

The 60th Meeting of the Elderly Commission **Press Summary**

The Elderly Commission held its 60th meeting today (23 October 2009) with the following item on the agenda: -

Briefing on the 2009-10 Policy Address

- The Commission welcomed the package of new initiatives relating to elderly care services in the Chief Executive's 2009-10 Policy Address, acknowledging that they would provide better support to elders in need on various fronts.
- The Commission attached particular importance to initiatives in support of "ageing in place", such as providing additional day care places and strengthening carer training, because "ageing in place" is the direction for elderly care policy and is also in line with elders' wishes and the global trend.
- As far as residential care services are concerned, the Commission agreed that the Government should focus on increasing subsidised nursing home places and places with continuum of care, in view of the longer waiting time for these places and the limited supply in the private market. The Commission believed that the Government's new initiatives would be able to address the needs in this aspect effectively.
- The Commission was glad to note that the effectiveness of its Elder Academy Scheme was recognised, and that further to the establishment of the Elder Academy Development Foundation, the Government would set up a committee to administer the Foundation. To promote the physical and mental well being of

elders, the Government is co-ordinating the setting up of a dedicated portal for the elderly to provide one-stop information service on elderly services and the silver hair market. The Commission welcomed this move.

- The Commission looked forward to the implementation of the new initiatives. Together with the on-going initiatives, they would provide better support to the elderly. The Commission will continue to work closely with the Government and advise on matters relating to elderly care policy and related services.

Summary of initiatives in 2009-10 Policy Address relating to the elderly policy:

New Initiatives

- Enhance the pace of increasing the provision of additional subsidised residential care places (especially nursing home places) through a novel multi-pronged approach
- Launch a pilot scheme to provide residential care homes for the elderly with visiting pharmacist services
- Provide additional subsidised day care places for frail elders
- Extend the District-based Scheme on Carer Training
- Examine how to strengthen home care services for the elderly through a more flexible and diverse mode of service delivery
- Embark on the work of the committee set up for the Elder Academy Development Foundation
- Co-ordinate the setting up of a dedicated portal for the elderly to provide one-stop information service on elderly services and the silver hair market

On-going Initiatives

- Upgrading subvented residential care places to long-term care places providing continuum of care for frail elders
- Continuing with outreaching efforts of elderly centres to singleton and hidden elders
- Providing integrated support services to both elderly hospital discharges who have difficulty taking care of themselves and their carers through the Integrated Discharge Support Trial Programme for Elderly Patients
- Helping needy elders improve their home conditions through the Home Environment Improvement Scheme for the Elderly
- Training additional enrolled nurses for the welfare sector

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