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# Caring and Just Society

## Preamble

Our vision for a Caring and Just Society celebrates the rich diversity of our community, recognising that each individual is endowed with different strengths. We aim to create an environment in which all people get every opportunity to develop their potential. Warm, supportive and stable families are what count most in nurturing the healthy development of individuals. We will strengthen family solidarity and foster mutual care and support in the community, so that all individuals are embedded in a network of care, trust, support and reciprocity. We will introduce health, social and housing policies and initiatives that enable individuals to enhance their community involvement. We will also ensure that there is a safety net so that those in need will also participate in economic and social life with dignity and self-reliance.

## New Initiatives

*We will:*

- Enhance our preparedness against the outbreak of infectious diseases by various measures, in particular the following —
  - development of a major infectious disease outbreak control plan;
  - development of regular data reporting systems and collaboration on controlling infectious diseases within the Pearl River Delta region;
  - building up hospital surge capacity by providing additional isolation facilities in designated acute hospitals and by establishing infectious disease centres in acute hospitals;
  - engaging all sectors of the community in infectious disease prevention and surveillance by co-ordinating preventive work across all sectors, paying special attention to vulnerable populations and involving the community in health promotion activities and health campaigns.
- Conduct research relating to infectious diseases such as diagnostic techniques for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and clinical management of SARS and providing more public health training to healthcare workers.
- Enhance Hong Kong's capacity to prevent and control communicable disease outbreak by setting up a Centre for Health Protection.
- Strengthen the community mode of health care delivery with emphasis on quality and cost-effectiveness and to reduce the reliance on hospital care.
- Regularise the wholesaling of live fish by implementing a permit scheme for wholesale fish stalls.

- Introduce a closed season for fishing and fisheries protection areas to conserve local fisheries resources.
- Review the regulatory framework for animals, birds and fish for the purpose of enhancing public health and food safety.
- Evaluate the implementation of the concept of ‘from feed to table’ to ensure food safety.
- Oversee the operation of the Trust Fund for SARS.
- Engage the third sector in the deliberation of their roles in social investment.
- Launch the Capacity Building Mileage Programme to encourage and facilitate women to pursue continuous learning.
- Proceed to issue a consultation paper on the proposed legislation against racial discrimination.
- Implement the improvement measures for the Pre-Sale Consent Scheme.
- Consider how best to speed up the processing of application for small houses.

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## Ongoing Initiatives

*We are:*

- Enhancing our network at the district level, which has proved invaluable in combating SARS and implementing Team Clean initiatives.
- Providing continual researches, preventive education, remedial counselling and treatment services for addressing gambling-related problems.
- Implementing an effective and sustainable safety net, particularly through the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, to assist the financially vulnerable.
- Further facilitating child adoption through amendments to the Adoption Ordinance and giving effect to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.
- Developing a fee assistance scheme to allow the elderly to have more choices and flexibility in using residential care services.
- Developing a multi-pronged strategy to minimise the risk of avian influenza outbreaks.
- Regulating and developing Chinese medicine and introducing Chinese medicine into the public health care system.
- Working to ensure that the public enjoy a smokeless environment in work and other public places through amendments to the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance.
- Protecting the public from misleading or untruthful health claims through amendments to the Undesirable Medical Advertisement Ordinance.

- Safeguarding the health and safety of the public by developing a regulatory framework on the supply and use of medical devices.
- Improving overall food safety and control on agricultural and fisheries operations that have an impact on public health or the environment.
- Operating the \$300 million Community Investment and Inclusion Fund to encourage mutual concern and aid, and encourage community participation.
- Developing a new service delivery model to integrate family welfare services and community-based services to provide a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services.
- Promoting active and healthy ageing.
- Conducting studies with a view to developing a sustainable financial support system that better targets resources at elders most in need.
- Improving accessibility for people with disabilities by enhancing guidelines for barrier free access.
- Creating an enabling environment to develop women's full potential and to build up their capability to face life's challenges and participate fully in all aspects of community life.
- Enhancing primary medical care for the public through developing a pluralistic primary care model in the public health sector.
- Working out a sustainable long-term funding arrangement for the Hospital Authority to ensure the provision of quality public health care services.
- Reviewing the mechanism for the determination of domestic rents for public housing.

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- Maintaining supply of public rental housing for needy applicants with an average waiting time of around three years.
  - Reviewing the operating environment of public transport and developing a more rational process for fare adjustment.