

47th Meeting of the Elderly Commission **Press Summary**

The Elderly Commission (EC) held its 47th meeting today (17 October 2006). Major items on the agenda were as follows: -

(1) Briefing on Policy Address

- The Commission welcomes the “family-based” policy for empowering individuals and families to resolve their problems, as advocated by the Chief Executive (CE) in the 2006-07 Policy Address. As far as elderly policy is concerned, the Commission is of the view that the concept of “ageing in the community”, which the EC has been promoting, is complementary to the “family-based” policy. The Commission reckons that, in the final analysis, it is through family support that will make elders’ aspiration to age in the community to become a reality.
- Also, the Commission welcomes CE’s proposal for setting up a Family Commission to bring under one roof the various commissions currently responsible for handling issues regarding different age groups and genders, and to address problems from a cross-policy perspective with a view to achieving more effective co-ordination that better suits the needs of families. The Commission stands ready to contribute to the study.
- The Commission noted the new initiatives on elderly care in 2006-07, which include:
 - enhancing the care for infirm and demented elders in residential care homes for the elderly;
 - enhancing the service capacity of subsidized home-based services for vulnerable elders; and
 - providing additional subsidised residential care places for the elderly.

(2) Review on Domestic Violence Ordinance (Cap 189)

- The Commission discussed and supported the Administration’s proposed legislative amendments to the Domestic Violence Ordinance (DVO). In addition to legislative amendments, the Commission noted that the Administration would continue to commit additional resources in the coming year to further enhance the services and support for victims of domestic violence.

- The Commission is of the view that extending the scope of the DVO beyond spousal/cohabitation relationships to e.g. parent-adult sons/daughters and parent-adult sons/daughters-in-law relationships would not be an effective means to address the issue of elder abuse in the domestic context. Rather, it might aggravate the situation and cause relationship breakdown between the elder and family members. It might also add tension to the in-law family relationships. For these reasons, the Commission did not support proposal from some quarters to expand the scope of DVO to other familial relationship.
- The Commission considered that the Administration should continue to strengthen the support and services for the vulnerable elders, and to enable the elders to remain active and productive, as well as to enhance their resilience and improve their quality of life.

(3) Promotion of “Active Ageing” and “Ageing in the Community”

- The Commission noted that more than 160 participants from the business, non-government and voluntary service sectors attended the “Pre-retirement Workshop” co-organized by EC and HWFB at the end of September. The aim of the workshop was to encourage enterprises to organize pre-retirement preparation activities for their about-to retire employees.
- The EC and HWFB have also co-sponsored a new series of “Golden Age IV” programme produced by RTHK. The new series includes 10 half-hour TV programme which focuses on themes like ageing in the community, intergenerational solidarity and positive image of ageing. The TV programme has been broadcast since 7 October on ATV Home Channel every Saturday.
- The Commission discussed and endorsed the holding of a Silver Hair Market Fair on 18-19 November at the Hong Kong Science Museum, to promote the development of elderly consumer market in Hong Kong. A Seminar on “Ageing in the Community” will be held on the same day as the Fair commences i.e. 18 November, at the Hong Kong Museum of History. Overseas speakers will share their experience on “Ageing in the Community” with participants at the Seminar.

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