

## **39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Elderly Commission** **Press briefing summary**

The Elderly Commission (EC) held its 39<sup>th</sup> meeting today (16 September 2004) with the following items on the agenda: -

### **(1) Strategic Framework for Elderly Services**

- The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) presented to Members a discussion paper on the “Strategic Framework for Elderly Services”, and shared with Members Government’s policy objectives, strategic framework and future work plan on elderly services.
- The Administration has put in place a number of reform measures to achieve better care for our growing elder population over the past few years. The paper analyses the impact of ageing population on the aspects of health care, social developments, economic implications and life-course paradigm shift. It stresses a strategic framework which regards elderly services as a social investment, and which aims to build the self-help and mutual help spirit and tripartite partnership for enhancing social capital.
- The paper has recommended the following action plans:

#### Health care

- Further improve the interface of services and support by the Hospital Authority, the Health Department and the Social Welfare Department.
- Upgrade self-care hostel and home for the aged places into long-term care places.
- Further look into the possibility of providing more infirmary services to elders in a non-hospital setting.
- Further enhance the community care and support services.
- Strengthen the regulation and surveillance of residential care homes for the elderly, and enhance their quality and capability.

#### Social Development

- Further promote a barrier-free environment to facilitate elders to participate.

#### Economic: Financial Security

- Implement a Fee Assistance Scheme for Residential Care of Frail Elders.
- Undertake research on the various financing options for long-term care.

Active ageing

- Promote active ageing.

**(2) Outbreak of Gastroenteritis in Shui Oi Convalescent Home**

- Representative of the Social Welfare Department briefed Members on the outbreak of gastroenteritis in Shui Oi Convalescent Home and the follow up actions.

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