

## **45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Elderly Commission**

### **Press Summary**

The Elderly Commission (EC) held its 45th meeting today (23 February 2006) with the following items on the agenda : -

#### **(1) Presentation by Hospital Authority on Waiver Application for Patients attending SOPC and GOPC of HA**

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- HA briefed Members on the extended fee waiver arrangement of medical fees to all pre-scheduled GOPC appointments with effect from 1 December 2005.
- Under the present medical fee waiver mechanism, patients who are recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) can obtain free medical treatment at General Out-patient Clinics (GOPC). Non-CSSA patients who have difficulties in paying the medical fees may apply for a one-off waiver. With effect from December 2005, the Hospital Authority has extended the coverage of the time-specific waiver to include pre-scheduled appointments at GOPC. Eligible patients attending pre-scheduled GOPC appointments may receive a waiver for a maximum period of 6 months. For elderly with chronic illnesses and require frequent follow ups, a waiver covering a maximum period of 12 months may be issued.
- A waiver is applicable not only at the hospital/clinic which issues it, but also at all other hospitals/clinics providing similar services under the Hospital Authority or the Department of Health.
- Members noted and welcomed the new arrangement.

#### **(2) Reports on the progress of the Working Group on Long Term Care Model and Working Group on Active Ageing**

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- The Working Group on Long Term Care Model and the Working Group on Active Ageing had conducted various meetings respectively in the past few months. They have worked out draft work plans respectively, which include producing an API/API for TV and radio broadcast to promote a positive image of elders, and organising a “Silver Market” fair and a workshop on “ageing in place” later in the year.

#### **(3) The 2006-07 Budget**

- The EC noted the part of the 2006-07 Budget on helping the disadvantaged, and welcomed the allocation of an additional \$20 million to strengthen home care services for the elderly.