

Family Council

Background Information on Promotion of Active Ageing and Building of Age-friendly Community

INTRODUCTION

This paper provides background information to facilitate Members' discussion of the PowerPoint presentation on the work of the Elderly Commission (EC) on active ageing and related initiatives implemented by the Government.

BACKGROUND

2. Projections indicate that nearly one-third of Hong Kong's population will be 65 or above by 2041. In the face of an ageing population, the Government has pledged to make Hong Kong an age-friendly city that fosters active ageing. Established in 1997, EC is responsible for providing advice to the Government of the HKSAR in the formulation of a comprehensive policy in caring for elders (terms of reference at **Annex A**). It has set up a Working Group on Active Ageing and works closely with the Government to promote active ageing to unleash and harness the social capital of elderly and help them maintain an active and productive life. Chairman of EC will give a PowerPoint presentation (copy at **Annex B**) and brief the Council on the work of the EC on active ageing and related initiatives implemented by the Government.

3. By encouraging and helping the elderly develop a fulfilled social life, the active ageing initiatives also have positive implications on enhancing inter-generational relationships, one of the family core values as advocated by the Council. A few initiatives were deliberated by the Council on previous occasions. For example, at the meeting on 21 November 2013, the Council was briefed on the Public Consultation Document on Population Policy issued by the Steering Committee on Population Policy (Steering Committee) and deliberated on issues relating to promoting elderly volunteerism. The subject was further discussed at the Sub-

committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values and Family Education at its meeting on 9 January 2014, and members' views were summarised in a letter to the Steering Committee dated 21 February 2014 (copy of letter at Annex C). At the meeting on 26 November 2015, the Council discussed the Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents which aimed to reinforce support for nuclear families by making grandparents well-trained child carers in a home setting. Extract of the meeting minutes is at Annex D.

ADVICE SOUGHT

4. Members are invited to note the information as set out above and provide their views on the subject.

**Family Council Secretariat
June 2016**

Elderly Commission

In 1997, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has made “Care for the Elderly” a Strategic Policy Objective of the Government of the HKSAR. The objective is to improve the quality of life of our elderly population and to provide them with a sense of security, a sense of belonging and a feeling of health and worthiness. The Elderly Commission was established in the same year and its main task is to provide advice to the Government of the HKSAR in the formulation of a comprehensive policy in caring for elders. Commission members are appointed by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, including professionals from elder related services and other sectors, academics, and community leaders.

Terms of Reference

1. To advise Government on the formulation of a comprehensive policy for the elderly including matters relating to the care, housing, financial security, health and medical, psychological, employment and recreational needs of the elderly;
2. To co-ordinate the planning and development of various programmes and services for the elderly, and to recommend priorities for implementation having regard to manpower, financial and other resources available; and
3. To monitor implementation of policies and programmes affecting the elderly, and to make recommendations to Government to ensure that agreed objectives are met.

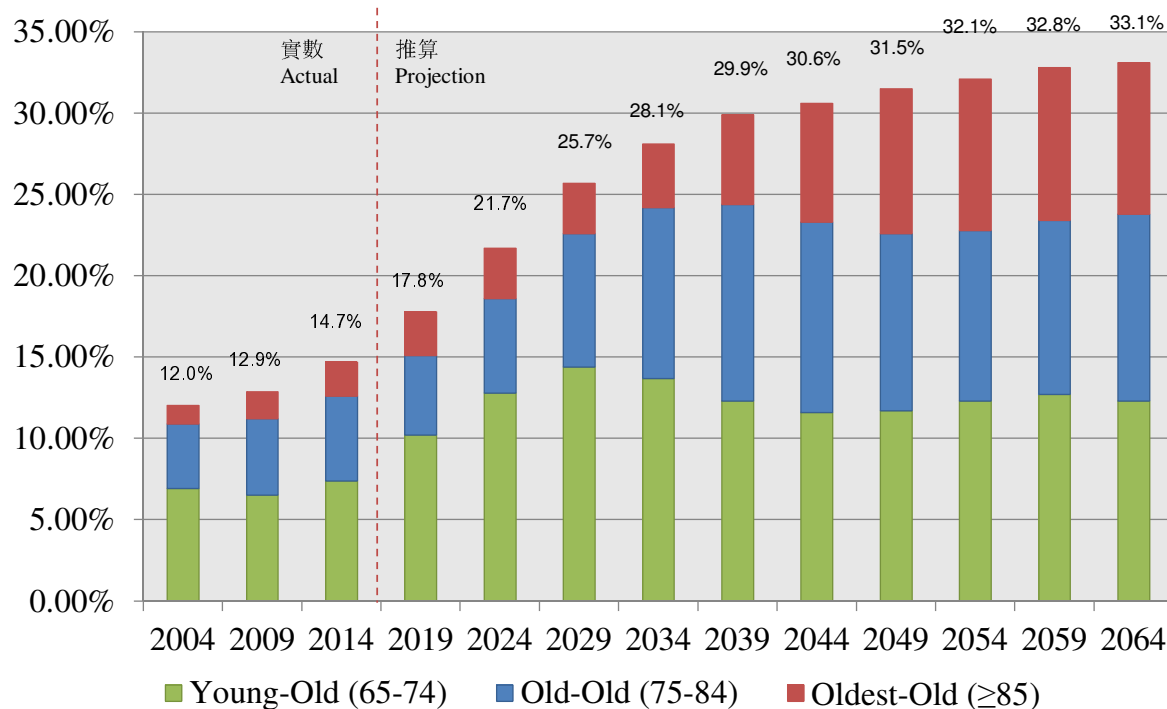
推廣積極樂頤年 建設長者友善社區



林正財醫生
安老事務委員會主席
2016年6月16日



香港長者人口趨勢推算 2004-2064



積極樂頤年



「積極樂頤年是透過善用各種機會，使年紀漸大的長者得以保持健康、積極參與社會事務並得到保障，以提升他們的生活質素。」

- 世界衛生組織

「政府將繼續建構長者友善城市，推廣積極樂頤年。」

- 行政長官，2016年施政報告

積極樂頤年工作小組

- 於2005年成立
- 就下列事項向安委會提出建議：
 - 積極樂頤年的**策略性願景**
 - 籌劃和進行倡導積極樂頤年工作所需的**研究**
 - **推廣**和發布積極樂頤年訊息的方法



長者學苑計劃

2007年開始推行



2009年：「長者學苑發展基金」
支援學校與社福機構合作

5

長者學苑計劃

全港共有132間長者學苑，分佈於全港18區
每年修讀課程的人次超過1萬



老有所為活動計劃

1998-99年開始推行



資助社會服務機構、地區團體、學校及義工組織舉辦活動

7

左鄰右里積極樂頤年計劃



2008年開始推行



於鄰舍層面發展支援社區的關愛網絡

8

2016-18年度合併
有效運用資源
更高靈活性

左鄰右里
顯關愛
老有所為
樂頤年

2016 - 18年度
老有所為活動計劃

1930

歡迎各界人士參加「老有所為活動計劃」
Your participation in the Opportunities for the Elderly Project is most welcome

查詢 Enquiry: 3183 9099
網址 Website: <http://www.swd.gov.hk>

老有所為活動計劃 Opportunities for the Elderly Project - OEP

社會福利署
Social Welfare Department

老有所為活動計劃
Opportunities for the Elderly Project

長者友善社區

- 世界衛生組織（世衛）提倡長者友善社區的理念，鼓勵全球各地城市為長者建設**健康而舒適**的生活環境及設施，並提出八項指標：
 - ① 室外空間和建築
 - ② 交通
 - ③ 房屋
 - ④ 社會參與
 - ⑤ 尊重和社會包容
 - ⑥ 社區參與和就業
 - ⑦ 溝通與資訊
 - ⑧ 社區支持與健康服務

World
Health
Organization



長者友善社區



- 世衛為長者友善社區設有**認證計劃**
- 要獲得認證，地區須承諾展開持續改善社區的計劃，有三個地區（荃灣、葵青及西貢）獲得認證
- 2016-17年度推行「長者友善社區資助計劃」，向18區區議會共撥款約**100萬元**，在地區層面推動有關工作

11

長者及合資格殘疾人士 公共交通票價優惠計劃

2012開始推行

現時合資格受惠人士
約有**112萬**為
65歲或以上長者



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長者及合資格殘疾人士 公共交通票價優惠計劃



平均每日使用人次高達**84萬**長者

政府在2016-17年度向各公共交通營辦商發還的預算款額
將由2015-16年度的約9億元**增至約11億元**

13

長者醫療券計劃

2009年開始推行

資助年滿70歲的長者使用**私營基層醫療服務**，
每年醫療券金額為**2,000元**

截至2016年3月底，曾經使用醫療券的長者
超過61萬人



14

為祖父母而設的幼兒照顧 訓練課程試驗計劃



於2016年3月推出，為期兩年
為初生至六歲以下幼兒的祖父母或準祖母，
合共提供540個訓練名額
涵蓋家庭為本的主題，加強跨代支援及共融

謝謝大家！



政府總部
民政事務局

香港添馬添美道二號
政府總部西翼十二樓



GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU

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CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
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TAMAR,
HONG KONG.

本局檔號 OUR REF : HAB/ CR 7/15/775 Pt.19
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21 February 2014

To: Secretariat of the Steering Committee on Population Policy

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Family Council's Comments on
Public Consultation Document on Population Policy**

In response to the public consultation document issued by the Steering Committee on Population Policy (SCPP), the Family Council (the Council) submits its comments at **Annex** to the SCPP on the basis of the deliberations made at the Council and the Sub-committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values and Family Education meetings held on 21 November 2013 and 9 January 2014 respectively. The summary of the Council's comments at **Annex** has been endorsed by the Council on 20 February 2014.

If you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact the undersigned or Ms Jessica Cheng at 3509 8045.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aubrey Fung'.

(Ms Aubrey Fung)
Secretary, Family Council

Encl.

Summary of Comments
Expressed by Members at the Family Council
and the Sub-committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values and
Family Education meetings
held on 21 November 2013 and 9 January 2014 respectively

A. Supportive Environment to Form and Raise Families

- (a) In formulating measures to encourage childbirth, it was essential that more positive message in raising children and formation of families should be brought out in view of the prevailing tendency of over-emphasizing the cost and responsibilities, with the essence of basic family core values being overlooked at times. Engendering a culture of loving family would encourage childbirth.
- (b) Provision of suitable and quality education as well as childcare services were major hurdles for young couples contemplated having children, in addition to the need to balance parenthood and career against Hong Kong's highly competitive and demanding work culture.
- (c) Noting the limited number of Creche Centres in the territory and the statutory provision of maternity leave¹ which compared less favourably with other developed countries, the Government should proactively review the provision of childcare services as well as maternity leave in order to encourage childbirth.
- (d) Given the increasing prevalence of childbirth outside marriage and the practical difficulties for young couples to find affordable housing, the Government should properly address the issues and concerns from a holistic perspective.
- (e) The implementation of family support measures in raising fertility would invariably involve substantial resources. However, it was dubious if the Government revenue generated from collection of tax was able to support the related expenses involved. Besides, its effectiveness was also quite doubtful. To encourage childbirth, it was important to change the mindset of

¹ The statutory provision of maternity leave was 10 weeks with the daily rate of maternity leave pay being a sum equivalent to four-fifths of the average daily wages earned by an employee in the 12-month period preceding the first day of maternity leave.

people through public education in inculcating proper values on family as well as gender equality.

- (f) In encouraging dual parenting, the Government should formulate specific measures and actively promote the implementation of family-friendly employment practices. The Government and public bodies alike should play a leading role to put in place family-friendly measures in the workplace. Job sharing and flex-working hours were some examples worth pursuing. Besides, the experience of overseas countries in operating work-based child care centres provided good insights for Hong Kong to make reference.
- (g) Over-emphasizing academic achievements created undue pressure to parents. This, coupled with long working hours, would bring negative impact on motivation of childbirth. A cultural change through strengthening of public education in inculcating proper family values was necessary.
- (h) In response to the phenomenon of over-emphasizing academic achievements in the society, it was advisable for the Government to make reference to the findings of the study on “The Tenth Phenomenon”² (“第十名現象”) conducted in the Mainland and consider conducting similar study in Hong Kong.

B. Embracing Opportunities in an Ageing Society

- (a) With a view to minimizing the labelling effect, the term “熟年族”, instead of “elderly people” should be used to name those aged 50 and above.
- (b) Recent surveys indicated that 10-15% of people aged 65 and above were dependents and only 7% of them required services from care homes. To make good use of their wealth of experience and knowledge, elderly volunteerism was worth promoting. Experience of the Mainland through the

² “The Tenth Phenomenon” was raised by a primary school teacher in Hangzhou (杭州市天長小學老師周武). Subsequent to attending a graduates’ reunion gathering in 1989, the teacher studied the career development of 150 graduates of his primary school in the 1990’s. He found that students’ development was a dynamic process and students with moderate academic performance had more potentials than those elite students in the primary school and had better performance in terms of career development after graduation.

implementation of the “Eleventh Five-year Plan for the Development of China's Undertaking for the Aged” (《中國老齡事業發展“十一五”規劃》) and the “Twelfth Five-year Plan for the Development of China's Undertaking for the Aged” (《中國老齡事業發展“十二五”規劃》) in mobilizing retired civil servants to serve the community voluntarily provided good insights for Hong Kong to make reference.

- (c) Noting the achievements of the “Elder Academy” launched by the Elderly Commission in fostering sense of worthiness amongst elders and promoting harmony between the elders and the youth, the Government should explore more opportunities for the elder academies to team up with schools for school-based activities.
- (d) Consideration could be given to enhancing collaboration between the elder academies and non-government organizations with a view to promoting intergenerational harmony as activities of elder academies were well-received by young students. Through activities organised by the elder academies, the younger generation could learn from their experience.
- (e) As some social enterprises had successfully established a solid footing in Hong Kong, they provided good opportunities for retired people to serve the community as volunteers. With suitable training, elderly people as well as other underprivileged groups were a potential source of labour supply.
- (f) The “Guangdong Scheme”³ introduced by the Government in 2013 was a good attempt to encourage some of the elderly people to retire in Guangdong because of its proximity to Hong Kong. Riding on the experience, the Government should explore the idea further. Consideration should also be given to ensuring the availability of affordable and quality healthcare.
- (g) With better health and higher education levels among the current and future elderly generations, more and more mature workers might be willing to stay longer in the labour force. The Government should take the lead in revisiting the issues on the extension of the service of civil servants beyond retirement age by incorporating more flexibility into the system. On one hand,

³ To allow eligible elderly people who chose to reside in Guangdong to receive the Old Age Allowance without the need to come back to Hong Kong.

it would allow the Civil Service to better respond to the economic and social challenges arising from the demographic changes, and on the other hand, it set an example to the private sector and other public bodies to follow.

- (h) To make good use of the experience and expertise of the elderly, the Government should encourage the setting up of district-based committees (區會) so as to provide a platform for the promotion of elderly volunteerism. In implementing the proposal, interests of the elderly volunteers should be catered as far as practicable.
- (i) To better prepare the economy of Hong Kong for the challenges arising from the ageing population, the Government should encourage further development of the tertiary industry, particularly the creative industries, so that Hong Kong would be in a better position to respond to the structural transformation of the economy.

C. Others

- (a) With a view to increasing the quantity and enhancing the quality of the labour force, the Government should encourage female homemakers with grown-up children to re-join the labour force through introduction of incentive schemes (such as providing free retraining opportunities, coaching and counselling services to female homemakers). In parallel, the Government should also take the opportunity to refine the “Quality Migrant Admission Scheme”, so that more high-skilled or talented persons would be attracted to migrate to Hong Kong. It was worth noting that insufficient places in international schools to cater for the needs of their children were also a matter of concern.
- (b) Given that issues such as re-joining the labour force by female homemakers and forming families with children were matters of personal choice, the Government should strike a careful balance in fostering a supportive environment, without too much intervention.

Extract of Minutes of Family Council meeting
on 26 November 2015

Items 4 – Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents

11. Upon invitation of the Chairman, Mr Fung Man-chung, Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare) of SWD briefed Members on the background as well as parameters of the Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents (Pilot Project) as follows -

- (a) SWD would launch a pilot project to reinforce support for nuclear families by making grandparents well-trained carers in a home setting;
- (b) the target participants were grandparents of children aged from birth to under six or grandparents-to-be;
- (c) the proposed training programmes would adapt from the child care course organised by the Employees Retraining Board (ERB). Part of the training contents would cover family-related topics, including preparation for grandparenthood, strengthening relationship between generations; and
- (d) SWD would seek funding support from the Lotteries Fund in due course.

12. Deliberations of the meeting on the Pilot Project were summarised below –

- (a) Members commended the efforts of the Government in promoting active ageing of grandparents and reinforcing family support between generations through launching of the Pilot Project;
- (b) noting that the target participants were grandparents of children aged from birth to under six, Members raised the concerns that a one-size-fits-all training content would not be desirable as the focus of newborn babies and children of three to six years old would be very different;

- (c) some Members considered that the training might appear to be too intensive as participating grandparents were encouraged to attend all sessions of the training programme, bearing in mind that quite a number of grandparents were pre-occupied with their daily activities. In formulating the training content, it was desirable to take into account the social conditions of the grandparents;
- (d) noting that 540 training places would be provided in two years with an average class size of 20 trainees, Members suggested that SWD might consider expanding the scope by providing general training to more grandparents so that more grandparents would be able to acquire basic knowledge and skills on child care as quite a number of grandparents were only occasional child-carers. Provision of online training and module-based courses through Elderly Academy were some options worth exploring; and
- (e) apart from practical skill and knowledge, it was equally important to instill family core values in the training materials. On evaluation, randomized controlled trial was worth adopting in assessing the effectiveness of the Pilot Project.

13. PSLW thanked Members for their comments and made the following remarks –

- (a) Members were assured that the NGOs would make suitable adaptation from the child care courses under the purview of the ERB. As far as the training content was concerned, it would be customised to suit the needs of children of different ages. Besides, elements of family would be suitably incorporated into the training content as one of the primary objectives of the Pilot Project was to reinforce family support between generations; and
- (b) taking Members' views into account, SWD would consider exploring the possibility of organising some short courses to meet different needs of the grandparents in the light of the evaluation of the Pilot Project.

14. The Chairman concluded that the Council supported the implementation of the Pilot Project and proposed that the Government might consider the following suggestions in refining the parameters of the Pilot Project –

- (a) the content of the training programme should be more focused to meet the needs of grandparents;
- (b) family and inter-generational perspectives should be suitably incorporated into the programme; and
- (c) assessment of the effectiveness of the Pilot Project should be conducted.