MESSAGE

The ageing of our population, coupled with the changing characteristics of the elders in our population, presents us with a special challenge. Our next generation of elders will likely be healthier, live longer and be better educated. We shall focus on strategies and initiatives to enable our elders lead healthy, satisfying and productive lives, emphasising their well-being and independence.



The maintenance of good health is of paramount importance to the elders themselves as

it has a direct impact on their quality of life. The health of our elders also has far reaching socio-economic ramifications, such as the functioning of the family, the health care system, long-term care system and other social support systems. The Elderly Commission has, therefore, taken on healthy ageing as one of its major initiatives for the year and is now mapping out strategies to promote the physical and psycho-social well-being of older people. The Commission will launch a Healthy Ageing Campaign in October 2000.

Providing quality long-term care services for our frail elders remains a priority. We are continuing various policy initiatives to re-engineer existing services and improve service delivery to provide a comprehensive range of services in a cost-effective manner. Nevertheless, the family remains a key component in the care for elders who are frail. Respecting elders' preference to continue to live at home, we shall continue to focus our efforts on improving the quantity and quality of community support services. After launching pilot projects in 1999 to provide enhanced home care services for the frail elders, we are now reviewing our day and community care services to identify new ways to provide quality and integrated services.

For the frail elders who cannot be cared for in the community, we shall continue to provide additional subsidised residential care places. We shall at the same time encourage the development of a quality private sector to offer a range of choices to meet individuals' particular requirements.

While the family has always been the key financial supporter for its elderly members in many households, we accept the responsibility to provide financial assistance for those in financial need. For the future, the implementation of the Mandatory Provident Fund System in December 2000 represents a major step forward in ensuring retirement income protection. We shall keep under review the various social security schemes in Hong Kong and explore whether there is scope to develop a sustainable financial support system which better targets resources at those older persons most in need

Older people continue to make significant contributions to their families and society at large. As part of the Healthy Ageing Campaign, we shall develop strategies to encourage positive perceptions of ageing and explore new initiatives to facilitate our elders to remain productive, participating and cherished members of our community.

gully by

(Dr E K Yeoh) Secretary for Health and Welfare

Care for Elders

Policy Objective and Key Result Areas

CARE FOR ELDERS

Our Policy Objective is to improve the quality of life of our elders, ensuring that they will continue to enjoy a sense of security, a sense of belonging, and a feeling of health and worthiness.

Overall Targets

Our targets this year in pursuing this Policy Objective are -

- to promote healthy and active ageing in a holistic and comprehensive manner
- to increase and enhance home care services to the frail elders living at home
- to continue to provide residential care places under a mixed mode of service provision for frail elders who cannot be cared for at home
- to explore whether there is scope to develop a sustainable financial support system that better targets resources at those in genuine need

Progress

In 1999, we achieved significant progress in all seven of our Key Result Areas (KRAs).

We have made good progress in improving the provision of formal care services for elders. Since April 1999, a total of more than 2 600 new subsidised residential care places have been made available, including about 1 380 places purchased from the private sector. The average waiting time for subsidised residential care places was reduced from 24 months in April 1999 to 21 months in June 2000. The Enhanced Bought Place Scheme has been successful in encouraging the private sector to provide residential care homes of higher quality in terms of space and staff standards. A total of 410 private care homes were licensed in July 2000 compared with 179 in April 1999.

During the past year, we continued to strengthen the provision of home and community care services so that frail elders could continue to live at home even when their health deteriorated and when they became more dependent on others for their activities of daily living. The re-engineering of the traditional home help services into meal and home care services has enabled service operators to deploy their resources more flexibly. Our initial assessment indicates that the new home care teams are equipped with better nursing and allied health support and are hence able to take care of elders requiring more intensive care services at home. In the coming year, we shall continue to re-engineer day and community care services to improve service integration, cost-efficiency, and access to services.

We have also strengthened the support provided to family carers of frail or cognitively impaired elders by providing information, training, emotional support and respite services.

We expect to put in place a gate-keeping mechanism by the end of the year to assess objectively the care needs of elders and to provide services accordingly. Based on our guiding principle of "Ageing in Place", we are piloting the "Continuum of Care" model whereby one type of residential care homes will provide continuum of care services as their residents progressively require higher levels of care.

To cater for the care needs of a growing number of older persons, we shall continue to rationalise and expand our care services for older persons under an integrated long-term strategy. To better reflect this approach, we shall re-group our new initiatives into five KRAs.

We also achieved the following progress in our seven KRAs under the old structure

1 Provide retirement protection and other financial help

The Government and the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA) have made good progress to ensure timely implementation of the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) System in December 2000 as scheduled. Covering members of the workforce, the System is a major step forward to help provide retirement income protection for the future generations of older persons.

With tax and other incentives, we shall continue to encourage families to keep up with the tradition of providing for their dependent members. Meanwhile, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme will continue to provide a safety net to those elders with genuine financial need. In mid-2000, about 14.9% of the population over 60 are receiving CSSA, compared with 15.2% one year ago. We shall also explore whether there is scope for change in our social security allowance scheme to better target elders most in need, and which is financially sustainable in the long term.

2 Increase the supply of housing and encourage the development of purpose-designed housing for elders

We are on schedule to deliver our existing pledges to meet the demand for decent and affordable housing from older persons. The average waiting time of single older persons for public rental housing is currently three years. We are working towards reducing it to two years by 2005, i.e. two years ahead of schedule.

3 Enable elders to continue to live at home

During the past year, we increased the provision of home and community care services to facilitate more frail elders to continue to live at home. We have also introduced new ways to provide home care service so that enhanced care service can be provided in a cost-effective manner. We are now reviewing the provision of day and community care services to meet the care needs of the frail elders living at home.

To ascertain the care need of elders living at home, we are currently conducting a survey to update the care need profile of elders living at home.

To provide support to families caring for their elders at home, we have introduced a new day respite service for elders and improved the residential respite service to make it more accessible to people in need.

4 Increase the supply of residential care places in public and private sectors

As pledged, more than 2 600 subsidised residential care places have come on stream since April 1999, including about 1 380 places

purchased from the private sector. We are on schedule to provide the remaining pledged places in the following years.

5 Improve the quality of residential care services

We have been successful in upgrading the standard of service of private residential care homes. By July 2000, 410 private care homes have obtained licences, compared to 179 in April 1999. We expect that most of the private residential care homes will achieve licensing standards by 2001. Those failing to meet licensing standards will be phased out.

We have developed a funding formula on differential unit costs to address the difference in resources required to take care of elders at different stages of frailty. We have invited three subvented residential care homes to participate in the pilot scheme of "Continuum of Care".

Adequate supply of properly trained manpower, including professional and frontline care workers, is important in providing quality care services for elders. During the past year, we have identified areas where training for professional social workers and frontline care workers could be strengthened. We are taking steps to improve and develop the training programmes.

6 Encourage elders to lead an active life

We are meeting the targets set in 1999. By March 2000, we had identified an additional 19 000 vulnerable elders through the social networking mechanism and recruited over 7 000 volunteers, including elders. Through the promotion of senior volunteerism, we hope to provide more opportunities for elders to take part in community activities.

Between October 1999 and May 2000, over 36 000 new senior citizen cards were issued and 525 new corporate sponsors joined the Senior Citizen Card Scheme. We have re-launched the Senior Citizen Card this year with a new design to strengthen its image as a status symbol for our elderly citizens.

In 1999, we successfully launched five territory-wide and over 600 district activities to celebrate the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP). The activities were designed to promote the IYOP theme of "towards a society for all ages".

To strengthen the existing day and community care and support services, we have commissioned a consultancy study to review the mode of service delivery of the existing types of services and facilities with a view to seeking improvements. The future development of social centres for elders will be considered in the light of the consultancy findings.

7 Adopt a structured approach to assess the care needs of elders and to provide services accordingly

We aim to put in place an enhanced gate-keeping mechanism later this year to provide an objective assessment of elders' formal care service needs

We have introduced the pilot scheme to set up dedicated units for elders with dementia in four day care centres and five residential care homes, which will provide service to about 224 elders with dementia. In addition, we are paying Dementia Supplement to 380 elders with dementia in residential care homes.

Progress on each previously announced initiative under the above KRAs is set out in the "Detailed Progress" section of this report.

Looking Forward

To achieve our overall targets this year, we will undertake the following initiatives and targets under each of the five KRAs for the coming year under the revised structure –

- Provide retirement protection and other financial help
- Increase the supply of housing and encourage the development of purpose-designed housing for elders
- Enable elders to continue to live at home
- Increase the supply of quality residential care places under a mixed mode of service provision with more private sector participation
- Encourage elders to lead an active life

Provide retirement protection and other financial help

In Hong Kong, the family has always been the main source of financial support for the majority of our older people. We shall continue, through various fiscal and other means, to encourage families to live with and provide for their elders.

Apart from addressing the needs of the current generation of elders, the Government has put in place the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) System to help ensure that future generations will be provided for after retirement. The necessary preparation work has been completed for the launching of the system in December 2000, marking a new era in ensuring retirement income protection for the working population of Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, we shall continue to provide financial assistance to elders suffering financial difficulties due to lack of means and family support.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

- Proportion of the working population who are covered by formal retirement protection schemes.
- Proportion of elders having to rely on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA). Our target is to monitor the trend in the CSSA take-up rate of elders.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area -

Initiative *	Target
To oversee the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) System to ensure successful implementation of the System (Financial Services Bureau)	This is an on-going initiative. To monitor the effective operation of the System and the participation of employers and eligible members of the working population
To keep under review the current social security arrangements for older people (Health and Welfare Bureau/ Social Welfare Department)	This is an on-going initiative. To monitor the caseload and expenditure under various social security schemes and explore whether there is scope to develop a sustainable financial support system which better targets resources at those older persons most in need

^{*} the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

Increase the supply of housing and encourage the development of purpose-designed housing for elders

Safe and comfortable housing is essential to the well-being of elders. We will continue to give older persons in need priority access to public housing, and increase the supply of public rental flats of suitable design with appropriate facilities. We will also make use of the expertise and experience of the private sector to provide housing for elders.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicator –

• Extent to which demand for decent and affordable housing from older persons can be met. Our target is to maintain priority housing schemes for elders.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area –

Initiative	Target
To increase the supply of public rental housing for elders in need (Housing Department (HD))	• To allocate public rental housing by 2003 to elderly households registered this financial year on the Waiting List
	• To reduce the average waiting time of singleton elderly households for public rental housing to two years by 2005
To consider the use of rental subsidies to satisfy the housing needs of prospective elderly tenants	To explore the feasibility of providing rental subsidies in lieu of public rental housing to eligible elders on the Waiting List in 2001
(Housing Bureau/HD)	

Initiative	Target
To review the design of public rental flats for elders (HD)	In 2001, to explore the applicability of the concept of "Ageing in Place" in the future design of public rental estates

Enable elders to continue to live at home

It is important for elders to have a place to call home. In a compassionate and caring community, families should, where possible, reciprocate the love of their parents and care for them when they grow old. It has been Government policy to encourage families to continue to assume this role.

As older people age at home, some family carers may require assistance in caring for their frail elders. A range of support and respite services is being provided and we shall continue to improve their provision. For those who require formal long-term care services, we shall provide day and home care services as necessary. We shall strengthen our carer support services to assist their family care givers.

Adequate supply of properly trained manpower is essential to the provision of quality care services for elders. The Advisory Committee of Social Work and Manpower Planning has set up a working group comprising representatives of seven tertiary institutions and other relevant organisations to review the provision of gerontology training for social work students. The working group has concluded that there is a need to strengthen such training for these students and is finalising its recommendations for submission to the Advisory Committee.

With the assistance of the Hospital Authority and the Department of Health, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is developing a multi-skilled training course to equip workers providing personal care to frail elders with the necessary competencies and skills. The SWD will adopt the training course in 2001 and promote its use to other training institutions.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicator –

• Proportion of older persons living with or cared for by their families. Our target is to update the care need profile of older persons living at home in 2000-2001.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area -

Initiative	Target
To provide enhanced day and community care services to older people suffering physical or cognitive impairments so that they may choose to continue to live at home (Health & Welfare Bureau (HWB)/Social Welfare Department (SWD))	To enable frail or cognitively impaired older people who have been assessed to be eligible for admission to care and attention homes to continue to live at home with the support of enhanced home/community care services starting in 2001
To strengthen support to family care givers of frail older people by improving the accessibility of carer support services (HWB/SWD)	To develop a more extensive network of carer support services by incorporating carer support into various types of care services for elders starting in 2001-2002
To provide additional day respite services for frail and cognitively impaired older people (HWB/SWD)	To commission additional day respite services as part of the enhanced home/community care services to be provided in 2001-2002
To re-engineer the mode of operation of home, community and residential care services for elders to provide a continuum of care for older people living at home and to achieve cost-efficiency in the provision of care services for elders (HWB/SWD)	To consider the recommendations of the consultancy study on review of community care services and map out a strategy to provide better integrated care facilities/ services for elders in 2001

Initiative	Target
To keep under review the pilot project to increase the number of residential respite places and to strengthen the promotion of this service (SWD)	To review the take-up rate of the pilot project conducted in subvented residential care homes in 2001, with a view to expanding the service
To enhance the capability of day care centres in providing care and respite services for frail elders living at home (SWD)	To provide additional support for day care centres starting from 2001-2002
To develop and introduce a multi- skilled training course to provide enhanced training for workers providing personal care to frail older people (SWD)	 To complete the training curriculum by end-2000 To promote the use of the training course to other training institutions To provide 400 training places in 2001-2002



Increase the supply of quality residential care places under a mixed mode of service provision with more private sector participation

Although we encourage elders to continue to live with their families, we recognise the need to provide residential care for those who cannot be adequately taken care of at home.

It is our objective to increase users' choice, promote competition and thereby improve service quality via a mixed mode of service provision in residential care, with participation from subvented, private and self-financing care home operators.

Private residential care homes play a significant role in the provision of residential care for elders, but their service quality varies. Subsequent to a review conducted in 1997 on Bought Place Scheme, the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme was introduced in 1998 to provide incentives for private operators to raise their service quality above the minimum licensing requirements. The scheme has proved successful as an increasing number of places in private care homes are achieving standards higher than the statutory minimum.

"Ageing in Place" remains central to our policy on care for elders. To this end, we are piloting the "Continuum of Care" concept in subvented residential care homes to enable elders to grow old in a familiar environment, by removing the need for them to be moved to other institutions upon deterioration of their health.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators $-\$

- Number of subsidised residential care places. Our target is to provide 1 580 additional subsidised residential care places by 2002.
- Number of licensed private residential care homes. Our target is to have all private residential care homes operating under licence by 2001.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area -

Initiative	Target
To increase supply of subsidised places (Social Welfare Department (SWD))	To provide an additional 1 580 subsidised places in 2001-2002
To further develop the concept of product differentiation to allow more choices for families which are prepared to pay for a better service for their elders (Health and Welfare Bureau (HWB)/SWD)	 Starting from 2001-2002, in planning new homes, to facilitate operation of both subsidised and self-financing places in the same homes to enable flexible use of resources Starting from 2001-2002, for self-financing places, to encourage the offer of accommodation at different quality standards so that elders with means can have a choice
To conduct an interim review on the pilot project on "Continuum of Care" in residential care homes for elders (HWB/SWD)	In the light of the findings of the interim review to be conducted in 2001, to further improve and develop the concept of one type of residential care homes providing "Continuum of Care" services to meet the changing needs of their residents
To continue to encourage private residential homes taking part in the Bought Place Scheme (BPS) to upgrade their standard of services (SWD)	To provide necessary resources to enable all BPS homes to upgrade to Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) standards by 2003

Initiative	Target
To provide more information on EBPS to the users of the Scheme through various channels (SWD)	 To co-ordinate all EBPS homes to provide a brief in standardised format on their services and facilities for the information of elders, their families and social workers To strengthen the SWD's homepage to provide more information on BPS/EBPS homes
To gradually convert existing upgradable home for the aged places into care and attention home places (SWD)	To convert 200 places in 2001- 2002
Under the premises-led programme, to facilitate development of integrated residential and day/community care services (SWD)	Starting from 2001-2002, in planning new residential care homes, to consider including operation of day/community care services in the premises to optimise utilisation of resources
To enhance outreach support for older patients after their discharge from hospitals (Hospital Authority/HWB)	To extend the function of the Community Geriatric Assessment Teams to provide geriatric care to older persons in about 70% of the private residential care homes in addition to all subvented care homes in 2001-2002

Encourage elders to lead an active life

The majority of our older population are healthy and we should encourage them to continue to lead an active and healthy life. Elders who maintain a physically and socially active lifestyle will have a better chance to continue to enjoy good health, physically and psychologically. To step up our efforts to promote active and healthy ageing, the Elderly Commission has set up an Ad Hoc Committee on Healthy Ageing to map out strategies and initiatives. The Committee will also oversee the launching of a publicity campaign on healthy ageing in 2000-2001.

We shall continue with our efforts to promote senior volunteerism, strengthen the social networking mechanism for vulnerable elders and inculcate respect for elders through the promotion of the Senior Citizen Card. To better equip our elders for the increasingly knowledge-based and technology-oriented society, we shall encourage older people to learn to use the computer.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicator –

 Number of vulnerable elders supported by the social networking mechanism. Our target is to have identified 24 000 vulnerable elders by end-2002.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area –

Initiative Target

To promote the concept of healthy ageing amongst elders, and the soon-to-be old and the community in general

(Health and Welfare Bureau (HWB)/ Department of Health/ Social Welfare Department (SWD))

- To launch a healthy ageing campaign in 2000-2001
- To encourage organisations to launch territory and districtwide activities to promote healthy ageing

Initiative	Target
To encourage the use of computer by elders (SWD/Information Technology Services Department)	 To install 280 personal computers at 246 Multi-service Centres and Social Centres for Elders by end-2001
Services Department)	 To provide Internet access points at the above locations
	• To provide information technology training for 2 000 older persons by March 2001 and another 5 000 elders in 2001-2002
To continue to increase the number of vulnerable elders outreached by Support Teams for Elders (SWD)	To identify 24 000 vulnerable elders by end-2002
To promote active ageing by continuing to encourage older people to participate in volunteer programmes (SWD)	To engage 9 000 older people as volunteers by end-2002
To promote lifelong learning opportunities for older people (HWB/Education & Manpower Bureau)	To explore ways to facilitate elders to pursue further education at various levels
To promote active ageing amongst older people (HWB)	To research into overseas experience in promoting older persons to lead an active life, both socially and economically

Care for Elders

Detailed Progress

Provide retirement protection and other financial help

Initiative *	Target #	Present Position +
To examine and formulate a long-term policy on financial support for older persons (Health and Welfare Bureau/Social Welfare Department)	To keep under review the current social security arrangements for older persons, in particular the Old Age Allowance Scheme (1999)	We are reviewing the current social security arrangements for older persons and are identifying ways to encourage families to continue to provide financial support to their elders. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To set up the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) System and oversee it to ensure successful and timely implementation of the System by the end of 2000 (Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority)	 To keep in view progress of the implementation of the MPF System so that contributions can commence in December 2000 (1999) To enable the MPF System to be in operation in 2000 (1998) 	The MPF System will be fully implemented in December 2000. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

- * the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative
- # the bracketed information denotes the year in which the target was set
- the bracketed information denotes the status of the target

Increase the supply of housing and encourage the development of purpose-designed housing for elders

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To develop a pilot scheme for the provision of elderly housing by private developers (Housing Bureau (HB)) To conduct an overall review of the provision of public housing for elders	To formulate the details of a pilot scheme in consultation with the Elderly Commission by 2000 (1999) To complete the review in 2000 (1999)	Details of the pilot scheme are being formulated for consultation with the Elderly Commission. (Action in Progress: On Schedule) A comprehensive public housing strategy for elders was agreed by the Housing Authority in March 2000.
(Housing Department (HD))	t	The strategy will be fine- tuned taking into account the findings and recommendations of a consultancy study on "Continuum of Care" in public housing. We will revert to the Housing Authority on a refined strategy before end-2000. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To provide public rental flats for allocation to older persons	• To provide 6 500 flats in 1999-2000	• We provided 6 700 rental flats for allocation to single older persons in 1999-2000.
(HD)	• To reduce the waiting time for older persons applying for public rental flats to two years by 2007 (1998)	• After review, we have set a new target as a new initiative in 2000 under KRA 2 to reduce the average waiting time for public rental housing for single older persons to two years by 2005, two years ahead of schedule. The current waiting time is three years. (Action Completed)
To provide more specially designed rental housing units with warden service to able-bodied elders not living with their family (HD)	To provide 1 200 units in 1999-2000 (1998)	In 1999-2000, we produced 1 580 units under the Housing for Senior Citizen Scheme. (Action Completed)
To provide more older persons living in inadequate private sector accommodation with easy access to information on public housing (HD)	To set up one additional Housing Information Centre in Hong Kong's Eastern District in 1999 (1998)	We are identifying a suitable site in Eastern District. (Action in Progress: Under Review)
To encourage the private sector to provide affordable flats to single older persons	To develop proposals in consultation with the Elderly Commission in 1999	The Elderly Commission has been consulted on a broad framework of proposals.
(HB/Health and Welfare Bureau)	(1998)	(Action Completed)

Target	Present Position
To develop a model and to produce projections within 1999 (1998)	The model has been developed and projections have been presented to the Elderly Commission. (Action Completed)
To complete the survey within 1999 (1998)	The survey has been completed and the results made public in February 2000. (Action Completed)
To complete 500 flats under the pilot scheme by 2001 (1997)	Two sites have been granted to the Housing Society for the implementation of the pilot scheme. Applications for the flats will be invited in 2001. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
	To develop a model and to produce projections within 1999 (1998) To complete the survey within 1999 (1998) To complete 500 flats under the pilot scheme by 2001

3

Enable elders to continue to live at home

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To set up additional Multi-service Centres (Social Welfare Department (SWD))	• To set up three additional centres by 2003 (1999)	• We have identified suitable sites and are on schedule in providing these additional Multiservice Centres.
	• To set up two centres in 1998-1999 and six additional centres by March 2001 which, when completed, will make up a total of 18 new centres since 1992 (1998, 1997 and 1992)	 (Action in Progress: On Schedule) So far, 16 additional centres have been provided. We are on schedule in providing the remaining two new centres by March 2001. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To provide additional day care centres (Health and Welfare Bureau (HWB))	• To set up three additional centres by 2003 (1999)	• We have identified suitable sites and are on schedule in providing these additional day care centres.
		(Action in Progress: On Schedule)
	• To set up two centres in 1998-1999 and seven additional centres by 2001 (1998 and 1997)	• So far, four centres have been established. We have identified suitable sites and are on schedule in providing the remaining five centres.
		(Action in Progress: On Schedule)

improvements in the quality and costefficiency of meal service through allocation of new service units by competitive bidding to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private sector operators (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To set up a monitoring mechanism in 1999-2000 to oversee the implementation of the new home care service. (Action Completed) The 25 new home care teams are grouped under nine service contracts. The contracts were awarded through open tender to both NGOs and private sector operators in early 2000. (Action Completed) To 25 new home care teams are grouped under nine service contracts. The contracts were awarded through competitive bidding to NGO operators in December 1999. To set up a monitoring mechanism in 1999-2000 to oversee the implementation of the new home care service. (Action Completed)	recommendations arising from a review of respite services in residential care homes (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costerior operators (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of meal service through allocation of new service units by competitive bidding to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private sector operators (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) • To set up a To allocate through competitive bidding 25 new home care teams in 1999-2000 • To allocate through competitive bidding 25 new home care teams are grouped under nine service contracts. The contracts were awarded through competitive bidding to NGO operators in December 1999. • To set up a • To set up a	Initiative	Target	Present Position
competitive bidding 25 new meal teams in 1999-2000 allocation of new service units by competitive bidding to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private sector operators (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To set up a monitoring mechanism in 1999-2000 to oversee the implementation of the new home care service. (Action Completed) The 25 new home care teams are grouped under nine service contracts. The contracts were awarded through competitive bidding competitive bidding to NGO operators in December 1999. A Contract Management Unit was set up in the SWD in October 1999 to monitor performance of the new home care service. (Action Completed)	improvements in the quality and costefficiency of meal service through allocation of new service units by competitive bidding to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private sector operators (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficiency of home care teams in 1999-2000 To encourage improvements in the quality and costefficien	recommendations arising from a review of respite services in residential care homes	project to implement the recommendations of the review, with a view to extending the initiative to all subvented residential care homes	provide expanded respite services is in progress. A review on the pilot will be conducted in 2001. (Action in Progress: On
improvements in the quality and cost-efficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) To set up a monitoring mechanism in 1999-2000 to oversee the implementation of the new home care service. The contracts were awarded through competitive bidding to NGO operators in December 1999. A Contract Management Unit was set up in the SWD in October 1999 to monitor performance of the new home care service. (Action Completed)	improvements in the quality and cost-efficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding (SWD) competitive bidding 25 new home care teams in 1999-2000 teams in 1999-200	improvements in the quality and cost- efficiency of meal service through allocation of new service units by competitive bidding to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private sector operators	competitive bidding 25 new meal teams in 1999-2000	grouped under nine service contracts. The contracts were awarded through open tender to both NGOs and private sector operators in early 2000.
	mechanism in 1999- 2000 to oversee the implementation of the new home care the new home care service. SWD in October 1999 to monitor performance of the new home care service.	improvements in the quality and cost- efficiency of home care services through allocation of new service units to NGOs by competitive bidding	 competitive bidding 25 new home care teams in 1999-2000 To set up a monitoring mechanism in 1999-2000 to oversee the implementation of the new home care service 	teams are grouped under nine service contracts. The contracts were awarded through competitive bidding to NGO operators in December 1999. • A Contract Management Unit was set up in the SWD in October 1999 to monitor performance of the new home care service.

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To conduct a review on day care centres for elders to improve its co-ordination with other care services for elders living at home (HWB/SWD)	To conduct a review and make recommendations for improvement in 2000 (1999)	A consultancy study is being conducted on the provision of day care and community care and support services for elders. The study is expected to be completed before end-2000. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To develop integrated care facilities to provide a continuum of care for elders living at home and to achieve cost-efficiency in the provision of care services for elders (HWB/SWD)	To conduct a pilot project on the concept of integrated care facility for elders in 2000-2001 (1999)	We shall consider the scope of the pilot project in the light of the findings and recommendations of the consultancy study on the provision of day care and community care and support services for elders. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To put in place a more extensive carer support network (SWD)	• To launch pilot projects to encourage care facilities for elders, such as day care centres, multiservice centres, to provide carer support corners in 2000-2001	• We intend to invite NGOs to provide enhanced home and community care services for frail elders living at home. Enhanced support to family carers will be included as part of the new services.
	• To develop training materials for carers for elders and promulgate the materials to Carers' Support Centres to assist in training up carers in 2000-2001 (1999)	 Both the Carers' Support Centres and the Centre on Ageing of the University of Hong Kong have developed training materials and training courses for carers. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To provide curative and preventive medical services to elders through the provision of geriatric places, Elderly Health Centres and visiting health teams	• To provide an additional 80 geriatric day places by 2002, on top of the 40 places provided in 1998 (1998 and 1997)	• So far, 80 additional geriatric day places have been in place since 1998. We expect to achieve the overall target of 120 places as scheduled. (Action in Progress: On
(HWB)		Schedule)
	To set up 12 Elderly Health Centres with integrated services in 1998-1999 and another six in 1999- 2000 to provide preventive and curative medical services to elders	• 18 Elderly Health Centres are in place to provide preventive and curative medical services to elders. (Action Completed)
	(1997)	
	• To establish 12 visiting health teams to provide preventive and promotive care services to elders living in the community and support services to their carers in 1998-1999 and another six in 1999-2000 (1997)	• 18 visiting health teams are in place to provide preventive and promotive care services to elders. (Action Completed)
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Initiative	Target	Present Position
To establish additional home help teams (SWD)	• To establish 15 additional teams by 1999 and another 15 additional teams by 2000 (1998 and 1997)	• Seven additional teams in the traditional mode were set up by April 1999. The remaining eight teams together with the 15 additional teams scheduled to be established in 2000 were set up in December 1999 under a reengineered mode through competitive bidding. (Action Completed)
	• To provide a total of 60 additional home help teams by 1998-1999 (1994)	• After the setting up of six additional home help teams attached to multiservice centres in 1999-2000, all 60 teams have been provided. (Action Completed)
To undertake a feasibility study of upgrading and reengineering the current home help service (SWD)	To implement measures as from 1999 to enhance the quality and secure good value for money of the current home help service (1998)	The traditional home help service has been reengineered into meal service and home care service. 25 additional home help teams were set up in 1999-2000 under the reengineered mode. The general feedback is that the re-engineering has enhanced the quality and the cost-effectiveness of the services. (Action Completed)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To launch pilot projects to introduce a new respite service in day care centres for elders (SWD)	To start providing respite services in a number of day care centres on a trial basis in 1999-2000 (1998)	12 day care centres for elders have participated in a three-year pilot project from October 1999 to September 2002 to provide a total of 36 day respite places.
		(Action Completed)
To review the existing respite services in residential care homes (SWD)	To complete the review and make recommendations in 1999 (1998)	The review on the utilisation of residential respite service has been completed. The Elderly Commission has endorsed the findings and recommendations of the review report. Based on the recommendations, we have commenced a pilot project to increase the number of residential respite places.
		(Action Completed)



Increase the supply of residential care places in public and private sectors

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To review the schedule of accommodation of subvented residential care homes to make better use of resources (Social Welfare Department (SWD))	To complete the review in 1999 and implement the new schedule of accommodation in 2000 (1999)	We have completed the review and are consulting non-governmental organisations on the details of the new schedule of accommodation, with a view to implementing the new schedule by the end of the year. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To encourage efficient use of resources in existing subvented residential care homes to increase supply of care beds for elders (SWD)	To add a total of 200 beds to existing subvented residential care homes by 2001 (1999)	337 care-and-attention places were added by September 2000. (Action Completed)
To encourage private developers to provide premises for residential care homes (Health and Welfare Bureau (HWB)/ Planning and Lands Bureau)	• To provide incentives to private developments, starting from 2000-2001, for the provision of suitable premises for operation as care homes	• We have considered the options and aim to put in place measures in 2001 to encourage developers to provide suitable premises for operation as residential care homes.

Initiative	Target	Present Position
	• To include requirements in the land sale programme to provide suitable premises for residential care homes in four sale sites, starting from 2000-2001	• We are identifying suitable sites for inclusion in the land sale programme in 2001. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To provide additional subsidised residential care places (SWD)	 To provide additional subvented residential care places to older persons in need to provide 800 places in 1998-1999 to add 2 500 places between 1999 and 2002 (1998, 1997 and 1993) 	• 826 places were provided in 1998-1999 and another 1 253 places were provided in 1999-2000. We are on schedule to provide the remaining 1 221 places by 2002. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
	 To increase the supply of subsidised residential care places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) to fund 600 places in 1998-1999 to fund 2 680 places between 1999 and 2001 (1998 and 1997) 	• 833 subsidised places under the EBPS were provided in 1998-1999. An additional 1 380 places were provided by September 2000. The remaining number of places will be provided by 2001. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To provide suitable premises for operation of subvented, self-financing or private care homes (SWD)	• To develop three government sites to provide premises for 600 residential care places by 2002 and to undertake feasibility study at other sites with a view to providing 1 600 places from 2001 to 2005 (1998)	• Three government sites are being developed to provide premises for 600 residential places by 2002. Feasibility studies at seven sites have been completed to provide 900 places. Feasibility studies will be conducted at four sites to provide another 700 places. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
	• To continue to encourage development of self-financing residential care homes to offer an alternative to subvented residential care homes for older persons with better financial means. We hope that a total of 1 500 places will be completed by March 2002 (1997)	• A total of 826 places were provided by 1999-2000. We aim to provide another 674 places by 2002. (Action in Progress:On Schedule)
To provide medical services to frail elders through the provision of infirmary beds (HWB)	To provide over 1 000 infirmary beds in the next five years (1997)	776 infirmary beds have been provided since 1998-1999. 90% of them are occupied by frail elders. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

Improve the quality of residential care services

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To strengthen the training of social workers in the field of gerontology (Health and Welfare Bureau (HWB)/ Social Welfare Department (SWD))	To set up a working group under the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training and Manpower Planning to develop proposals in 2000 (1999)	The working group was formed in September 1999. It has concluded its deliberations and is compiling its report. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To consider enhancing training for care workers (HWB/SWD)	To complete the review on the need to provide enhanced training for care workers in 2000 (1999)	A survey on the profile and training needs of care workers and home helpers of day care centres, home help teams and residential care homes in the subvented, self-financing and private sectors was conducted in March 2000. Based on the findings of the survey, a multi-skilled training course is being developed. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To encourage private residential care homes taking part in the Bought Place Scheme to upgrade their standard of services (SWD)	To upgrade 800 places under the Bought Place Scheme to the standards of the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme by 2002 (1999)	We have upgraded a total of 428 places in 1999-2000. We shall upgrade another 172 places in 2000-2001 and the remaining 200 in 2001-2002. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To phase out private residential care homes operating on Certificates of Exemption so that in the foreseeable future all private residential care homes must hold valid licences (HWB/SWD)	To lay down a timetable to require all care homes to fully comply with licensing standards (1999)	As at July 2000, 410 out of 502 private residential care homes for elders were licensed. We shall encourage the remaining homes to obtain licences by March 2001. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To improve manpower level and provide staff training for residential care homes (HWB/SWD)	• To monitor the supply of manpower in support of residential care services and to make recommendations in 1999 (1998)	• An inter-agency Working Group on the Training and Supply of Manpower for Elderly Services was set up in 1999 to review the demand and supply of manpower for care services for elders. The Working Group has compiled a report and made a number of recommendations. A task force has been formed to examine further the staff competencies and skills required in residential care homes for elders. The task force will complete its work in 2000. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
	• To train up by a blister programme 270 enrolled nurses in 1998-2000 to serve in residential care homes and other facilities (1997)	• The intake of students is phased over two years in four batches. The first batch of 75 trainees graduated in August 2000. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To assist private residential care homes to upgrade their service standard and to monitor their performance (SWD)	To encourage private residential care homes to make better use of the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) in 1999 (1998)	A total of 156 FAS applications were approved by the end of 1999, involving a total amount of \$17 million. (Action Completed)
To continue to explore the possibility of implementing the concept of "Continuum of Care" (SWD)	To devise a funding formula to implement the concept of "Continuum of Care" and to invite three residential care homes to pilot the concept and the funding formula in 1999 (1998)	A three-year pilot scheme has commenced. We shall conduct an interim review in 2001. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

6

Encourage elders to lead an active life

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To review the role and functions of Social Centres for Elders and Multi-service Centres for Elders (Health and Welfare Bureau (HWB)/Social	To complete the review in 2000-2001 (1999)	A consultancy study is being conducted on the provision of day care and community care and support services for elders. The study is expected to be completed by end-2000.
Welfare Department (SWD))		(Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To conduct a survey on older persons' sense of worthiness (HWB)	To complete the survey in 2000-2001 (1999)	A survey on the socio- demographic, health and economic profile of older persons and soon-to-be old is in progress. The survey is expected to be completed by the end of the year. (Action in Progress: On
		Schedule)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To set up more Social Centres for Elders, where justified (SWD)	 To establish eight additional social centres by 2001 (1999) To establish four additional social centres in 1998-1999 so as to provide 23 additional Social Centres for Elders in the four years 1998-2002. This will help meet the social and recreational needs of 10 000 older persons (1998 and 1997) 	Seven centres were established from 1998 to 2000. The need for the remaining centres will be examined in the light of the findings of the consultancy study being conducted on the provision of day care and community care and support services. (Action in Progress: Under Review)
To increase the number of vulnerable elders outreached by Support Teams for Elders (STEs) (SWD)	 To establish five teams in new Multiservice Centres for Elders by March 2001 To identify an additional 20 000 vulnerable older persons living in the community by 2001 (1999) 	 Three teams have been established in 1999-2000. Two more teams will be set up by the end of March 2001. As at 31 March 2000, 19 546 additional vulnerable older persons have been identified by STEs. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To promote active ageing by encouraging older persons to participate in volunteer	• To engage 6 000 older persons as volunteers by March 2002	• As at 31 March 2000, a total of 7 335 volunteers have been recruited by STEs.
programmes organised by STEs	(1999)	(Action Completed)
(SWD)	 To engage 4 500 older persons as volunteers by 1999 and to reach a total of 5 400 by 2001 	
	(1998 and 1997)	
	 To develop a standardised training package for volunteers 	 A standardised training package has been produced for volunteers of STEs in 1999-2000.
	(1999)	(Action Completed)
To implement marketing and promotional improvements for the Senior Citizen Card Scheme (SWD)	• To issue an additional 75 000 cards by March 2001	• From 1 October 1999 to 31 May 2000, an additional 36 640 cards have been issued.
		(Action in Progress: On Schedule)
	• To seek 200 new corporate sponsors for the Scheme	• From 1 October 1999 to 31 May 2000, an additional 525 corporate sponsors have participated in the Scheme.
		(Action Completed)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
	• To utilise the expertise of the Marketing Consultancy Office in SWD to launch major marketing and public relations projects for the Scheme in 2000 (1999)	Onsultancy Office has launched a series of promotional programmes in 2000 to promote the scheme. The major event to promote the card's new identity- "The New Face on Senior Citizen Card - New Card Launching Ceremony" - was held on 13 June 2000. Other publicity programmes are being held from August to November 2000. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To set up STEs in all existing and new Multiservice Centres (SWD)	To establish 30 teams in existing Multiservice Centres in 1998-1999 and six additional teams in new centres to come on stream by March 2001 (1998 and 1997)	As at 31 March 2000, 34 STEs were set up. Two additional teams are planned to be set up by March 2001. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To celebrate the International Year of Older Persons 1999 (HWB)	To launch five territory-wide and over 600 district events during 1999 (1998)	Five territory-wide and over 600 district events were launched during 1999. (Action Completed)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To launch a three-year "Opportunities for Elders" project (SWD)	For a three-year period starting from January 1999, to provide grants for community organisations to plan and organise more service projects for older persons in need (1998)	Up to September 2000, the project has provided financial subsidy of \$4.8 million to volunteer groups to carry out 551 projects. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

Adopt a structured approach to assess the care needs of elders and to provide services accordingly

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To conduct a consultancy study on the Quality of Life of Elders in Hong Kong (Health and Welfare Bureau (HWB))	To complete the study in 2000 (1999)	The study is completed and findings of the study have been endorsed by the Elderly Commission. The findings of the report have provided us with a useful basis for further studies on specific areas of care for elders as necessary. (Action Completed)
To strengthen admission control to residential care homes (Social Welfare Department (SWD))	 To set up a gate-keeping mechanism in 2000 to assess the care needs of elders and to provide service accordingly (1999) To review in 1999 the admission criteria and to improve the admission processes to subvented care homes to ensure that resources are used effectively for elders with genuine care needs (1998) 	The consultancy study on developing a gate-keeping assessment tool is being finalised. We aim to put the gate-keeping mechanism in place by the end of the year. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To review policy on priority admission to residential care service (HWB/SWD)	To develop proposals in 2000-2001 (1999)	The issue will be considered in the light of our experience in implementing the gate-keeping mechanism.
		(Action in Progress: On Schedule)
To promote care and concern for elders to maintain their psycho-	 To launch a publicity campaign to enhance public awareness towards the psycho- social needs of elders 	• We will launch a major publicity campaign in 2000-2001.
social well-being (HWB/SWD)		(Action in Progress: On Schedule)
	 To launch a publicity campaign to enhance public understanding towards the demented elders and their carers 	• Announcements in the Public Interest were produced and broadcast on radio and television to enhance public awareness of dementia and the needs of their carers.
		(Action Completed)
	• To develop training kits for carers and volunteers on the psycho-social needs of elders, and identify early traits of dementia	• A training kit has been produced for volunteers. The kit covers various topics including understanding the psycho-social needs of elders and information on dementia.
		(Action Completed)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
	• To review the pilot schemes of dementia units in residential care homes and in day care centres, with a view to extending the schemes to other care homes and centres	• Two three-year pilot projects were launched in April 1999 to set up four demented day care centres and six dementia units in residential care homes for demented elders. An evaluation study is being conducted to examine the effectiveness of the service and to recommend long-term operation modes in early 2002.
		(Action in Progress: On Schedule)
	• To conduct in-depth studies on depression/suicide among older persons and to identify the risk factors and possible ways to	• A multi-disciplinary study on suicide among older persons is being conducted to identify the risk factors of depression and suicide among older persons.
	tackle the issue	(Action in Progress: On Schedule)
	 To engage non- governmental organisations (NGOs) and professional associations to provide in-service training for medical and social work professionals in these areas 	 Various NGOs and professional associations have been engaged to provide relevant training to professional workers.
		(Action in Progress: On Schedule)
	(1999)	

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To extend coverage of the Dementia Supplement in subvented residential care homes (SWD)	 To provide resources to care for a further 160 demented elders in residential care homes in 2000-2001 (1998) To introduce a new Dementia Supplement for subvented residential care homes (1997) 	The Dementia Supplement for subvented residential care homes was introduced in November 1998 covering 200 demented clients. Additional funds have been allocated to provide Dementia Supplement to 181 more demented clients receiving residential care service since October 1999. (Action Completed)
To provide training to front-line staff to identify elders with traits of dementia (SWD)	To train 800 front-line workers in 1999-2000 (1998)	800 front-line workers were trained in 1999-2000. (Action Completed)