issues as they grow, and allocated additional resources of \$18.4 million for the Commission from 2019-20 onwards. (LWB)
- Completed the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services in November 2018, and put forward a series of short-term and long-term measures to improve the quality and quantity of child care services in Hong Kong. (LWB)
- Enhanced the manning ratios for qualified child care workers serving in aided child care centres to 1:6 (for children aged 0 to under 2) and 1:11 (for children aged 2 to under 3) in September 2019. By making reference to the enhanced manning ratios of day child care centres, those of residential child care centres were also adjusted accordingly in September 2019. (LWB)
- Following the extension of the Pilot Project on Children Contact Service to September 2019, five specialised co-parenting support centres were set up across the territory in October 2019 to co-ordinate and arrange children contact, as well as to strengthen support for children and their divorced/separated parents with parenting needs. (LWB)
- Included child care centres as one of the types of social welfare services required by the Government under the new phase of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses launched in April 2019. (LWB)

Pre-school Rehabilitation Services

- Regularised the on-site pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS) in October 2018 with the number of service places increased from about 3 000 under the pilot scheme to about 7 000 in the 2019/20 school year in phases. The Government will enhance the professional and support services provided under the OPRS in the 2019/20 school year, including strengthening the establishments of speech therapist and social worker of the inter-disciplinary service teams, and setting up mobile training centres. (LWB)
- Waived the means test for children on the waiting list of SCCCs (including residential SCCCs) applying for training subsidy and provided additional training subsidy places. (LWB)

Pro-family

- Set up the Special Needs Trust in March 2019 to provide affordable trust services for parents of children with special needs. (LWB)
- Increased the number of parents/relatives resource centres for persons with disabilities from 6 to 12 in March 2019. (LWB)
- Regularised the Pilot Project on Strengthening Support for Persons with Autism and their Parents/Carers and set up three Support Centres for Persons with Autism. (LWB)
- Streamlined the application and project management procedures of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund since November 2017 to encourage more organisations, in particular those of a smaller scale, to apply for grants to implement diversified social capital development projects. (LWB)

- Regularised the community support programme for residents of new public rental housing estates through the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund in April 2019 to help new residents and families integrate into the community as soon as possible. (LWB)
- Launched a three-year Pilot Scheme on Relaxing the Household Income Limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for Low-income Families and Increasing Fee-waiving Subsidy Places in October 2017 by the Community Care Fund to strengthen support for low-income families. (LWB)

Poverty Alleviation and Social Security

- Launched in June 2018, Higher OALA has become the most popular social security payment among elderly persons aged 65 or above. As at end-July 2019, about 500 000 elderly persons were receiving the Higher OALA of \$3,585 per month. Taking into account the 50 000 or so recipients of the Normal OALA (currently at \$2,675 per month), the entire OALA supports a total of 550 000 elderly persons, involving an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$24 billion. (LWB)
- Introduced the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme in April 2018 to implement a series of improvements on the previous Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme. For the claim period (covering six months) at end-July 2019, the WFA Scheme benefitted some 45 500 households (including singleton households and covering about 63 000 children and adolescents), of which over 20 800 had not applied for LIFA before. (LWB)
- The WFA and the individual-based Work Incentive Transport Subsidy applications have been centrally processed by the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency since April 2019 to bring more efficient and convenient service for applicants. (LWB)

Elderly Services

- The total number of vouchers provided under the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly has increased to 7 000 in October 2019 to support ageing in place for elderly persons with moderate or severe impairment. (LWB)
- Provided an additional 2 000 service quota under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services in October 2019 to strengthen community care and support services for the elderly. (LWB)
- Stipulated population-based planning ratios in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines in respect of subsidised residential care services for the elderly, subsidised community care services for the elderly, District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres in December 2018 to help reserve appropriate land for the provision of these elderly services and facilities. (LWB)
- Launched the \$1 billion Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care in December 2018 to subsidise eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to try out and procure/rent technology products, thereby improving the quality of life of service users as well as reducing the burden and pressure on care staff and carers. (LWB)

- Launched a five-year scheme in March 2019 to provide full subsidies in phases for home managers, health workers and care workers of all residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) in the territory to enrol in Qualifications Framework-based training courses to enhance the service quality of RCHEs and RCHDs. (LWB)

Providing Support for Ex-mentally Ill Persons

- Created new clinical psychologist posts at Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness to enhance professional support for ex-mentally ill persons and persons with suspected mental health problems. (LWB)

Supporting the Disadvantaged and Caring for the Young

- Injected \$400 million into the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged in 2018-19 to continue to promote cross-sector collaboration in helping the disadvantaged. The injected fund has been evenly allocated to the regular portion of the fund and the dedicated portion for after-school learning and support programmes. (LWB)
- Provided subvention to NGOs for setting up five Cyber Youth Support Teams to reach out to at-risk and hidden youths to provide early intervention and support. The service commenced operation on 1 December 2018. (LWB)

- Raised the ceiling of cash assistance under the District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development since 2018-19 to \$2,000 per person per year, and increased the annual quota to 10 000 to better cater for the development needs of deprived children and youths at the district level. (LWB)
- Injected \$50 million into the Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2018 to continue to provide support for SARS patients and their families. (LWB)

Enhancing Support for Persons with Disabilities

- Launched the Arts Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities and earmarked \$250 million in March 2019 to provide funding support for arts programmes or activities for persons with disabilities with a view to enhancing their arts knowledge, fostering their interests in arts and developing their potentials. (LWB)
- Increased the number of places of pre-school rehabilitation service, day and residential rehabilitation service, and those provided under the Bought Place Scheme for Private RCHDs from 37 945 to 41 809. (LWB)

Strengthening Support for Ethnic Minorities

- The Steering Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, was set up in mid-2018. Under the supervision of the steering committee, 11 new measures to enhance support for ethnic minorities (EMs) have been rolled out, covering areas such as education, employment, social welfare and social integration. (CSO)

- Provided tiered subsidy for kindergartens under the kindergarten education scheme admitting non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students, as well as public sector ordinary schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme schools admitting NCS students with special educational needs. (EDB)
- Completed a comprehensive review of the Chinese language proficiency requirements for all civil service grades, with a view to providing more opportunities for EMs to seek employment in the Government. We also launched an internship programme in 2019 for EM university students on a pilot basis. (CSB)
- Enhanced the training on cultural sensitivity/equal opportunities for civil service new recruits and frontline staff. (CSB)
- The Employees Retraining Board enhanced the training support for EMs starting from 2019-20, including expanding the dedicated language and industry-specific training courses, and allowing more flexibility in the education attainment criteria for course enrolment. (LWB)
- Engaged an NGO in 2019-20 to raise EMs' awareness of domestic violence and sexual violence through community education programmes, and encourage victims to seek help. (LWB)
- Enhanced the translation services for EMs provided by the CHEER Centre, including introduction of translation services in Vietnamese; enhanced the services of support service centres for EMs, particularly for EM new arrivals and youths; and implemented the District-based Programmes for Racial Harmony to encourage interaction and exchange between the EMs and local communities. (HAB)

Municipal Services

- Application of pressure washer surface cleaners and leaf blowers has been extended to all districts for enhancing street cleansing efficiency. (FHB)
- With the installation of Internet Protocol cameras, hygiene conditions have improved significantly and illegal refuse dumping has been effectively tackled. (FHB)
- The public toilets refurbishment programme has been undertaken to carry out refurbishment or facelifting works. (FHB)
- Introduced an extendable arrangement to allow a more sustainable use of public niches. (FHB)
- The Green Burial Central Register for promotion of green burial has been launched. (FHB)
- The Garden of Forever Love, the first facility for keeping abortuses provided by the Government, has been commissioned. (FHB)

Discrimination Law Review

- The Discrimination Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018 was introduced into the LegCo in December 2018 to take forward eight of the recommendations of higher priority in the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)'s Discrimination Law Review. (CMAB)

Challenges Ahead

Healthcare Services

- Public healthcare services in Hong Kong are under mounting pressure due to ageing population and increasing prevalence of chronic and complex diseases. Meanwhile, the HA has to cope with shortage of healthcare manpower and the brain drain of experienced staff to the private market. As members of the public are still inclined to seek treatment-oriented healthcare services, there are considerable difficulties in changing the existing deep-rooted mindset in order to enable the establishment of a prevention-oriented primary healthcare system. (FHB)

Employees' Benefits and Support

- Notwithstanding the enhanced arrangements¹ announced in the 2018 Policy Address, employer groups have continued to express concern over the possible financial impact on enterprises, in particular the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups, brought about by the abolition of the “offsetting” arrangement under the Mandatory Provident Fund System. There are also views that the two-tier Government subsidy scheme, which is linked to the balance of an employer’s designated saving account (DSA), is too complicated. The other processes connected with the abolition, such as DSA’s mode of operation and investment, and tax incentive for employers’ DSA contributions, are also expected to draw concern. Timely passage of the enabling

legislation and implementation of the proposed DSA and subsidy scheme would present a major challenge. (LWB)

- The number of fatal industrial accidents, mostly from the construction industry, has not shown a clear sign of decline in recent years. The Labour Department (LD) has proposed to increase the penalties of occupational safety and health legislation to strengthen their deterrent effect, and will strike a reasonable balance between increasing the deterrent effect of the penalties and addressing employers’ concern. (LWB)
- The external economic uncertainties may affect the labour market and have a particularly strong impact on job seekers with special needs. (LWB)

Social Welfare Planning and Administration

- With the scarcity of land and many other development needs, we are often faced with a shortage of suitable sites/premises to meet the acute demand for various welfare facilities, including elderly, rehabilitation and child care services. (LWB)
- The overall manpower provision in various welfare services (in particular elderly and rehabilitation services) is insufficient owing to the lack of newcomers and high turnover rates. Positions involved include frontline care staff and allied health professionals. The Government needs to consider implementing measures to increase manpower supply, and addressing service needs through adopting technologies and new service models. (LWB)

¹ Including assisting employers in setting up their DSAs to save up in advance to prepare for their potential severance payment/long service payment liabilities, significantly increasing the Government’s financial commitment to \$29.3 billion and extending the period of the second-tier subsidy to 25 years, with the aim of helping employers, in particular those from the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Ethnic Minorities

- Although EMs constitute a small proportion of the Hong Kong population, they have been growing rapidly in number. They are subject to relatively greater poverty risks than the overall population and the difficulties in learning the Chinese language hinder them from attaining higher education qualifications and securing better jobs. Language barriers and cultural differences also affect their integration into local communities and access to public services. (CSO)

Municipal Services

- While green burials in 2018 accounted for about 15% of the total number of deaths in Hong Kong, most members of the public still prefer keeping cremated ashes in public or private niches. (FHB)

Discrimination Law Review

- The remaining recommendations of higher priority in the EOC's Discrimination Law Review are considerably more complex and controversial, thereby requiring further research and consultation. (CMAB)

New Initiatives

Healthcare

Primary Healthcare

- Consult the respective DCs on the selection of DHC sites across Hong Kong within the current term of this Government. (FHB)
- The current-term Government strives to provide primary healthcare services of different scales in all 18 districts, including full-fledged DHCs in seven districts and DHC Express in the remaining 11 districts. Pending the setting up of full-fledged DHCs, the Government will fund NGOs to provide health promotion, consultation and chronic disease management services and enhance public awareness on health management. (FHB)

Prevention and Control of Diseases

- The School Outreach Vaccination Programme will be extended to cover kindergartens and child care centres on a pilot basis, and nasal live-attenuated influenza vaccine will be offered on trial in some schools. Besides, pregnant women will be given one dose of acellular pertussis-containing vaccine during each pregnancy. (FHB)
- With reference to the World Health Organization's recommendations, international practices and actual local situations, the Steering Committee on Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis will formulate an action plan in 2020 with a view to reducing the public health burden posed by viral hepatitis. (FHB)

- The Advisory Committee on Mental Health is exploring ways and means to enhance mental health services for children and adolescents. In parallel, the HA will engage allied health professionals and paediatricians to assist in the handling of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder cases on a pilot basis for speedier processing. (FHB)

Development and Positioning of Chinese Medicine

- More resources will be devoted to promote the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, including the provision of more than 600 000 quota of subsidised Chinese medicine out-patient, acupuncture and tui-na services at 18 Chinese Medicine Centres for Training and Research in the first quarter of 2020. Also, the additional daily in-patient fee for Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine services will be reduced from \$200 to \$120. (FHB)
- Through the Chinese Medicine Development Fund, subsidise studies on the accreditation mechanism of Chinese medicine pharmacists to cater for the development of Chinese medicine and Chinese medicine hospitals. (FHB)
- Construct the first Chinese medicine hospital in Hong Kong in Tseung Kwan O, and the permanent Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute next to it. The institute will comprise a Chinese medicines testing laboratory and display Chinese medicines specimens to support the research, development and education of Chinese medicines. (FHB)

Enhancing Healthcare Services

- To complement the Hong Kong Cancer Strategy, the Government will develop an online resource hub to provide health information related to cancer. Separately, the HA plans to enhance the quality of cancer services in terms of diagnosis and treatment, transitional care, etc. Specific initiatives include piloting streamlined cancer-specific diagnostic services, extending the Cancer Case Manager Programme, and continuing to introduce advanced medical technology for cancer treatment and expand the coverage of cancer drugs in its Drug Formulary. The HA will establish a sustainable service model to improve quality of life of cancer survivors and develop a structured rehabilitation and supportive care programme to ensure timely provision of support and care to cancer survivors. (FHB)
- The HA will enhance its management structure and administrative efficiency through a series of measures including simplifying the resource bidding process, optimising the involvement of clinicians in management processes at the Head Office and cluster levels, and streamlining its decision-making processes and delegation arrangements. (FHB)
- The Government and the HA plan to further support patients with uncommon disorders by progressively implementing a series of targeted measures. They include developing databases for individual uncommon disorders to facilitate clinical diagnosis and treatment, and to enhance public awareness of such disorders without infringing patient privacy; strengthening support to patients of uncommon disorders and cancers through the Samaritan Fund; reviewing manpower support and deploying resources to help meet the needs of patients and promote technological development and clinical research relating to uncommon disorders. (FHB)
- The Steering Committee on Genomic Medicine plans to submit a report to the Secretary for Food and Health on the study of strategies for developing genomic medicine in Hong Kong in end-2019. Besides, the Hong Kong Genome Institute will be set up to take forward the Hong Kong Genome Project in 2020. The project will enhance the diagnostic rate of uncommon disorders and promote research on cancers and other hereditary diseases through genome sequencing and the establishment of a genome database. (FHB)
- A public consultation to seek views on legislative proposals on advance directives and dying in place in relation to end-of-life care services is underway and will be completed in December 2019. We will decide on the way forward in the light of feedback. (FHB)

- The HA will implement smart hospital initiatives, including exploring the set up of smart wards with real time data collected by mobile and Internet of Things technologies, a patient services co-ordination centre for enhancing co-ordination of hospital services and patient triage, and the use of robots for providing logistical support. Its Data Collaboration Laboratory will also be enhanced for formally launching the Big Data Analytics Platform by end-2019 to support more healthcare-related research projects and provide self-service statistical data analysis to further facilitate the work of researchers. (FHB)
- An ongoing mental health promotion and public education initiative is scheduled to be launched within six months to raise public understanding and concern about mental wellness in the first phase, and achieve the objective of building a mental health-friendly society in the long run. (FHB)

Sustainable Development of Healthcare System

- Explore the feasibility of providing specialist training for those non-locally trained doctors who are newly registered or with a couple of years' experience to provide more incentive for them to serve in Hong Kong, provided training opportunities for locally trained doctors would not be compromised. (FHB)
- The results of a new round of manpower projection exercise are expected to be published in 2020 to update the demand and supply projections of healthcare professionals. (FHB)

Enhancing Public Health Regulation

- The Nursing Council of Hong Kong plans to launch in early 2020 a voluntary registration scheme for the development of nursing specialties, to pave way for the eventual setting up of a statutory registration system. (FHB)

Employees' Benefits and Support

Labour Protection

- Adjust upwards the current jurisdictional limit of the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board in respect of the claim amount per claimant. (LWB)
- Introduce a three-year pilot work injury rehabilitation programme in the construction industry, which employs a case management approach to provide private treatment and rehabilitation services for employees injured at work in a timely and well co-ordinated manner; and propose to commission the Occupational Safety and Health Council to administer the pilot programme through legislative amendments. (LWB)
- Provide greater support for foreign domestic helpers and better protection of their labour rights, including establishing a dedicated division under the LD. (LWB)

Occupational Safety and Health

- Refine the current Guidance Notes on Continuing Professional Development Programmes for registered safety officers to boost their professional competence. (LWB)
- Collaborate with different stakeholders to strengthen referral of relatively risk-prone activities in renovation and maintenance works to enable the LD to conduct more targeted inspections to prevent accidents. (LWB)

- Launch the Construction Safety Ambassador Pilot Scheme to encourage construction workers to report unsafe working conditions. (LWB)
- Refine the statutory notification mechanism of construction works to expand its scope to cover more construction works with relatively high risks. (LWB)

Employees' Welfare

- Prepare a new system for reimbursing the proposed additional four weeks' maternity leave pay to employers after the passage and implementation of the relevant legislation to extend the statutory maternity leave. (LWB)
- Implement a pilot scheme to provide Chinese medicine services for civil service eligible persons as part of their medical benefits. (CSB)

Enhance Employment Programmes

- Launch a pilot scheme to encourage the elderly, young people and persons with disabilities to undergo and complete on-the-job training under the employment programmes of the LD through the provision of a retention allowance, thereby stabilising employment. (LWB)

Pro-family

- Introduce various enhancement measures to strengthen the after school care programme, including addition of 2 500 full fee-waiving places, relaxation of application eligibility, increase of subsidy level, provision of extra subsidy for students with special educational needs, and streamlining of financial vetting process, etc. It is expected that more than 5 700 students and their families will benefit from the measures. (LWB)

- Inject an additional \$500 million into the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund to support social capital development projects (including community support projects for residents of new public rental housing estates) and build mutual help networks in the community through cross-sector collaboration. The funding injection should enable the continual operation of the Fund until 2024, for supporting about 140 projects benefitting more than 140 000 people. (LWB)
- Regularise the provision of a student grant from the 2020/21 school year, with each secondary day school, primary school and kindergarten student receiving an annual allowance of \$2,500, benefitting about 900 000 Hong Kong students. (EDB)

Poverty Alleviation and Social Security

- Raise all payment rates of WFA, including increasing the working-hour linked household allowance of the Scheme by 16.7% to 25%, and substantially raising the Child Allowance by 40%. The maximum level of allowance for a four-person household with two children will increase from the existing \$3,200 per month to \$4,200 per month. (LWB)

- Put forward a host of improvement measures for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme to further encourage abled-bodied CSSA recipients to work, including raising the maximum amount of disregarded earnings by 60% from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per month, enhancing the CSSA employment support services, extending a range of supplement and special grants to eligible non-elderly able-bodied recipients, and increasing the maximum rates of rent allowance from about 3% to 27% with reference to the number of members in the household. (LWB)
- Depending on the results of the assessment study of the above pilot project, the Government will explore the feasibility of merging the early intervention programme with OPRS, to provide more comprehensive, flexible and ongoing support to cater for children with various levels of special needs at different stages. (LWB)
- Set up two new rehabilitation service centres through the Lotteries Fund to implement a two-year pilot project on long-term community care services, by integrating the service of day care centres and home care services in a flexible manner, to provide services to persons with severe disabilities having intensive care needs and living at home. (LWB)

Elderly Services

- Provide an additional 1 000 service vouchers, bringing the total to 8 000, under the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly. (LWB)
- Provide an additional 3 000 service quota under the Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases). (LWB)
- Provide additional resources for 17 Social and Recreational Centres for the Disabled to enhance their function in providing community support, particularly for carers. (LWB)
- Provide a total of about 3 800 additional places in day rehabilitation service units and residential rehabilitation service units from 2019-20 to 2021-22. (LWB)

Rehabilitation Services

- Provide an additional 1 000 service places under OPRS in each school year from 2020/21 to 2022/23, making a total of 3 000 additional places. (LWB)
- Provide some 1 200 additional service places in SCCCs and Early Education and Training Centres from 2019-20 to 2021-22. (LWB)
- Implement a pilot project at the kindergartens/kindergarten-cum-child care centres (KG-cum-CCCs) participating in OPRS through the Lotteries Fund to provide early intervention services for children in kindergartens/KG-cum-CCCs who show signs of special needs. (LWB)
- Purchase more than 40 designated residential respite places from private RCHDs, set up a system for enquiry on vacant designated residential respite places and explore the feasibility of developing pre-registration arrangement. (LWB)
- Set up two additional Regional Guardianship Offices to handle guardianship cases under a new specialised service model. (LWB)

- Implement an enhanced integrated vocational and skills training service model by the Vocational Training Council, which seeks to equip students with disabilities with skills commensurate with their abilities, assist them in adapting to the work environment, upkeep their work motivation and help graduates sustain continuous employment in the open market. (LWB)
- Increase the allocation for public education on rehabilitation from \$13.5 million to about \$20 million with effect from 2020-21 to implement public education exercises with inclusive themes. (LWB)
- Provide additional 20 Rehabuses in 2020-21 to enhance Scheduled Route service, Dial-A-Ride service and hospital feeder/recreational routes service. (LWB)
- Increase the number of medical social workers of the SWD to keep pace with the continuous implementation of new initiatives and service enhancement by the HA and Department of Health (DH). (LWB)
- Regularise the Pilot Scheme on Providing Special Subsidy for Persons with Permanent Stoma from Low-income Families for Purchasing Medical Consumables under the Community Care Fund. (LWB)

Strengthening Support for Ethnic Minorities

- Adjust the additional funding models for schools admitting NCS students starting from the 2020/21 school year and step up monitoring and support. Provide all schools admitting a relatively small number of NCS students (i.e. ordinary schools admitting less than ten NCS students and special schools admitting less than six NCS students) with a new two-tiered subsidy with additional funding. The amount of additional funding provided to schools admitting NCS students will be adjusted based on the annual change of the Composite Consumer Price Index and/or the annual Civil Service Pay Adjustment. (EDB)
- Continue to provide NCS students with the support for Chinese language learning, including the provision of teacher professional development programmes, school-based professional support services and learning and teaching resources, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework; and providing different language learning opportunities for NCS students to boost their confidence in learning Chinese. We will also explore how to gauge their progress in learning Chinese language through longitudinal studies, and provide feedbacks to schools to further enhance support services. (EDB)

- Strengthen parent education and help parents understand that it is imperative for them to enroll their children as early as possible in kindergartens using Chinese as the medium of instruction, enhance their communication with schools, and make suitable arrangements to cater for their children's daily learning. Provide a series of parent education programmes for parents of NCS students starting from the 2020/21 school year to help them support their children's learning, encourage their children to master Chinese language, and have more comprehensive understanding of the multiple pathways available to their children. (EDB)
- Arrange translation and production of more publicity and educational materials to enable EMs to make better use of the services offered by DH and enhance the effectiveness of health education on communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases and mental health, etc. (FHB)
- Launch a three-year Ethnic Minority District Ambassador pilot scheme in nine districts with higher EM population in 2020-21, which aims to employ more EMs in SWD and NGOs, enhance EM services provided by district centres/service units, and co-ordinate and deepen communication and co-operation with relevant stakeholders. (LWB)
- The disciplined services will enhance their recruitment and outreaching work to encourage EMs to join the services and will, through school outreaching and Junior Police Call activities, have more interaction with EM children and adolescents. (SB).

Municipal Services

- Launch pilot programmes in a number of municipal service areas, which include applying technology to improve hygiene, enhance management and achieve timely maintenance of public toilets; and improving focused anti-mosquito and anti-rodent work by collecting quantitative data of mosquitoes and rodent infestation. (FHB)
- Formulate long-term measures for rodent prevention, e.g. incorporating pest control specifications in government cleansing or management contracts to reinforce the pest control service and relevant management duties of departments; and issuing guidelines to building professionals on rodent proofing designs in new buildings. (FHB)
- Plan a new public market in the vicinity of the future railway station in Kwu Tung North New Development Area, provide a temporary public market in Tin Shui Wai and complete the site selection for the new public market in Tseung Kwan O shortly. (FHB)
- Implement the Market Modernisation Programme under which the overhaul or improvement plans of existing public markets included in the first phase programme will be formulated next year for early commencement of relevant works. (FHB)
- Provide a designated cremation facility for abortuses at a suitable site. (FHB)

Discrimination Law Review

- Formulate legislative proposal for expanding protection under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480) to prohibit harassment on the ground of breastfeeding. (CMAB)