

49th Meeting of the Elderly Commission **Press Summary**

The Elderly Commission (EC) held its 49th meeting today (2 March 2007) with the following items on the agenda: -

(1) New initiatives on elderly services in the 2007-08 Budget

- Members welcomed the new initiatives on “Strengthening Elderly Support” as stipulated by the Financial Secretary in the 2007-08 Budget. They include:
 - an additional \$38 million to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes to provide assistance to more elderly singletons;
 - an additional \$16 million to provide additional subsidised residential care places in new purpose-built residential care homes for the elderly; and
 - allocation of \$96 million over four years to implement a trial scheme in two districts to provide one-stop support services to elderly dischargees in need.

- Members were of the view that further enhancing elderly centres’ outreaching efforts to singleton and unidentified elders would help those in need to receive services and bring them out of isolation. This initiative, together with the proposed trial scheme to provide one-stop support service for elderly dischargees, will further facilitate “ageing in the community”. Increasing the number of subsidised residential care places steadily will benefit more elders in need. Members reckoned that, as the population ages, the demand for subsidised residential care places for the elderly will increase. EC will continue to explore ways of responding to the challenge effectively.

(2) **Promotion of “Active Ageing”**

- The Seminar on the Pilot Elder Learning Scheme cum Launching Ceremony of the Elder Academy was held at Yan Chai Hospital Chan Iu Seng Primary School in Tseung Kwan O on 3 February 2007. It aims to promote life-long learning, maintain physical and mental health, foster a sense of worthiness in elders, promote inter-generational solidarity, strengthen civic education and promote cross-sectoral harmony. Applications for setting up Elder Academy are being invited from schools and their partnering organisations. Due to feedback received and the school holiday during the Chinese New Year the Commission has decided to extend the deadline for application from 3 March 2007 to 9 March 2007.
- The Commission and RTHK are working on an active ageing project to promote the image of elders and celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR.

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