

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Session No. : 10**

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LWB(WW)001	0058	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	141	Women's Interests
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LWB(WW)003	0080	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	141	Subvention: Guardianship Board and Environmental Advisory Service
LWB(WW)004	0084	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	141	Social Welfare
LWB(WW)005	0113	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	141	
LWB(WW)006	0115	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	141	Women's Interests
LWB(WW)007	0116	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	141	Women's Interests
LWB(WW)008	0117	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	141	Women's Interests
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LWB(WW)011	0017	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)012	0018	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)013	0019	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)014	0020	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)015	0021	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)016	0022	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)017	0023	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)018	0024	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)019	0025	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)020	0026	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)021	0027	CHAN Yuen-han	141	Social Welfare
LWB(WW)022	0028	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)023	0032	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)024	0033	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	141	Social Welfare

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LWB(WW)026	0060	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)027	0061	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)028	0062	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)029	0063	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)030	0150	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)031	0155	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)032	0436	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	141	Subvention: Skills Centres
LWB(WW)033	0294	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	170	All
LWB(WW)034	0349	CHAN Yuen-han	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)035	0379	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)036	0380	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)037	0381	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)038	0382	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)039	0383	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)040	0397	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)041	0398	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)042	0399	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)043	0400	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)044	0401	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)045	0402	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)046	0403	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)047	0404	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)048	0405	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)049	0406	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)050	0407	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)051	0408	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Social Security
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LWB(WW)056	0413	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)057	0414	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	141	Social Welfare
LWB(WW)058	0415	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)059	0416	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)060	0417	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)061	0418	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)062	0419	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)063	0420	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)064	0421	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Young People
LWB(WW)065	0422	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	Young People
LWB(WW)066	0423	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	170	All
LWB(WW)067	0189	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	186	Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities
LWB(WW)068	0473	KWONG Chi-kin	141	Subvention: Skills Centres
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LWB(WW)070	0747	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)071	0630	CHOY So-yuk	141	Women's Interests
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LWB(WW)073	0568	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities
LWB(WW)074	0507	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)075	0543	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)076	0544	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
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LWB(WW)080	0793	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)081	0794	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)082	0795	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)083	0796	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)084	0797	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)085	0798	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)086	0799	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)087	0800	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)088	0815	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)089	0816	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)090	0817	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)091	0818	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)092	0819	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)093	0746	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	186	Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities
LWB(WW)094	0079	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	141	Director of Bureau's Office
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LWB(WW)096	0914	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)097	0915	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)098	0916	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)099	0917	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)100	0184	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)101	1337	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	141	Social Welfare
LWB(WW)102	1338	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare

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LWB(WW)105	1341	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)106	1342	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare
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LWB(WW)109	1347	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	141	Women's Interests
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LWB(WW)125	1267	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)126	1268	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)127	1269	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)128	1270	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

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LWB(WW)136	1290	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)137	1291	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)138	1292	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
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LWB(WW)140	1294	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)141	1295	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)142	1391	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Services for Offenders
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LWB(WW)152	1405	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
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LWB(WW)154	1555	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)155	1556	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Services for Elders
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LWB(WW)158	1560	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
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LWB(WW)160	1576	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)161	1577	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)162	1578	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)163	1579	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)164	1580	TAM Yiu-chung	170	All
LWB(WW)165	1581	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)166	1582	TAM Yiu-chung	170	All
LWB(WW)167	1583	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)168	1584	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)169	1585	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)170	1588	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)171	1589	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)172	1590	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Services for Elders
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LWB(WW)178	1596	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)179	1597	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Services for Elders
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LWB(WW)183	1607	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)184	1608	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	170	Services for Offenders
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LWB(WW)190	1731	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	141	Women's Interests
LWB(WW)191	1640	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)192	1641	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)193	1345	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)194	1346	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)195	1465	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	141	Social Welfare
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LWB(WW)201	1142	CHAN Bernard	170	Social Security
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LWB(WW)208	1164	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Services for Elders
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LWB(WW)210	1166	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)211	1167	LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie	170	Family and Child Welfare
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LWB(WW)213	1790	HO Chun-yan, Albert	141	Social Welfare
LWB(WW)214	1791	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)215	1792	HO Chun-yan, Albert	141	Women's Interests
LWB(WW)216	1793	HO Chun-yan, Albert	141	Women's Interests
LWB(WW)217	1915	CHAN Yuen-han	141	Women's Interests
LWB(WW)218	2000	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	141	Social Welfare
LWB(WW)219	2039	LI Fung-ying	141	Women's Interests
LWB(WW)220	2196	WONG Kwok-hing	141	Subvention: Skills Centres
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LWB(WW)222	1795	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)223	1796	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)224	2639	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	141	Women's Interests
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LWB(WW)226	1799	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)227	1800	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)228	1801	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)229	1802	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)230	1803	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)231	1804	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Services for Offenders

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LWB(WW)235	1808	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)236	1809	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)237	1810	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)238	1811	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)239	1812	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Young People
LWB(WW)240	1813	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Young People
LWB(WW)241	1814	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Young People
LWB(WW)242	1849	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)243	1898	LEE Cheuk-yan	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)244	1899	LEE Cheuk-yan	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)245	1973	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)246	2047	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)247	2049	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)248	2050	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)249	2216	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)250	2217	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)251	2218	LEUNG Yiu-chung	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)252	2219	LEUNG Yiu-chung	141	Social Welfare
LWB(WW)253	2238	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)254	2239	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)255	2240	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)256	1797	HO Chun-yan, Albert	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)257	2244	LI Fung-ying	170	All
LWB(WW)258	2245	LI Fung-ying	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)259	2246	LI Fung-ying	170	Family and Child Welfare
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LWB(WW)264	2251	LI Fung-ying	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)265	2252	LI Fung-ying	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)266	2253	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)267	2254	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)268	2255	WONG Kwok-hing	170	Services for Offenders
LWB(WW)269	2284	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)270	2285	TAM Yiu-chung	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)271	2313	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)272	2315	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)273	2316	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)274	2317	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)275	2318	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
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LWB(WW)277	2353	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)278	2420	CHEUNG Hok-ming	170	Family and Child Welfare
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LWB(WW)282	1913	HO Chun-yan, Albert	186	Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities
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LWB(WW)287	2045	KWOK Ka-ki	170	Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
LWB(WW)288	2640	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)289	2641	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Social Security
LWB(WW)290	2642	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)291	2643	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Services for Elders
LWB(WW)292	2653	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)293	2659	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	170	Family and Child Welfare
LWB(WW)294	2654	YOUNG Howard	186	Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities
LWB(WW)295	2657	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	186	Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities
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LWB(WW)298	2733	CHEUNG Man-kwong	170	Family and Child Welfare

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

At a meeting of the United Nations on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 2006, the Government proclaimed that the existing Women's Commission was a central mechanism. In the 2008-09 Estimate, the Government stressed that it would introduce the "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" to more policy areas; promote gender mainstreaming through the "Gender Focal Points Network" within the Government; and provide gender-related training to civil servants to facilitate the consideration of women's perspectives during policy formulation, legislation and implementation. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) Whether the "Gender Mainstreaming Checklist" has been applied in preparing the 2008-09 Estimate? If yes, what changes have consequentially been made and what are the differences in estimate terms?
- (b) If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Why only \$19 million has been allocated in the 2008-09 Estimate to the Women's Commission, which is said to be a central mechanism tasked to coordinate the efforts for advancing women's interests in Hong Kong, while the provision for handling domestic violence can amount to \$1.37 billion? What are the reasons for such huge difference?
- (d) What departments are included in the "Gender Focal Points Network"? Please also provide the details for contacting them.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

Though the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist (Checklist) has not been specifically applied in preparing the 2008-09 Estimate, it does not mean that the needs of women have not been taken into consideration by the concerned bureaux and departments in the context of the estimates. The Administration has, on the advice and with the assistance of the Women's Commission (WoC), implemented gender mainstreaming and has to date applied the Checklist to 28 policy or programme areas. The Checklist is an analytical tool developed by WoC to assist government officials in incorporating, in a more systematic way, the gender perspectives in the policy formulation and programme development processes, so that women and men will have equitable access to, and benefit from, society's resources and opportunities. Apart from adopting the Checklist, staff of many bureaux and departments have also applied the gender mainstreaming concept in the course of their daily work, taking into account the needs and perspectives of both genders. We will continue to promote the application of the gender mainstreaming concept and the Checklist in more policy and programme areas.

In 2008-09, an amount of \$21.5 million has been earmarked for promoting the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong and for supporting the work of WoC. As the central mechanism for advancing women's interests, WoC is tasked to take a strategic overview on women issues and develop a long-term vision for the development and advancement of women, as well as to advise the Administration on policies and programmes which are of concern to women. It is not a service provider. Costs incurred in delivering services or initiatives relating to women are absorbed by the respective bureaux and departments concerned.

The Administration has, on WoC's advice, set up a network of Gender Focal Points (GFPs) in all bureaux and departments. They serve as the contact and resource persons within their respective organisations and are tasked to help raise awareness and understanding of gender-related issues, and promote the use of the Checklist within their areas of work. The list of GFP is annexed. It is also available to the public through WoC's website (www.women.gov.hk).

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

List of Gender Focal Point
(as at 29.2.2008)

Bureau/Department	Post Title
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office, Administration Wing	Principal Executive Officer (Administration)
Efficiency Unit	Assistant Director / Efficiency Unit
Central Policy Unit	Government Town Planner
Civil Service Bureau	Principal Executive Officer (Management)
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau	Principal Executive Officer (Administration) / Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch
	Chief Executive Officer (Administration) / Communications and Telechnoloy Branch
	Assistant Commissioner (Tourism) ² / Tourism Commission
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	Administrative Assistant to Secretary for Constitutional Affairs
Development Bureau	Principal Executive Officer (Works) / Works Branch
	Principal Executive Officer (Admin) / Planning and Lands Branch
Education Bureau	Principal Education Officer (Education Commission and Planning)
Environment Bureau	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Corporate Affairs)
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Principal Executive Officer (General) / Treasury Branch
	Principal Assistant Secretary (Financial Services) ³ / Financial Services Branch
Food and Health Bureau	Principal Assistant Secretary (Health) SD
Home Affairs Bureau	Principal Assistant Secretary (3)
Labour and Welfare Bureau	Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare) ²
Transport and Housing Bureau	Principal Assistant Secretary (Policy Support) / Assistant Director (Policy Support)
Security Bureau	Principal Management Services Officer (Security)
	Commissioner for Narcotics
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Assistant Director (Agriculture and Administration)
Architectural Services Department	Chief Project Manager
Audit Commission	Principal Auditor
Auxiliary Medical Service	Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service
Buildings Department	Chief Officer / Technical Support
Census and Statistics Department	Assistant Commissioner (Social)

Bureau/Department	Post Title
Civil Aviation Department	Chief Operations Officer (Technical Administration)
Civil Engineering and Development Department	Departmental Secretary
Companies Registry	Registry Manager
Correctional Services Department	Assistant Commissioner (Rehabilitation)
Customs and Excise Department	Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resource Development)
Department of Health	Principal Medical Officer
Drainage Services Department	Departmental Secretary
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	Chief Engineer / Energy Efficiency A
Environmental Protection Department	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Corporate Affairs)
Fire Services Department	Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Headquarters)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Assistant Director (Admin)
Government Flying Service	Chief Aircraft Engineer
Government Laboratory	Chief Chemist / Other Scientific Services Group
Government Property Agency	Deputy Government Property Administrator
Government Logistics Department	Departmental Secretary
Highways Department	Chief Engineer / Railway (1)
Home Affairs Department	Assistant Director (Administration)
Hong Kong Observatory	Assistant Director (Development, Research and Administration)
Hong Kong Police Force	Assistant Commissioner of Police, Support
Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force	Commandant Auxiliary
Hong Kong Post	Deputy Postmaster General
Immigration Department	Assistant Director (Management and Support)
Independent Commission Against Corruption	Assistant Director / Administration
Information Services Department	Deputy Director (2)
Inland Revenue Department	Departmental Secretary
Intellectual Property Department	Assistant Director (Advisory)
Invest Hong Kong	Associate Director-General 3
Join Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Services	Assistant Secretary General (2)
Labour Department	Assistant Commissioner (Policy Support and Strategic Planning)
Land Registry	Departmental Secretary

Bureau/Department	Post Title
Lands Department	Senior Estate Surveyor /Training
Legal Aid Department	Assistant Director of Legal Aid (Litigation)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Chief Executive Officer (Administration)
Marine Department	Departmental Secretary
Official Receiver's Office	Departmental Secretary
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	Chief Systems Manager (G)
Office of the Telecommunications Authority	Assistant Director (Support)
Planning Department	Chief Town Planner / Technical Services
Radio Television Hong Kong	Departmental Secretary
Rating and Valuation Department	Assistant Technical Secretary (2)
Registration and Electoral Office	Deputy Chief Electoral Officer (Administration)
Social Welfare Department	Chief Social Work Officer (Strategic Planning)
Student Finance Assistance Agency	Chief Executive Officer / Continuing Education Fund
Television and Entertainment and Licensing Authority	Assistant Commissioner (Entertainment)
Trade and Industry Department	Departmental Secretary
Transport Department	Assistant Commissioner / Administration and Licensing
Treasury	Chief Treasury Accountant (Planning and Development)
Water Supplies Department	Departmental Secretary
University Grants Committee	Deputy Secretary-General (1)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

The Labour and Welfare Bureau will monitor and co-ordinate the overall progress of Government's efforts in poverty alleviation, and will continue to provide support to the Task Force on Poverty to monitor and co-ordinate efforts across the Government in poverty alleviation. Please advise:

1. the amount of resources to be deployed to the Task Force on Poverty in 2008-09; and
2. the plan of poverty alleviation to be initiated by the Task Force on Poverty in 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

- (1) The Task Force on Poverty (Task Force) is supported by the Poverty Team under the Labour and Welfare Bureau. The provision in the 2008-09 Draft Estimate for the Poverty Team is \$3.05 million, which covers the cost for five officers, comprising two Administrative Officers, one Executive Officer and two secretarial and clerical support staff.
- (2) In 2008-09, the Task Force will concentrate on the following areas: monitor the progress in implementing the recommendations of the former Commission on Poverty; co-ordinate Government's efforts in tackling poverty related issues which have cross-policy implications; and enhance the understanding of poverty.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (6) Subvention: Guardianship Board and Environmental Advisory
Service

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

The estimated provision for 2008-09 under this programme is 17.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to an increase in office rental. Has the Administration ever considered whether rental expenditure could be lowered by moving the Board's office? If yes, what is the conclusion? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Professional advice from the Government Property Agency had been sought in considering renewal of the existing tenancy agreement of the office of the Guardianship Board (GB). The new rental was considered acceptable and comparable with the market rental for similar office premises in the area. Having regard to the additional fitting-out costs that would be incurred and the possible disruption to the existing services of the GB arising from relocation of office, the Administration considered that renewal of the existing tenancy agreement was a more cost-effective arrangement than relocation of office.

Signature

Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Post Title

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

Date

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding the 12 posts to be created under this programme in 2008-2009, please inform this Council the distribution of these 12 posts and their duties respectively.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Under Programme (2) Social Welfare, four posts in the Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, secretarial and clerical grades respectively will be created to provide administrative support to the Task Force on Poverty and to monitor the progress on implementing the recommendations of the Commission on Poverty. The other eight posts are in the Management Services Officer, Analyst/Programmer, Supplies Supervisor, Motor Driver and clerical grades. They will be created to strengthen support in the areas of information technology, resource management, personnel management, transport service and general office operation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Bureau for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

- (1) For the projects that have reserved funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

- (2) Is there any project that will reserve funds for conducting consultancy study in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

- (1) Projects that have reserved funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08 are as follows –

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$'000)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Policy 21 Limited, The University of Hong Kong	Research on Training and Employment Programmes for Non-engaged Youth in Hong Kong	737	Completed	Taking into account the findings of the research, the Task Force on Continuing Development and Employment-related Training for Youth (Task Force) will submit a report to the Chief Executive.	The research findings will form part of the Task Force's report which is being finalized.
The Manulife Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities, Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Research on Learning Difficulties and Psychological Problems of Non-engaged Youth in Hong Kong	1,594	Completed	Taking into account the findings of the research, the Task Force on Continuing Development and Employment-related Training for Youth (Task Force) will submit a report to the Chief Executive.	The research findings will form part of the Task Force's report which is being finalized.
The University of Hong Kong	Research Studies on the Epidemiology and Etiology of Suicide and the Best Practice for Suicide Prevention in Hong Kong	325	In progress	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Prof. Vivian Lou, Department of Social Work, Chinese University of Hong Kong	A study to investigate the factors that affect long-term care use in Hong Kong	130	In progress	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$'000)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Dr Chu Leung-wing, Consultant, Department of Medicine, Queen Mary Hospital	A study about the preference of old age home residents in receiving end-of-life care	190	In progress	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Dr Veronica Yim, Accident and Emergency Medicine Academic Unit, Chinese University of Hong Kong	A study to develop a tool to identify high-risk elders and to look into the effects of structured emergency department intervention on hospitalization	312	In progress	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Policy 21 Limited, The University of Hong Kong	Evaluation of the Skills Upgrading Scheme (SUS)	372	In progress	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

(2) Projects that will reserve funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09 are as follows –

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Estimate (\$'000)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
The University of Hong Kong	Research Studies on the Epidemiology and Etiology of Suicide and the Best Practice for Suicide Prevention in Hong Kong (continuation from 2007-08)	325	In progress	No. On-going data collection/surveys for reference during service planning.

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Estimate (\$'000)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Prof. Vivian Lou, Department of Social Work, Chinese University of Hong Kong	A study to investigate the factors that affect long-term care use in Hong Kong (continuation from 2007-08)	391	In progress	The researchers have the right to use the results for non-commercial academic purpose including publication.
Dr Chu Leung-wing, Consultant, Department of Medicine, Queen Mary Hospital	A study about the preference of old age home residents in receiving end-of-life care (continuation from 2007-08)	571	In progress	The researchers have the right to use the results for non-commercial academic purpose including publication.
Dr Veronica Yim, Accident and Emergency Medicine Academic Unit, Chinese University of Hong Kong	A study to develop a tool to identify high-risk elders and to look into the effects of structured emergency department intervention on hospitalization (continuation from 2007-08)	687	In progress	Not applicable.
Policy 21 Limited, The University of Hong Kong	Evaluation of the SUS (continuation from 2007-08)	869	In progress	The major findings of the study will be uploaded onto the SUS website for public information.
Not yet commissioned	A second-phase evaluation study on the impact, effectiveness, critical success factors and sustainability of social capacity strategies promoted and projects supported by the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund	1,300	Under planning	Not applicable.

Signature

Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Post Title

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

Date

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

On “empowering women and enabling them to participate more fully in the community” and “improving delivery of services to women”, please inform this Council:

- (1) the specific initiatives and whether there are mechanisms to assess their effectiveness; and
- (2) the respective expenditures involved in such works in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Empowerment of women is a main pillar of the overall strategy of the Women's Commission (WoC) in enabling women to fully realise their potentials and status. The Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP), launched since March 2004, is a key initiative of WoC in empowering women. It is a flexible learning programme implemented jointly with the Open University of Hong Kong, Commercial Radio and nearly 80 women's groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), seeking to encourage life-long learning and a positive attitude and mindset of women. It is mainly delivered through radio broadcasting, supplemented by optional learning activities and face-to-face courses delivered by the NGOs. The courses cover subjects such as managing interpersonal relationships, finance management, health and other practical issues in daily life.

Since its launch, the CBMP has received strong support from the community and encouraged women of different backgrounds and educational levels to pursue life-long learning and self-development. Up to November 2007, the cumulative number of enrolments exceeded 20 000, not to mention the large network of audience reached through the radio programmes. Feedback from students also shows that they have benefited from the programme tremendously in terms of increased interests in learning and enhanced confidence and knowledge in resolving problems in daily life. Starting from 2007-08, the Administration has earmarked about \$10 million to support the continued operation of the CBMP for three years. In 2008-09, WoC will continue to oversee the operation of the CBMP and will work closely with the collaborators to further improve it.

Another initiative of WoC is to keep under review, in the light of women's needs, services delivered within and outside the Administration. Over the past years, key services reviewed included health services, public housing, information technology training, employment services and job-related training, adult and continuous education, welfare services and family services, services for victims of domestic and sexual violence and violence prevention programme, services for disabled and minority women, and leisure services. Advice was also given to the Administration on possible improvements to better cater for women's specific circumstances and needs. In 2008-09, areas which WoC plans to discuss with concerned bureaux and departments include further enhancement of women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies, health services for women, and the proposed health care financing scheme. Resources required for carrying out the improvement measures arising from the reviews will be absorbed within the existing provisions of the concerned bureaux and departments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Which local women's groups and service organisations were invited to meetings and exchange sessions with the Administration in 2007-08? What were the themes of discussion and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

To enhance mutual understanding and build up a closer partnership, the Administration, in conjunction with the Women's Commission, conducts district visits and meets with women's groups and service agencies to discuss issues of common concern on a regular basis.

In 2007-08, visits were made to Sai Kung and Wan Chai and meetings were held with the respective District Councillors, representatives of district women's groups and service organisations. Exchange sessions with representatives of nearly 40 local women's groups and related organisations were also held to exchange views on a variety of topics of interest, including the status of women in Hong Kong, gender mainstreaming, women in poverty, empowerment of women leaders, women's health, review of the Domestic Violence Ordinance and the work of the Women's Commission. The expenditure incurred in arranging the meetings and exchange sessions was absorbed within the existing provisions of the Labour and Welfare Bureau.

Signature

Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Post Title

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

Date

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

The Administration will introduce “Gender Mainstreaming Checklist” to more policy areas and promote gender mainstreaming through the “Gender Focal Points Network” within the Government in 2008-09. Please inform this Council specific details of the work and expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Administration has, on the advice and with the assistance of the Women's Commission (WoC), implemented gender mainstreaming and has to date applied the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist (the Checklist) to 28 policy or programme areas. The Checklist is an analytical tool developed by WoC to assist government officials in incorporating, in a more systematic way, the gender perspectives in the policy formulation and programme development processes, so that women and men will have equitable access to, and benefit from, society's resources and opportunities. For 2008-09, WoC has suggested that the Administration should apply the Checklist to four new areas, viz. pre-primary education, health programme for women, provision of sports facilities and provision of market facilities. We will follow up with the concerned bureaux and departments on this.

Apart from adopting the Checklist, staff of many bureaux and departments have also applied the gender mainstreaming concept in the course of their daily work, taking into account the needs and perspectives of both genders. We will continue to promote the application of the gender mainstreaming concept.

Separately, the Administration, on WoC's advice, has since 2003 set up a network of Gender Focal Points (GFPs) in all bureaux and departments. They serve as the contact and resource persons within their respective organisations and are tasked to help raise awareness and understanding of gender-related issues, and promote the use of the Checklist within their areas of work. To further promote gender mainstreaming within the Administration, a core group of GFP has been set up to devise plans and strategies to facilitate the proactive application of the Checklist by bureaux and departments. On the suggestion of the core group, we are strengthening gender-related training for civil servants to enhance understanding of gender mainstreaming. In 2008-09, we will continue to provide more gender-related training for civil servants. As per the advice of the core group, we are also planning to develop a web-portal and produce an information leaflet on gender mainstreaming for handy reference by all civil servants. We will continue to strengthen the network of GFPs through regular meetings and experience-sharing sessions.

Resources required for carrying out the above measures are absorbed within the existing provisions of the Labour and Welfare Bureau, as well as other concerned bureaux and departments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in the Budget Speech of the Financial Secretary that additional funding of about \$40 million will be provided to increase the places of Refuge Centres for Women, strengthen the Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s hotline services, sustain efforts in publicity campaigns and public education, and enhance the training of relevant front-line professionals. The Administration also states in this Programme that it will strengthen support services for domestic violence. In this connection:

- (1) please state how the additional provision of \$40 million will be distributed among increasing places of Refuge Centres for Women, strengthening the hotline service, publicity and public education, and enhancing training, and please specify the improvement measures and services;
- (2) please state the Administration's expenditure in 2007-08 and the estimate for 2008-09 on providing places of Refuge Centres for Women, the hotline service of SWD, launching publicity campaign and public education on prevention of domestic violence, and enhancing the training of relevant front-line professionals.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) In 2008-09, additional recurrent funding of \$40 million will be provided to strengthen support to victims of domestic violence and families in need. The estimated breakdown of allocation for these support services is as follows :

- (a) \$5.3 million for enhancing the hotline service of SWD;
- (b) \$5 million for increasing the capacity of and enhancing support for Refuge Centres for Women;
- (c) \$7.8 million for increasing the capacity of residential homes for children;
- (d) \$5 million for sustaining and strengthening the effort of the publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence";

- (e) \$2 million for enhancing the training of relevant front-line professionals in handling domestic violence cases and families in need;
- (f) \$11.7 million for enhancing the training of childcare staff;
- (g) \$2.1 million for increasing social work manpower for Family and Child Protective Services Units of SWD; and
- (h) \$0.9 million for providing an anti-violence programme for batterers of domestic violence upon enactment of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill.

(2) The 2007-08 Revised Estimate for the following services is as follows :

Service	2007-08 Revised Estimate (\$million)
Refuge Centre for Women	13.6
SWD's Hotline Service	4.3
Publicity Campaign and Public Education on prevention of domestic violence	2.0
Training for professionals in handling domestic violence and families in need	1.6

Regarding the additional funding provided for the respective services in 2008-09, please refer to part (1) above.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in the brief description and matters requiring special attention under this Programme that more foster care and residential care services will be provided for children. Could the Administration please inform this Committee of :

- (1) the numbers of places and service users for various existing foster care services and small group homes on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories?
- (2) the expenditure incurred by the Administration in 2007-08 for running various foster care services and small group homes as well as the estimate for 2008-09?
- (3) the improvement measures to be adopted by the Administration in 2008-09 on the provision of more foster care and residential care services for children, such as providing more incentives to attract people to become foster parents or increasing the flexibility of the service hours?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) Foster care service, day foster care service and small group home service are territory-wide services with places dispersed in all districts. At present, there are 950 foster care places, 40 day foster care places, and 887 small group home places. As the geographical distribution of foster homes is not static, we do not have district breakdown of their provision. For small group homes, there are 156 places on Hong Kong Island, 238 places in Kowloon and 493 places in the New Territories. The average utilisation rates of foster care service and small group home between April and December 2007 were 92% and 93% respectively. For day foster care service, the service has just commenced operation since October 2007, and the enrolment rate as at 28 February 2008 was 62.5%.

- (2) The estimated expenditure for foster care service, day foster care service and small group home service in 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as follows:

	2007-08 (Revised Estimate) (\$ million)	2008-09 (\$ million)
Foster care service	78.7	79.5
Day foster care service	0.7	The exact amount is to be worked out in consultation with service operators.
Small group home service	122.5	124.8

- (3) In 2008-09, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will provide an additional 100 places in residential homes for children. SWD will continue to promote the foster care service, including recruiting more foster parents, through the Departmental website and central publicity programmes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As set out in the Targets, the number of workers engaged in family and child protection service will only increase by five to 156 in 2008-09. However, it is stated in the estimates that the number of supervision cases served and the number of supervision cases per worker for family and child protection service will be increased to 10 995 and 51 respectively. Could the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Given the projected increase of cases, why only five additional workers are provided for handling family and child protection cases?
- (2) Given that most cases involving family and child protection required more attention, will the quality of service be affected when the Administration increases the number of supervision cases per worker from 49 to 51? If not, why not?
- (3) According to the Administration's estimates, each of the 156 workers engaged in family and child protection service will, on average, have to handle 51 cases in 2008-09. Taken together, they can handle only 7 956 cases a year. However, given that there will be 10 995 cases in 2008-09 as estimated by the Administration, will the workers concerned be required to handle the remaining 3000-odd cases as well? If so, does it mean that each of them will actually have to handle 70 or more cases on average?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (1) Over the past few years, additional resources have been allocated to increase the manpower of Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs). Taking into account the five additional social workers to be allocated in 2008-09, the number of social workers in FCPSUs will have been increased by 27% (or 30% if supervisors are included) since 2005-06.
 - (2) In addition to strengthening manpower, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has also introduced different measures to address the workload of social workers in FCPSUs over the past few years. These include

deploying non-social work staff to provide assistance to social workers, improving multi-disciplinary collaboration with the police and medical services, enhancing support services like refuge centres for women and child care services, strengthening training, supervisory and clinical support for front-line social workers. SWD will continue to keep in view the workload and manpower situation of the FCPSUs and explore improvement measures where necessary.

- (3) The average number of supervision cases represents the average number of “active” cases handled by FCPSUs. This figure is calculated with reference to the total number of “active” cases handled by FCPSUs and the total number of front-line workers in FCPSUs in the respective year.

The projected total number of 10 995 supervision cases in 2008-09 includes both “active” and “closed” cases to be handled by front-line workers in FCPSUs during the year. The latter cases, however, are not included in calculating the average number of supervision cases per worker.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under “Brief Description” of this Programme, it is stated that the Administration provided a series of training programmes for social workers and professionals on handling child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, suicide and sexual violence in 2007. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of :

- (1) the numbers and respective ranks of social workers and professionals who received the above training in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved?
- (2) the planned number of training places and the estimated expenditure in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has provided a series of training programmes on handling of child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, suicide and sexual violence for over 4 700 social workers as well as other relevant front-line professionals including clinical psychologists, police officers and nurses. The total expenditure was about \$1.6 million.

In 2008-09, SWD plans to organise a number of training courses including intensive and interactive training workshops on domestic violence for at least 4 500 social workers and relevant front-line professionals. The estimated total expenditure is about \$3 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In the brief description under this Programme, it is stated that the Administration launched the Family Support Programme (FSP) to increase connection with vulnerable families. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of FSP in 2007 and the expenditure involved?
- (2) the breakdown on the number of vulnerable families served through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching activities under FSP in 2007-08?
- (3) the number of volunteers having personal experience on overcoming family/personal problems or crises who are at present organising community care and support network under FSP?
- (4) the details of FSP in 2008-09 and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) To increase contacts with needy families who are reluctant to seek help, the FSP has been launched in Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres (IFSCs/ISCs), Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units (MSSUs) since early 2007. Under the FSP, through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, we seek to introduce families at risk, including families at risk of domestic violence, psychiatric problems and social isolation to various support services available and motivate them to receive services to prevent further deterioration of their problems. Volunteers including those who have personal experience in overcoming family/personal problems or crises have been recruited and trained to contact these families and to provide them with support and assistance. Programme Assistants have also been employed to provide logistical support to the social workers. Recurrent funding of \$30 million has been allocated to implement the FSP.

- (2) From April to December 2007, through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, 8 559 vulnerable individuals/families have been engaged and connected to services of IFSCs/ISCs/FCPSUs or other community services and MSSUs have served a total of 210 cases under the FSP. We do not have the statistical breakdown of the number of vulnerable individuals/families engaged through the different work approaches.
- (3) Up to 31 December 2007, a total of 2 223 volunteers were recruited under the FSP to contact vulnerable families and to provide them with support and assistance. We do not have separate statistics on the number of volunteers who have personal experience in overcoming their own family/personal problems or crises.
- (4) Recurrent resources of \$30 million will be allocated to implement the FSP in 2008-09.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As shown in the indicators under this Programme, the number of groups and programmes organised by Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) of the government sector will be substantially reduced from 6 348 to 4 941, and those organised by the subvented sector will also be reduced from 2 568 to 2 036. Would the Administration please explain the reasons for the decrease in services?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : There are 61 IFSCs over the territory providing a continuum of preventive, supportive and therapeutic services, including family life education, parent-child activities, mutual support groups, volunteer training, counselling and referral service, etc.

The numbers of groups and programmes in 2007-08 (i.e. 6 348 and 2 568 for the government sector and subvented sector respectively) represented the revised estimated numbers of groups and programmes that would have been organised by 31 March 2008 based on the actual numbers of groups and programmes organised in the first two quarters in 2007-08. The estimated numbers in 2008-09 (i.e. 4 941 and 2 036 for the government sector and subvented sector respectively), however, only represent the aggregate of the output indicators as stipulated in the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs). IFSCs may, as in previous years, organise more groups and programmes than the output level as required in the FSAs according to service needs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)015

Question Serial No.

0021

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide information on the expenditure incurred for Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) for organising groups and programmes in 2007-08 and the estimate for providing these services in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : There are 61 IFSCs over the territory providing a continuum of preventive, supportive and therapeutic services, including family life education, parent-child activities, mutual support groups, volunteer training, counselling and referral service, etc. The total provision for IFSCs in 2007-08 and 2008-09 is \$612.9 million and \$646.5 million respectively. There is no breakdown on the expenditure for organising groups and programmes in IFSCs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)016

Question Serial No.

0022

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is noticed from the targets under this Programme that the Administration will not increase the provision of the child care centre and occasional child care services in 2008-09. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : At present, there are 666 aided full-day standalone child care centre places for children aged zero to three under the purview of the Social Welfare Department. The average utilisation rate of the service between April and December 2007 was 94%. As for the occasional child care service, there are 498 places with an average utilisation rate of 74% between April and December 2007. The utilisation rates of the respective services indicate that the existing provisions are adequate to cater for the demand for these two types of existing services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)017

Question Serial No.

0023

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide information on the number of places, enrolment and utilisation rate of day child care centre and occasional child care services in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : At present, there are 666 aided full-day standalone child care centre places for children aged zero to three under the purview of the Social Welfare Department. The average utilisation rate of the service between April and December 2007 was 94%. On the other hand, there are 498 occasional child care service places with an average utilisation rate of 74% between April and December 2007.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What was the expenditure incurred by the Administration for running day child care centres and occasional child care services in 2007-08? What is the estimate for running day child care centres, occasional child care services and mutual help child care centres in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The estimated expenditure for aided full-day standalone child care centres, occasional child care service and mutual help child care centres for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as follows:

	2007-08 (Revised Estimate) (\$ million)	2008-09 (\$ million)
Standalone child care centres	4.3	4.4
Occasional child care service	14.9	15.3
Mutual help child care centres	0.4	The exact amount is to be worked out in consultation with service operators.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As shown in the indicators under this Programme, the numbers of cases served for both Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme are expected to increase, but the Administration has reduced the estimated provision by 2.3% or \$577.3 million. In page 332, the Administration explained that it is mainly due to the reduced requirement for CSSA and SSA payments. Given that the numbers of applications are expected to increase, why is it that the estimated provision will decrease?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The 2007-08 Revised Estimate for the CSSA and SSA Schemes are \$17,890 million and \$6,080 million respectively whereas the 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes are \$17,267 million and \$5,982 million respectively.

The 2007-08 Revised Estimate includes payment of one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients. The financial implication for this measure is \$1.5 billion, comprising \$1.0 billion for the CSSA Scheme and \$0.5 billion for the SSA Scheme. The 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes is, in fact, higher than the respective Revised Estimate of 2007-08, if the one month additional payment for both Schemes is to be discounted. The increase in the estimated provision seeks to cope with the estimated increases in the number of cases under the two Schemes in 2008-09.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)020

Question Serial No.

0026

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : If the provision for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and Social Security Allowance (SSA) Schemes is reduced as a result of recipients' exit from the schemes, would the Administration provide the numbers of cases that have left the two schemes in 2007-08 and the estimated numbers of cases that will leave the two schemes in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The 2007-08 Revised Estimate includes payment of one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients. The financial implication for this measure is \$1.5 billion, comprising \$1.0 billion for the CSSA Scheme and \$0.5 billion for the SSA Scheme. The 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes is, in fact, higher than the 2007-08 Revised Estimate for the CSSA and SSA Schemes, if the payment of one additional month of standard rate for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients in 2007-08 is to be discounted.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

It is stated in the matters requiring special attention under this Programme that the Administration will prepare for the provision of transport supplement for eligible persons with disabilities (PWDs) on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or receiving the Disability Allowance.

1. What are the details of and timetable for the preparation work? Will the Administration complete the preparation work in 2008-09 and provide transport supplement for the PWDs?
2. What are the estimated expenditures for the preparation work and the provision for the whole transport supplement scheme?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

To further encourage persons with disabilities (PWDs) to participate in activities away from home, the Financial Secretary announced in his Budget Speech on 27 February 2008 a proposal to provide a monthly supplement of \$200 each to recipients under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme aged between 12 and 64 with 100% disability¹ and recipients of Disability Allowance in the same age group starting from 2008-09.

We plan to submit the proposal to the Finance Committee (FC) for approval on 9 May 2008. Subject to FC's approval, we intend to effect payment of the transport supplement with effect from 1 July 2008 so that eligible recipients may receive the supplement as early as possible.

¹ Recipients under the CSSA Scheme with 100% disability include those PWDs requiring constant attendance.

The estimated annual expenditure for providing transport supplement to the group of PWDs as specified above is about \$230 million. As at September 2007, there were 96 000 PWDs in this identified group. As payments are to be effected through our existing CSSA and Social Security Allowance (SSA) payment system, the administrative costs are minimal. For the preparatory work, an estimated expenditure of \$2.2 million will be incurred for enhancing the existing CSSA and SSA payment system and the sum will be absorbed within the existing resources of the Social Welfare Department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)022

Question Serial No.

0028

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under this Programme, it is stated that the Administration will provide a series of training programmes for social security staff to strengthen their knowledge and skills. In this connection, would the Administration please provide the following information:

- (1) the number and respective ranks of social security staff trained (please state whether they are civil service contract staff or non-civil service contract staff) in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved.
- (2) the number of complaints against social security units and that of substantiated complaints in 2007-08.
- (3) the number of training places for social security staff and the estimated expenditure in 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) In 2007-08, \$0.4 million was used for providing training for various grades of social security staff. The number of training places for social security staff is as follows:-

Social Security Officer Grade Staff (Civil Servants)	350
Social Security Assistant Grade Staff (Civil Servants)	700
Non-civil Service Contract Staff (Social Security)	600
Total	1 650

- (2) In 2007-08 (up to end-February 2008), we have handled 94 complaints against the Social Security Field Units. Of these, four complaints were substantiated.

- (3) In 2008-09, the number of training places to be provided for Social Security Officer and Social Security Assistant grades staff as well as non-civil service contract social security staff will be 500, 1 000 and 400 respectively. The estimated expenditure is \$0.5 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : At the meeting of the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women” held by the United Nations in August 2006, the Government said that the financial expenditure for tackling domestic violence was \$1,330 million, and the financial provision for 2008-09 will be increased by \$40 million. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) amongst the \$1,370 million, the provision for various “domestic violence” services?
- (2) the provision allocated to various departments/districts and the reasons?
- (3) the provision for helping “victims of domestic violence” rebuild their home and how assessment is made?
- (4) the provision for helping “victims of domestic violence” go through legal proceedings and the manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided through Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), Clinical Psychology Units, Family Support Networking Teams, refuge centres for women, Family Crisis Support Centre, Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre, residential care placements for children and child care centres, etc. In 2008-09, the total estimated provision for family and child welfare services is \$1,584.7 million. There is no breakdown of funding specifically allocated for services for domestic violence.

To strengthen support to victims of domestic violence and families in need, an additional funding of \$40 million will be provided to increase

the capacity of refuge centres for women, strengthen SWD's hotline services, enhance the capacity of residential childcare services, sustain efforts in publicity campaigns and public education, and enhance the training of relevant front-line professional and childcare staff.

- (2) There is no breakdown of funding allocated to individual districts or units.
- (3) Victims of domestic violence who are in need of financial assistance to re-build their families will be helped through the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme or assistance by charitable trust funds. There is no recurrent funding specifically allocated for this purpose.
- (4) Victims of domestic violence are provided with a package of services by social workers including advice, counselling and support service to help them go through legal proceedings. Those who are in need of legal service will be advised, when necessary, to seek legal aid. As such support service is part and parcel of the service provided by social workers, there is no separate allocation or breakdown of manpower for this purpose.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

In paragraph 138 of the Speech given by the Financial Secretary in moving the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, he proposed providing a transport supplement of \$200 a month to CSSA recipients with 100 per cent disability. How then will the Administration meet the transport need of those CSSA recipients who are not 100 per cent disabled? Would the Administration consider providing a transport supplement of \$200 a month for all holders of Registration Cards for People with Disabilities or even giving them half price concession while carrying out the preparation work in 2008-2009?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

The proposed transport supplement is wholly funded by the public coffer. The Administration needs to ensure that the public fund is effectively used to help those mostly in need of assistance and encouragement for social integration.

After rounds of deliberations and listening to the views of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) groups, the Subcommittee to “Study the Transport Needs of and Provision of Concessionary Public Transport Fares for Persons with Disabilities” (Subcommittee) under the House Committee of the Legislative Council has agreed that having regard to their degree of disability and financial situation, recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) with 100% disability and recipients of Disability Allowance are those in most need of assistance and encouragement for social integration. According funding priority to supplement the transport needs of this identified group of PWDs is in line with our established welfare policy objective of helping those mostly in need.

At present, the Administration has no plan to extend the provision of transport supplement to PWDs outside this identified group.

The Administration will continue our efforts to persuade the public transport operators to provide fare concession to PWDs in fulfillment of their corporate social responsibilities.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)025

Question Serial No.

0035

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in paragraph 163 of the 2008-09 Appropriation Bill Speech by the Financial Secretary that an integrated community centre for mental wellness will be set up in Tin Shui Wai. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the details of the project and its completion date, the location of the centre as well as the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) plans to set up an Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) in Tin Shui Wai in 2008-09 to provide one-stop community support and social rehabilitation services for discharged mental patients and persons with suspected mental illness as well as their families/carers in the community. Apart from providing centre-based training and supportive group work services, the ICCMW will reach out to persons with suspected mental health problems in the community and provide them with suitable counselling and support services. The ICCMW, to be operated by a non-governmental organisation, will serve around 450 discharged mental patients/persons with suspected mental health problems and 1 200 family members/carers per year. SWD is in the course of identifying suitable premises in Tin Shui Wai for setting up the ICCMW. The annual expenditure of the ICCMW is estimated to be around \$3.5 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The underlying inflation rate in 2008 as forecasted by the Government will be 4.5%. The average cost per place per month of residential services for persons with disabilities provided by subvented organisations in 2008-09 will only increase by 0.4% from \$8,843 of last year to \$8,880, lagging far behind the inflation rate. Whereas the estimated average cost per place per month in the government sector will increase by 1% to \$12,418, which is much better than subvented organisations. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the measures to be taken in ensuring the quality of residential services provided by subvented organisations remain unaffected?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The funding allocation for subvented organisations to provide residential services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) consists of subvention for personal emoluments (PE) and other charges (OC). While the PE will be adjusted annually in line with the Civil Service Pay Adjustment, the OC will also be adjusted annually in accordance with the movement of the Government-wide price adjustment factor. The Government will ensure that adequate funding will be provided to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide quality services.

In addition, the Social Welfare Department has implemented the Service Performance Management System to monitor the service performance of the NGOs receiving government subventions to provide residential services for PWDs. The NGOs must comply with the service requirements laid down in the Funding and Service Agreement for the service unit. It is also incumbent upon the NGOs to have good corporate governance to ensure service quality.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)027

Question Serial No.

0061

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : With regard to the residential services for the people with disabilities, there has always been a difference in the average cost per place per month of the care-and-attention home places provided by the government sector and the subvented sector. The difference is projected to expand further in 2008-09, i.e. to increase from \$3,443 in 2007-08 (\$12,286 - \$8,843) to \$3,538 (\$12,418 - \$8,880) in 2008-09, resulting in a wider gap in the average cost per place per month of the places provided by the subvented sector and the government sector. Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (1) what are the reasons for the said difference between the two sectors?
- (2) what are the reasons for the further expansion of difference in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) – (2) The cost figures for the government sector reflect the full cost of services rendered by the Social Welfare Department, which include the cost of staff fringe benefits or rent charged to different expenditure heads and other non-cash expenditure such as depreciation, in addition to the expenditure reflected under Head 170 Social Welfare Department. On the other hand, the cost figures for the subvented sector are the net total cash provision required after taking fee income into account. No direct comparison of costs between the two sectors should be drawn.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As regards the residential services for persons with disabilities (PWDs), the Government will monitor private residential care homes for PWDs through the implementation of a Voluntary Registration Scheme, and plan for the licensing of all residential care homes for PWDs. Many private homes which cannot meet the licensing requirements may as a result have to be closed down. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many private homes may have to be closed down for failing to meet the licensing requirements? How many PWDs will be affected?
- (b) Has any provision been made for taking care of these affected PWDs? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? If not, what will the Government plan to do to help them?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (a) & (b) The Administration undertook to introduce a licensing scheme to regulate the operation of all residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs). Having consulted the sector and stakeholders, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is in the course of revising the standards stipulated in the *Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities* introduced in 2002. As the licensing requirements are being finalised, SWD is not in a position to estimate at the present moment whether any private homes may have to be closed down for failure to comply with the licensing scheme and the no. of PWDs so affected. In the context of implementing the Voluntary Registration Scheme, a number of the private RCHDs are advised to conduct improvement works and/or to take other necessary measures in order to satisfy the registration requirements. For the few private RCHDs that cannot meet relevant building requirements, they are considering alternative options, including identifying other suitable premises to continue their operation.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in paragraph 131 of the Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary in moving the second reading of the Appropriation Bill that the Government will strengthen day foster care and child care services. Taking Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai as examples, the demand for day foster care and child care services is great but the number of places is limited. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the concrete plan to be implemented in meeting the service needs of local residents there? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Administration proposes to provide funding of \$45 million over the next three years to pilot more flexible forms of day child care services at the neighbourhood level that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of parents and for strengthening day foster care service.

The pilot projects will target children aged under six and will comprise two components : centre-based care group and home-based child care service. As a start, the projects will be implemented in phases in districts such as Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai where the demand for flexible child care services is more pressing. Local charitable organisations, including non-governmental organisations, women's groups, religious bodies, etc., will be invited to participate in the pilot projects.

As for day foster care service, we will also focus our effort on recruiting foster homes in areas with higher service needs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)030

Question Serial No.

0150

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is found in the 2006-07 Budget and the 2007-08 Budget that there are always differences between the actual numbers of residential places for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the estimated numbers of places in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Taking the hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMH) in 2007-08 as an example, the Government originally planned to increase the number of residential places to 3 050, but the Revised Estimate was 2 940, leaving a difference of 110 places. Also, taking the HSMH in 2006-07 as another example, the Government originally planned to increase the number of places to 2 939, but it was only increased to 2 940 in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. More examples can be found in other types of hostels for PWDs. In 2008-09, the Government once again plans to increase the number of HSMH places to 3 207, that is an increase of 267 places.

Regarding the residential services for PWDs, could the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the main reason for the differences in the past;
- (2) whether the Government has considered the above reason when setting the targets for 2008-09; and
- (3) the measures to ensure that the targets set for 2008-09 could be met.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
- (1) The discrepancy is due to such reasons as changes in premises identified which lead to changes in the provision of types of services, and longer than expected preparation time required for conducting local consultations, securing the allocation of premises and carrying out fitting-out works, etc.
 - (2) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has taken note of the various factors involved in the implementation of the rehabilitation projects.
 - (3) SWD has already started preparation work, including securing resources and identifying premises for the new projects and will closely monitor the progress of work so as to meet the targets.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As regards the residential services for persons with disabilities, the Government plans to provide additional residential places for them, which include 155 hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons places, 267 hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons places, 110 hostel for physically handicapped persons places, 140 care and attention home for severely disabled persons places and 80 supported hostel places in 2008-09.

Concerning the proposed increase in the number of places as mentioned above, please list out by type of hostels the location of hostels to be built, the number of places to be provided, the completion dates of these hostels and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

The information is provided below -

Types of service

Types of Service	Location	Capacity	Target Implementation Date
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons (HMMH)	1. Shatin	30	4 th quarter of 2008-09
	2. Kwun Tong	40	4 th quarter of 2008-09
	3. a site in Kwai Chung [yet to be confirmed]	25	To be confirmed
	4. a site in Kowloon City [yet to be confirmed]	60	To be confirmed
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons (HSMH)	1. Shatin	70	4 th quarter of 2008-09
	2. Tsuen Wan	22	4 th quarter of 2008-09
	3. a site in Southern District [yet to be confirmed]	45	To be confirmed
	4. a site in Kwai Chung [yet to be confirmed]	50	To be confirmed
	5. a site in Kowloon City [yet to be confirmed]	80	To be confirmed

Types of Service	Location	Capacity	Target Implementation Date
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons (HSPH)	1. Shatin	50	4 th quarter of 2008-09
	2. Kwun Tong	15	4 th quarter of 2008-09
	3. a site in Kwai Chung [yet to be confirmed]	25	To be confirmed
	4. a site in Kowloon City [yet to be confirmed]	20	To be confirmed
Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons (C&A/SD)	1. Shatin	40	4 th quarter of 2008-09
	2. Tsuen Wan	50	4 th quarter of 2008-09
	3. a site in Kwai Chung [yet to be confirmed]	50	To be confirmed
Supported Hostel (SHOS)	a site in Kowloon City [yet to be confirmed]	80	To be confirmed

Estimated recurrent expenditure

Project	Types of Service and Capacity	Estimated Recurrent Expenditure of the Project (\$million)
Shatin Project	HMMH (30) HSMH (70) HSPH (50) C&A/SD (40)	30.4
Kwun Tong Project	HMMH (40) HSPH (15)	10.9
Tsuen Wan HSMH	HSMH (22)	3.2
Tsuen Wan C&A/SD	C&A/SD (50)	8.2
Southern District Project	HSMH (45)	9.0
Kwai Chung Project	HMMH (25) HSMH (50) HSPH (25) C&A/SD (50)	27.4
Kowloon City Project	HMMH (60) HSMH (80) HSPH (20) SHOS (80)	31.9

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (5) Subvention: Skills Centres

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding the performance of the Skills Centres under the brief description, the key indicator of the number of trainees enrolled shows that there is an under-enrolment of full-time trainees and an over-enrolment of part-time trainees. Does this reflect a change in the demand pattern? Will the Administration consider increasing the number of training places for part-time trainees in the 2008-09 Estimates?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

There was an increase in enrolment for part-time evening courses for the academic year 2007/08 as two courses were specially organized in response to short-term training needs identified by the Skills Centre Alumni for the year. The Skills Centres estimate that the level of training activities in 2008-09 will be broadly similar to that in previous years, but will monitor closely the demand for training and make suitable adjustments to the number of training places where appropriate.

Signature

Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Post Title

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

Date

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 - Operational Expense

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Social Welfare Department for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

- (1) For the projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up action taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
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- (2) Is there any project for which funds will be reserved for conducting consultancy study in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
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Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply (1) In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has conducted the following consultancy studies:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$ million)	Progress of Studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up action taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Poly U Technology & Consultancy Co Ltd	Evaluative study of the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged	\$0.42	In progress	SWD is working closely with the consultant. The results of the study will be discussed by the Advisory Committee on the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged.	Not yet completed
The University of Hong Kong	A study to evaluate the New Dawn (ND) Project for Single Parents/Child Carers under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme	\$0.53	In progress and the study will be further extended to include case studies and collection of public opinion.		We briefed the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Welfare Services on the interim findings on 3 July and 27 July 2007.

(2) In 2008-09, SWD will conduct the following consultancy studies:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Estimate (\$ million)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
The University of Hong Kong	The extension of the study to evaluate the ND Project for Single Parents/ Child Carers under the CSSA Scheme.	\$0.50	In progress	On completion of the study, we will brief the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services.
The Chinese	Evaluation study	\$0.42	In progress	On completion of the

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Estimate (\$ million)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
University of Hong Kong	on the two pilot programmes, namely, Special Training and Enhancement Programme and District Employment Assistance Trial Projects.			study, we will brief the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services.
Not available	To review the implementation of the Integrated Family Service Centre service model.	To be determined	Under planning	Findings and recommendations will be shared with relevant stakeholders, including the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services, through meetings, sharing sessions, etc.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09” that the Administration will introduce a new anti-violence programme upon enactment of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2007. Please provide details of the programme and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Under the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2007, the court may, in granting a non-molestation order, require the abuser to attend the anti-violence programme (AVP).

The proposed AVP will be educational in nature and applicable to different types of abusers and their participation will be decided by the court. Whilst the detailed requirements of the proposed programme are being thrashed out by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), it is expected to comprise five core components, viz. rapport building and ownership, control and monitoring of violence, self-understanding (learn, confront and challenge), skills training and building, and relapse prevention.

Tentatively, the proposed AVP will consist of 12 two to three-hour-long sessions conducted by mental health professionals (social workers, counsellors or psychologists) in the form of either one-on-one or group session. Non-governmental organisations will be engaged in delivering the programme and they will be invited to submit programme proposals for approval by the Director of Social Welfare in due course. SWD will fund the operation of such approved programmes based on the number of court referral cases.

An additional recurrent funding of \$0.9 million and one-off set-up cost of \$0.3 million have been reserved for this purpose.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)035

Question Serial No.

0379

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under this Programme, the provision for 2008-09 is \$577.3 million (2.3%) lower than the Revised Estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to the reduced requirement for CSSA and SSA payments, partly offset by filling of vacant posts and a net increase of 112 posts in 2008-09. Please state the reasons for the said net increase of posts, and provide a breakdown of these additional posts by post title and their duties.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The posts to be created are in the Social Security Officer grade and Social Security Assistant grade. They mainly provide front-line social security services including conducting interviews and investigations for processing or reviewing applications under various social security schemes. This will enhance the provision of social security services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)036

Question Serial No.

0380

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under this Programme, what is the Administration's specific work and the expenditure involved in supporting families which are unable to fulfil their functions? Have additional resources been allocated to evaluate the effectiveness of these services? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : To preserve and strengthen the family and to support families which are unable to fulfil their functions, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a comprehensive network of family and child welfare services such as integrated family service centres (IFSCs), family and child protective service (including services for child abuse, spouse battering and child custody dispute cases), family support networking teams, clinical psychological service, residential care services for children (including foster care, small group homes and other residential homes for children), child care centres for children aged under three, Child Care Centres Advisory Inspectorate, adoption service, hotline service and services for street sleepers, etc. Under the Service Performance Monitoring System, SWD conducts on-going assessments to monitor service delivery and performance. SWD will also commission a review on the implementation of the IFSC service model in 2008.

The provision for family and child welfare services in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate and the 2008-09 Estimate is \$1,399.9 million and \$1,584.7 million respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)037

Question Serial No.

0381

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the specific details of the work and the expenditure involved in helping families in trouble? Have additional resources been allocated to evaluate the effectiveness of these services? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : To preserve and strengthen the family and help families in trouble, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a comprehensive network of family and child welfare services such as integrated family service centres (IFSCs), family and child protective service (including services for child abuse, spouse battering and child custody dispute cases), family support networking teams, clinical psychological service, residential care services for children (including foster care, small group homes and other residential homes for children), child care centres for children aged under three, Child Care Centres Advisory Inspectorate, adoption service, hotline service and services for street sleepers, etc. Under the Service Performance Monitoring System, SWD conducts on-going assessments to monitor service delivery and performance. SWD will also commission a review on the implementation of the IFSC service model in 2008.

The provision for family and child welfare services in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate and the 2008-09 Estimate is \$1,399.9 million and \$1,584.7 million respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under this Programme, the service provided by the Social Welfare Department should fulfill one of the aims to enhance support to and increase capacity of the Refuge Centres for Women. Please state the specific details of the service in this respect, the expenditure involved and the number of additional places provided for these centres.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : At present, there are four Refuge Centres for Women that provide temporary accommodation and supportive services to women and their children affected by domestic violence or family crisis. All of them are operated by non-governmental organisations with subvention from the Social Welfare Department.

The enhanced support for Refuge Centres for Women will be implemented by phases, including:

- (a) alignment of social work support from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays;
- (b) provision of three months of after-care service to discharged residents; and
- (c) increase of capacity from 180 to 260 places.

In 2007-08, additional funding of \$1.7 million was allocated for this purpose. In 2008-09, a further provision of \$5 million will be allocated to continue with the enhancement.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)039

Question Serial No.

0383

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under this Programme, the number of average supervision cases per worker of family and child protection services in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate is 49, whereas the number of average supervision cases per worker in the 2008-09 Estimate is 51, i.e. the number of average supervision cases will be increased by two as compared with that of 2007-08. What are the reasons? With the increase in the number of average supervision cases per worker, how can the Administration ensure that the quality of service will not be affected? What are the average working hours of each worker per week?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The projected average number of supervision cases per worker in Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in 2008-09 is derived from the revised estimate of the supervision cases served in 2007-08 (based on the average growth rate of the new cases and closing rate of cases in the first six months in 2007-08), and the enhanced manpower that will be available in the year.

In addition to strengthening manpower, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has also introduced different measures to address the workload of social workers in FCPSUs over the past few years. These include deploying non-social work staff to provide general support to social workers, improving multi-disciplinary collaboration with the Police and medical services, enhancing support services like refuge centres for women and child care services, strengthening training, supervisory and clinical support for front-line social workers. SWD will continue to keep in view the workload and manpower situation of the FCPSUs and explore improvement measures where necessary.

The conditioned hours for a social worker is 44 hours gross per week.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the provision under this Programme, the revised provision for the government sector and the subvented sector in 2007-08 has reduced by 1.3% and 3.1% respectively as compared with the original estimates, amounting to \$31.7 million. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the reason for a reduction in provision as compared with the original estimates? What is the implication of the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System on provision allocation?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The reduction in provision for the 2007-08 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2007-08 Original Estimate for the government sector under this programme is mainly due to the lower than expected cashflow requirement for projects under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged, anticipated savings in the general departmental expenses and the re-scheduling of the timing for filling of civil service posts. The decrease is partly offset by the Civil Service Pay Adjustment.

The reduction in provision for the 2007-08 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2007-08 Original Estimate for the subvented sector under this programme is mainly due to the lower than expected cashflow requirement for a subvented project partly offset by the additional subvention to meet pay adjustment needs.

Under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have greater flexibility in deploying the allocated provision to enhance service quality and meet the ever changing service needs. Since the introduction of the system in 2000-01, subvention to NGOs has increased by more than 25%.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)041

Question Serial No.

0398

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Financial Secretary stated in his Budget Speech that the Administration will “provide funding of \$45 million over the next three years to strengthen day foster care services and to promote various types of child care services that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of these parents”. However, as far as foster care service under this Programme is concerned, the actual number of places provided for 2006-07, the revised estimate for 2007-08 and the planned number of places for 2008-09 have remained unchanged. Would the Administration please inform this Committee the details of the day foster care services and child care services as mentioned by the Financial Secretary, the expenditure and the estimated manpower involved, as well as the reason why this proposal has not been reflected in this Programme?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The number of foster care places does not include that of day foster care places. The day foster care service is a day care service whereas foster care service is a residential service providing 24-hour care for children in need.

The proposed funding of \$45 million over the next three years is for piloting more flexible forms of day care services at the neighbourhood level that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of the parents; and for strengthening day foster care service.

The pilot projects will target children aged under six and will comprise two components : centre-based care group and home-based child care service. As a start, the projects will be implemented in phases in districts where the demand for flexible child care services is more pressing. Local charitable organisations, including non-governmental organisations, women’s groups, religious bodies, etc., will be invited to participate in the pilot projects.

As for day foster care service, the service has just commenced operation since October 2007. On 28 February 2008, the enrolment rate was 62.5%. The Social Welfare Department will keep in view service demand and increase the service provision for day foster care service in 2008-09.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)042

Question Serial No.

0399

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the cost per place per month for foster care under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has increased by 3% as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure, while the 2008-09 Estimate has only increased by 0.2% as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for the lower percentage increase in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) whether it has assessed the cost implications of inflation?
- (3) of the impacts of underestimating the inflation rate on service users and the subvented sector?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The increase by 3% in the cost per place per month in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure is mainly due to the increase in subventions following the 2007 Civil Service Pay Adjustment. As the salary level in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is the same as that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate, the percentage increase in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is lower than that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate.
 - (2) The cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate has also reflected the increase in subvention for other charges (OC) due to inflation.
 - (3) Subvention for OC will be adjusted annually in line with the changes in the Government-wide price adjustment factor. For 2008-09, in line with the increase in the adjustment factor, additional OC subvention amounting to \$16 million will be allocated to non-governmental organisations operating different subvented services. Subvention for personal emoluments will also be adjusted annually according to the Civil Service Pay Adjustment. Supplementary subvention will be provided in the course of the year to implement the pay adjustment, if any.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)043

Question Serial No.

0400

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the cost per place per month for small group homes under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has increased by 2.8% as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure, while the 2008-09 Estimate has only increased by 0.57% as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for the lower percentage increase in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) whether it has assessed the cost implications of inflation?
- (3) of the impacts of underestimating the inflation rate on service users and the subvented sector?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The increase by 2.8% in the cost per place per month in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure is mainly due to the increase in subventions following the 2007 Civil Service Pay Adjustment. As the salary level in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is the same as that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate, the percentage increase in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is lower than that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate.
 - (2) The cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate has also reflected the increase in subvention for other charges (OC) due to inflation.
 - (3) Subvention for OC will be adjusted annually in line with the changes in the Government-wide price adjustment factor. For 2008-09, in line with the increase in the adjustment factor, additional OC subvention amounting to \$16 million will be allocated to non-governmental organisations operating different subvented services. Subvention for personal emoluments will also be adjusted annually according to the Civil Service Pay Adjustment. Supplementary subvention will be provided in the course of the year to implement the pay adjustment, if any.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)044

Question Serial No.

0401

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the family and child protection supervision cases served under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has been increased by 14% as compared to the actual figure in 2006-07 while the 2008-09 Estimate has only been increased by 2% as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate, and the number of average supervision cases per worker will be increased by 2 in the 2008-09 Estimate. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the reasons for the slight increase in the number of cases in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) will consideration be given to increase social work manpower to alleviate their workload?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The projected average number of supervision cases per worker in Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in 2008-09 is derived from the revised estimate of the supervision cases served in 2007-08 (based on the average growth rate of the new cases and closing rate of cases in the first six months in 2007-08), and enhanced manpower that will be available in the year.
 - (2) In addition to strengthening manpower, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has also introduced different measures to address the workload of social workers in FCPSUs over the past few years. These include deploying non-social work staff to provide general support to social workers, improving multi-disciplinary collaboration with the Police and medical services, enhancing support services like refuge centres for women and child care services, strengthening training, supervisory and clinical support for front-line social workers. SWD will continue to keep in view the workload and manpower situation of the FCPSUs and explore improvement measures where necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under this Programme, the number of children available for adoption placed into local homes within three months in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has increased by three as compared with the actual figure in 2006-07. Would the Administration please inform this Committee :

- (1) the details of the work, the expenditure and the manpower involved in the provision of adoption service?
- (2) the number of children placed into overseas adoptive homes in the past year?
- (3) the characteristics of children available for adoption not placed into local homes within three months, and the differences between these children and those available for adoption placed into local homes within three months?
- (4) whether consideration will be given to relaxing the requirements for adoptive homes, so that more children in need of adoption can be placed into local homes within three months?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The aim of the adoption service is to find a suitable and permanent home for children whose parents are unable or unwilling to take care of them. In arranging adoption, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration, and priority is given to placing children locally in adoptive homes of the same cultural or ethnic background so as to minimise the children's adjustment problems. Inter-country adoption will only be arranged for children when no suitable local adoptive homes are available for them. The expenditure on adoption service is included in the funding for family and child care services, and no separate breakdown on the manpower and financial provision for this service is available.
 - (2) In 2007, 21 children have been placed in overseas adoptive homes under inter-country adoption arrangements.
 - (3) The successful matching of a child with a suitable home depends on the availability of suitable homes and the preference of potential adoptive

parents. According to experience, children with special needs, of older age, or with complicated family background will be more difficult to place locally.

- (4) In matching children with potential adoptive homes, the Social Welfare Department first aims at finding suitable local homes from among the pool of available local applicants. If no suitable local adoptive home is available, SWD will in parallel explore the possibility of placing the child in overseas adoptive homes. To safeguard the best interests of the children to be adopted, SWD has no plan to relax the requirements for adoptive homes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the intensive counselling/brief counselling/supportive casework cases served by Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has increased by 3.4% as compared to the actual figure in 2006-07 while the 2008-09 Estimate has only increased by 0.3% as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (1) the reasons for the slight increase in the number of cases in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) will consideration be given to increase the manpower of social workers to alleviate their workload?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The number of intensive counselling/brief counselling/supportive casework cases served in 2006-07 (i.e. 54 754 and 25 743 for the government and subvented sectors respectively) is the actual service output for the year. The number in 2007-08 and 2008-09 (i.e. 56 149 and 27 101 in 2007-08; 56 306 and 27 226 in 2008-09 for the government and subvented sectors respectively) is the estimated number of such cases to be served, based on the actual number of cases handled in the first two quarters in 2007-08. Social workers in IFSCs exercise vigorous caseload management to ensure that only cases genuinely in need of social work input will remain on the caseload. Also, they make flexible use of different intervention approaches, such as groups and programmes, to meet the multifarious needs of individuals and families. Such approaches will affect the actual number of cases handled.
 - (2) Additional resources have been allocated to strengthen the manpower of IFSCs according to district needs since 2005-06. We will closely monitor the service need and explore new resources to further strengthen the manpower where necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the groups and programmes organised by Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has increased by 5.3% as compared to the actual figure in 2006-07, but the 2008-09 Estimate is on the decrease instead of increase, representing a decrease of as much as 21.7% when compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate, while the number of IFSCs remains unchanged. Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (1) the reasons for the substantial decrease in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) whether an evaluation has been made of the impact on service users as a result of the reduction in groups and programmes and what measures will be taken to substitute the groups and programmes that have been reduced?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The number of groups and programmes in 2007-08 (i.e. 6 348 and 2 568 for the government and subvented sectors respectively) is the estimated number of groups and programmes that would have been organised by 31 March 2008. The estimate is based on the actual number of groups and programmes organised in the first two quarters in 2007-08. The estimated number in 2008-09 (i.e. 4 941 and 2 036 for the government and subvented sectors respectively) is the aggregate of the output indicators as stipulated in the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs).
 - (2) IFSCs may, as in previous years and according to service needs, organise more groups and programmes than the output level required in the FSAs. Apart from groups and programmes, social workers of IFSCs will also make flexible use of different intervention approaches, such as making referrals to other service units or drawing on other community resources to meet the multifarious needs of individuals and families.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)048

Question Serial No.

0405

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the financial provision under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate is 0.9% lower than the original, while the provision for 2008-09 is 2.3% lower than the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. However, the numbers of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases and Social Security Allowance (SSA) cases served in the 2008-09 Estimate are 0.4% and 3.4% higher than the Revised Estimate for 2007-08. Could the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for a reduced requirement for CSSA and SSA payments, the projected increase or decrease in the number of cases by different categories of recipients, and the impact of such an increase/such a decrease on the financial provision?
- (2) whether the Administration has assessed the impact of a decrease in provision on the needy as well as the impact of inflation on the financial provision?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The 2007-08 Revised Estimate for CSSA and SSA Schemes are \$17,890 million and \$6,080 million respectively whereas the 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes are \$17,267 million and \$5,982 million respectively.

The 2007-08 Revised Estimate includes one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients. The financial implication for this measure is \$1.5 billion, comprising \$1.0 billion for the CSSA Scheme and \$0.5 billion for the SSA Scheme. The 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes is, in fact, higher than the respective Revised Estimate of 2007-08, if the one month additional payment for both Schemes is to be discounted. The increase in the estimated provision seeks to cope with the estimated increase in the number of cases under the two Schemes in 2008-09.

It is estimated that there will be an increase in the number of cases served for the two Schemes in 2008-09 as compared with 2007-08.

The average number of CSSA paid cases by nature of case for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as follows:

Nature of case	Average number of paid cases (2007-08 Revised Estimate) (a)	Average number of paid cases (2008-09 Estimate) (b)	Difference (b) – (a)
Old Age	148 100	149 700	1 600
Permanent Disability	17 300	17 800	500
Ill Health	23 000	23 600	600
Single Parent	35 800	35 800	0
Low Earnings	16 200	17 200	1 000
Unemployment	28 600	27 800	-800
Others	5 400	5 900	500
Total	274 400	277 800	3 400

The average number of SSA paid cases by type of allowance for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as follows:

Type of allowance	Average number of paid cases (2007-08 Revised Estimate) (a)	Average number of paid cases (2008-09 Estimate) (b)	Difference (b) – (a)
Higher Old Age	389 000	410 400	21 400
Normal Old Age	70 600	69 200	-1 400
Higher Disability	14 600	16 200	1 600
Normal Disability	101 600	109 200	7 600
Total	575 800	605 000	29 200

The average number of CSSA and SSA paid cases serves as one of the factors in the estimation of their expenditure in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

- (2) As explained in (1) above, the 2008-09 Estimate is higher than the 2007-08 Revised Estimate for CSSA and SSA Schemes if the one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients issued in 2007-08 are discounted. Also, the 2008-09 Estimate has taken into account the 2.8% inflation adjustment with effect from 1 February 2008.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the financial provision under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate is 0.9% lower than the original, while the provision for 2008-09 is 2.3% lower than the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. It is stated in the budget speech by the Financial Secretary that the operating expenditure of the Social Welfare Department on services for the elderly and the number of elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases have increased steadily. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) how the reduced financial provision can meet the increasing demand of the elderly?
- (2) whether the Administration will consider implementing a universal retirement protection scheme contributed by three parties, namely the Administration, the employers and the employees?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The 2007-08 Revised Estimate for CSSA and Social Security Allowance (SSA) Schemes are \$17,890 million and \$6,080 million respectively whereas the 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes are \$17,267 million and \$5,982 million respectively.

The 2007-08 Revised Estimate includes payment of one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients. The financial implication for this measures is \$1.5 billion, comprising \$1.0 billion for the CSSA Scheme and \$0.5 billion for the SSA Scheme. The 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes is, in fact, higher than the respective Revised Estimate of 2007-08, if the one month additional payment for both Schemes is to be discounted. The increase in the estimated provision seeks to cope with the estimated increases in the number of cases under the two Schemes in 2008-09.

- (2) The current approach adopted by Hong Kong in providing financial assistance to the elderly is based on the three pillars of retirement protection, namely the CSSA Scheme and Old Age Allowance, a Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme, and voluntary private savings. The Government has also built up a vast safety net, providing special care and heavily subsidised services to the elderly in medical and housing policies. The elderly also enjoy various transport concessions.

The Government is now studying the sustainability of Hong Kong's three pillars of retirement protection. When the study is completed, the Government will consider the findings of the study and other important factors before deciding on the future course of action.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the New Dawn (ND) Project mentioned in the “matters requiring special attention in 2008-09” under this Programme, could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the difference between the “Enhanced ND Project” and the original project?
- (2) of the details of the evaluation study, the estimated expenditure and the manpower involved, and whether the Administration will consider allowing the single parents joining the project to provide voluntary service instead of performing the existing compulsory work and cancelling the requirement for reduction of payment?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) ND Project was in operation from April 2006 to September 2007 to help single parents and child carers who were on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and with their youngest child aged 12 to 14 build up their capacity for work, integrate into society and move to self-reliance through engagement in paid employment. Under the ND Project, Social Welfare Department (SWD) staff provided employment assistance services such as job matching to participants and referred participants with no or limited working experience to join the 20 New Dawn Intensive Employment Assistance Projects operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for receiving intensive employment assistance services.

The ND Project has been extended for 30 months from October 2007 to March 2010 and re-titled as the Enhanced ND Project. Under the Enhanced ND Project, the NGOs provide both ordinary and intensive employment assistance services, as appropriate, to participants referred by SWD.

- (2) SWD commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct a study to evaluate the ND Project (the Study) in August 2006. An interim report of the Study has been produced. The Study has been extended to end-2008 in order to make it more comprehensive by including case studies and collecting public opinion on the ND Project. The total cost of the Study on the ND Project is \$1.25 million.

The aim of the Enhanced ND Project is to help participants integrate into society and encourage them to seek and engage in paid employment. Exemptions from joining the Enhanced ND Project are allowed where justified, for example, those who have been recently bereaved, those who have to take care of vulnerable family members, those who have already engaged in paid employment with monthly working hours of 32 or more, those who have special problems based on the social worker's assessment and those who are aged over 59 years and 5 months, etc. While there will be sanction through a deduction of \$200 from their monthly CSSA payments if a participant fails to comply with the requirements, the sanction will not be imposed on those who have made genuine efforts in seeking employment in the labour market.

The whole purpose of the project is to encourage the participants to re-enter the job market. While voluntary work is meaningful for the participants, we believe that to achieve self-reliance seeking paid employment, including part-time employment in the labour market will be more effective.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the review of the existing Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) arrangements for the unemployed able-bodied recipients mentioned in the “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09” under this Programme, could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the progress, the initial findings and the expected completion date of the review?
- (2) whether the Administration will consider providing additional provision for the subvented sector to employ the unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients through Social Enterprises (SEs) with a view to encouraging them to learn a skill and move towards self-reliance?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The Social Welfare Department has been implementing the Support for Self-reliance Scheme since 1999. In recent years, the department has commissioned non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate a series of projects to provide employment assistance services to able-bodied CSSA recipients. There is also the provision of Disregarded Earnings under the CSSA Scheme to give more incentives to encourage able-bodied CSSA recipients to secure and sustain paid work.

Reviewing the existing arrangements under the CSSA Scheme for helping and motivating the unemployed able-bodied recipients to rejoin the labour force and become self-reliant is an on-going effort. In 2008-09, we will continue with our efforts to motivate those long-term able-bodied CSSA recipients.

(2) In 2008-09, the Government will continue its efforts in promoting public understanding and the development of SEs. Measures include production of TV and radio Announcements in the Public Interest, organisation of promotional activities at the district level and in tertiary institutions to promote public understanding of SEs. The Government has also introduced a pilot scheme to facilitate SEs in bidding government cleansing contracts, under which 38 government cleansing contracts have been set aside for eligible SEs to bid. In addition, the Government has provided seed money to support SEs during their initial operations through the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme under the Home Affairs Department. Also, the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Funding Scheme under the Trade and Industry Department assists eligible SMEs, including those which are SEs, to secure loans from lending institutions for acquiring installations and equipment and meeting working capital needs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : I have received frequent complaints from the public about the rude manner of social security staff. With regard to the provision of training for social security staff stated under “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09” of this Programme, would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (1) of the content and schedule of the training programmes and the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) what are the follow-up measures for improving the manner of social security staff?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) In 2008-09, we have reserved \$0.5 million for providing training in relation to professional, legal and management knowledge and customer service skills for various grades of social security staff. Under the existing arrangements, all newly recruited social security staff are required to attend training programmes to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills within their first two years of appointment. Thereafter, in order to meet operational needs, they will also participate in other training courses to enrich their knowledge and skills. The provision of these training programmes is primarily coordinated by the Social Security Training Team of the Social Welfare Department comprising three staff from the Social Security Officer grade. They are partially assisted by four general grades officers (i.e. two from the Executive grade and two from the Clerical grade).

- (2) Apart from providing regular training to enhance the quality of customer service, regular Social Security Meetings and ad hoc meetings are held amongst district supervising officers to discuss operational issues with a view to further improving service quality. Front-line social security staff are always reminded of the matters requiring attention and areas for improvement.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As shown in the targets under this Programme, the increased numbers of residential care places from private homes participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS), contract homes, homes participating in the conversion of self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places and day care centres for the elderly in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate and the 2008-09 Estimate cannot offset the decreased numbers of S/C hostel and H/A and care-and-attention (C&A) home places. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for the actual decrease in the number of places;
- (2) whether the needs of the elders have been assessed, and the number of elders waitlisting for such services at present;
- (3) whether the Administration will increase the residential care places or centre places promptly to meet the needs of the community in the face of an ageing population?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The conversion of S/C and H/A places into C&A places providing continuum of care is conducted on a cost neutral basis. Given the higher unit cost for the provision of continuum of care for elders with higher level of frailty, the capacity of the residential care homes for the elderly as converted from S/Cs and H/A places will be smaller than the original capacity of S/Cs and H/As. Such transformation, though resulting in a decrease in the number of S/C, H/A and C&A places without continuum of care, brings about an increase in the number of C&A places with continuum of care which better meets the elders' long-term care needs having regard to the ageing population.

- (2) Since November 2000, the Social Welfare Department has introduced the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services. Under the mechanism, an internationally recognised assessment tool named “Minimum Data Set-Home Care” is adopted to assess the care needs of elders. Based on the assessment results, elders will be waitlisted for appropriate long-term care services. As at end-January 2008, there were 17 158 elders waitlisted for C&A places under the Central Waiting List.
- (3) The 2008-09 Budget has earmarked resources to provide an additional 160 day care places, 278 subsidised residential care places and 180 infirmary places in residential care homes for the elderly.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the indicators for the cost per place per month for Day Care Centres under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has increased by 3.78% as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure, while the 2008-09 Estimate has decreased as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for the decrease in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) whether it has assessed the cost implications of inflation?
- (3) of the impacts of underestimating the inflation rate on service users ?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The slight decrease of less than 0.1% in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate is mainly due to the decrease in administrative support costs.

(2) The cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate has reflected the increase in subventions to non-government organisations for other charges (OC) due to inflation.

(3) Subvention for OC will be adjusted annually in line with the changes in the Government-wide price adjustment factor. For 2008-09, additional OC subvention amounting to \$16 million will be allocated to non-governmental organisations in line with the increase in the price adjustment factor. Subvention for personal emoluments will also be adjusted annually in line with the Civil Service Pay Adjustment and supplementary subvention will be provided in the course of the year to implement the pay adjustment, if any.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)055

Question Serial No.

0412

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the indicators for the cost per place per month for all residential care services under this Programme, the increase of the 2008-09 Estimate as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate is lower than that of the 2007-08 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for the lower percentage increase in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) whether it has assessed the cost implications of inflation?
- (3) of the impacts of underestimating the inflation rate on service users?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The increase in the cost per place per month in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure is mainly due to the increase in subventions following the 2007 Civil Service Pay Adjustment and the decrease in enrolment rates. As the salary level in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate has yet to take into account the effect of the 2008 Civil Service Pay Adjustment and as there is no significant changes in enrolment rates, the percentage increase in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is lower than that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate.

- (2) The cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate has reflected the increase in subventions to non-governmental organisations for other charges (OC) due to inflation.

- (3) Subvention for OC will be adjusted annually in line with the changes in the Government-wide price adjustment factor. For 2008-09, additional OC subvention amounting to \$16 million will be allocated to non-governmental organisations in line with the increase in the price adjustment factor. Subvention for personal emoluments will also be adjusted annually in line with the Civil Service Pay Adjustment and supplementary subvention will be provided in the course of the year to implement the pay adjustment, if any.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As stated in the “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09” under this Programme, help will be offered to improve the homes of elderly people living in poor conditions. Could the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the details of the project, including the date of implementation, the eligibility criteria, the funding mechanism, whether the target group will be confined to tenants or occupier-owners, and whether it will only be applicable to certain type of buildings (e.g. private housing, public housing estates or other subsidised housing)?
- (2) the manpower arrangements and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The 2008-09 Budget has earmarked one-off funding of \$200 million to help needy elderly people improve their homes in the next five years. The scheme targets at elders (aged 60 or above) without family support, who live in dilapidated homes with poor fittings and lack financial means to improve their home conditions. Elders will be provided with minor home maintenance and improvement services as well as the necessary fittings after an assessment on their financial situation and living environment. The amount of subsidy for each eligible elderly household will be subject to a ceiling of \$5,000 within the five-year period, regardless of the type of housing units occupied by the applicants and their status of being tenant or occupier owners.

District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), which have established networks in their respective districts and extensive experience in serving the elders, will be invited to be the delivery agencies of the scheme. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is working on the implementation details with DECCs and aims to launch the scheme in June 2008, subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee. We expect that about 40 000 elderly will benefit from this scheme.

- (2) SWD is working with DECCs on the implementation details, including the allocation of administrative costs for DECCs to implement the scheme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

On “preparing for the provision of transport supplement for eligible persons with disabilities (PWDs) on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or receiving the Disability Allowance”, please inform this Council:

- (1) whether the supplement amount has been ascertained to be sufficient to cover the transport expenses of the disabled?
- (2) whether those below 100 per cent disability will be given further assistance, for instance, subsidies for the employable to enable them to go to work?
- (3) whether the option of subsidized Disabled Octopus Card might be considered to enable the disabled to travel on half price?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) To meet the basic transport needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs), the Administration has, in addition to the provision of Rehabus service, provided PWDs with financial assistance through the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and Disability Allowance (DA) payment. Depending on their degree of disability, the monthly standard rate of PWD recipients of CSSA ranges from \$1,820 to \$4,335. As to DA, it is provided to recipients on a non-means-tested basis. Normal and Higher DA amount to \$1,170 and \$2,340 respectively per month. Total government expenditure in this respect for 2008-09 is estimated at about \$7 billion.

The proposed transport supplement aims at providing the CSSA recipients with 100% disability aged between 12 and 64 and DA recipients in the same age group with an additional cash supplement to encourage them to participate more in activities away from home, thereby enhancing their contact with and integration into society.

In setting the amount of the monthly transport supplement of \$200, we have made reference to the findings of a survey on the transport needs of PWDs conducted by the University of Hong Kong in 2006, and the changes in transport pattern and

expenditure of PWDs with regard to social integration if fare concessions are provided.

- (2) The provision of transport supplement is wholly funded by the public coffer. The Administration therefore needs to ensure that the public funds are most effectively used to help those most in need of assistance and encouragement for social integration.

After rounds of deliberations and having regard to the views of PWD groups, the Subcommittee to “Study the Transport Needs of and Provision of Concessionary Public Transport Fares for Persons with Disabilities” (Subcommittee) under the House Committee of the Legislative Council agreed that having regard to their degree of disability and financial situation, recipients of CSSA with 100% disability and recipients of DA are those most in need of assistance and encouragement for social integration. According funding priority to supplement the transport needs of this identified group of PWDs is in line with our established welfare policy objective of helping those most in need.

The Administration has no plan to extend the provision of transport supplement to PWDs outside this identified group.

- (3) Paying the transport supplement together with CSSA or DA through the existing CSSA and Social Security Allowance (SSA) payment system into the recipients’ bank accounts direct will ensure an effective use of public fund and the provision of the additional cash supplement to the PWDs concerned as quickly as possible.

More specifically, our proposal has the following merits. First, the provision of transport supplement is the most flexible arrangement in meeting the different needs of PWDs. As the supplement will be paid directly into the recipients’ bank accounts, PWDs concerned are free to decide how to make the best use of the additional supplement to meet their transport needs having regard to individual circumstances. Secondly, as the current proposal does not directly involve any other organisations, it can be implemented within a short lead time after securing funding approval and the PWDs concerned may enjoy the benefits soonest possible. Furthermore, as payments are to be effected through the existing CSSA and SSA payment system, the administrative costs could be reduced to the minimum. This will ensure that all the additional allocations will be directly used to benefit PWDs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)058

Question Serial No.

0415

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the indicators for the cost per case served per month for Integrated Home Care Services under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has increased by 3% as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure, while the 2008-09 Estimate has only increased by 0.4% as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for the lower percentage increase in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) whether it has assessed the cost implications of inflation?
- (3) of the impacts of underestimating the inflation rate on service users?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) The increase by 3% in the cost per case served per month in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure is mainly due to the increase in subventions following the 2007 Civil Service Pay Adjustment. As the salary level in the cost per case served per month in the 2008-09 Estimate has yet to take into account the effect of the 2008 Civil Service Pay Adjustment, the percentage increase in the cost per case served per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is lower than that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate.

- (2) The cost per case served per month in the 2008-09 Estimate has reflected the increase in subventions to non-governmental organisations for other charges (OC) due to inflation.

- (3) Subvention for OC will be adjusted annually in line with the changes in the Government-wide price adjustment factor. For 2008-09, additional OC subvention amounting to \$16 million will be allocated to non-governmental organisations in line with the increase in the price adjustment factor. Subvention for personal emoluments will also be adjusted annually in line with the Civil Service Pay Adjustment and supplementary subvention will be provided in the course of the year to implement the pay adjustment, if any.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)059

Question Serial No.

0416

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the indicators for the cost per place per month of residential homes in the government sector and the subvented sector under this Programme, the increase in the 2008-09 Estimate over the 2007-08 Revised Estimate is lower than that of the 2007-08 Revised Estimate over the 2006-07 actual figure. Could the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for the lower percentage increase in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) whether it has assessed the cost implications of inflation?
- (3) of the impacts of underestimating the inflation rate on service users?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (1) In both the government and subvented sectors under this programme, the increase in the cost per place per month for residential homes in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure is mainly due to the effect of the 2007 Civil Service Pay Adjustment. As the salary level in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is the same as that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate, the percentage increase in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is lower than that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate.

- (2) & (3) The cost per place per month of residential homes in the government sector in the 2008-09 Estimate has reflected the increase in general departmental expenses. For the subvented sector, the cost per place per month has also reflected the increase in subvention for other charges (OC) due to inflation. Under the existing arrangement, the subvention for OC will be adjusted annually in line with the changes in the Government-wide price adjustment factor. For 2008-09, in line with the increase in the adjustment factor, additional OC subvention amounting to \$16 million will be allocated to non-governmental organisations operating different subvented services. As for the personal emoluments under the government sector, it will be adjusted according to the Civil Service Pay Adjustment and supplementary provision, if considered necessary, will be sought during the year. Under the subvented sector, subvention for personal emoluments will also be adjusted annually in

line with the Civil Service Pay Adjustment. Supplementary subvention will be provided in the course of the year to implement the pay adjustment, if any.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)060

Question Serial No.

0417

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the indicators for the cost per place per month for day activity centres under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has increased by 4.3% as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure, while the 2008-09 Estimate has only increased by 0.77% as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for the lower percentage increase in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) whether it has assessed the cost implications of inflation?
- (3) of the impacts of underestimating the inflation rate on service users?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The increase by 4.3% in the cost per place per month for day activity centres in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure is mainly due to the increase in subventions following the 2007 Civil Service Pay Adjustment. As the salary level in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is the same as that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate, the percentage increase in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is lower than that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate.
 - (2) The cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate has also reflected the increase in subvention for other charges (OC) due to inflation.
 - (3) Subvention for OC will be adjusted annually in line with the changes in the Government-wide price adjustment factor. For 2008-09, in line with the increase in the adjustment factor, additional OC subvention amounting to \$16 million will be allocated to non-governmental organisations operating different subvented services. Subvention for personal emoluments will also be adjusted annually according to the Civil Service Pay Adjustment. Supplementary subvention will be provided in the course of the year to implement the pay adjustment, if any.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)061

Question Serial No.

0418

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the indicators for the cost per place per month for pre-school services for children with disabilities under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has increased by 5% as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure, while the 2008-09 Estimate has decreased as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for the decrease in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) whether it has assessed the cost implications of inflation?
- (3) of the impacts of underestimating the inflation rate on service users?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) The slight decrease by 0.3% in the cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate is mainly due to the economy of scale achieved by the increased number of places in 2008-09 to meet the service needs.
- (2) The cost per place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate has reflected the increase in subvention for other charges (OC) due to inflation.
- (3) Subvention for OC will be adjusted annually in line with the changes in the Government-wide price adjustment factor. For 2008-09, in line with the increase in the adjustment factor, additional OC subvention amounting to \$16 million will be allocated to non-governmental organisations operating different subvented services. Subvention for personal emoluments will also be adjusted annually according to the Civil Service Pay Adjustment. Supplementary subvention will be provided in the course of the year to implement the pay adjustment, if any.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in the “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09” under this Programme that the Administration will continue to support projects funded under “Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise” Project. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) what are the details of the support as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) would the Administration consider providing further support to these small enterprises such as issuing marketing information, offering consultancy services and reserving more government services and product contracts for bidding by them?
- (3) how would different government departments such as the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) coordinate with each other in promoting the services of social enterprises?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The Marketing Consultancy Office (Rehabilitation) [MCO(R)] of SWD provides consultancy service to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating small businesses funded by the “Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise” Project (3E’s Project). It is also tasked to liaise with government bureaux/departments and the commercial sector with a view to securing service/job orders for the NGOs which employ persons with disabilities (PWDs) in operation of small businesses, and promoting their businesses through organising publicity events. The MCO(R) has an establishment of 12 personnel with marketing and business background and its annual recurrent expenditure is about \$3.8 million.
 - (2) The MCO(R) will continue to provide support to NGOs in operating the small businesses and has been entrusted to continue, in collaboration with NGOs, promoting the brand name “SEPD” (Support of the Employment of People with Disabilities) for the products and

services provided by PWDs. Besides, the MCO(R) will continue to make use of an information gallery in Mongkok for displaying and promoting the products/services of PWDs.

- (3) The 3E's Project aims at assisting NGOs to set up and operate small businesses for creating employment for PWDs. The MCO(R) has an extensive network of NGOs operating rehabilitation services to promote the 3E's Project.

Following the re-organisation of Government on 1 July 2007, the HAB is responsible for coordinating efforts within the Government in promoting the development of social enterprises and monitoring their overall progress. We will co-operate with the HAB in enhancing the employment opportunities for PWDs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)063

Question Serial No.

0420

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As indicated in the number of cases served by medical social workers, there has been a 1.1% increase when comparing the 2007-08 Revised Estimate with the 2006-07 actual figure and a further increase of 2.6% when comparing the 2008-09 Estimate with the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) what are the reasons for the continued increase in the number of cases served?
- (2) would the Administration consider further increasing the manpower of medical social workers?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) Factors contributing to the continued increase in the number of cases served by medical social services in the past years include the increase in the number of attendances in clinics and hospitals, increased readiness of patients and their families to seek welfare assistance, closer collaboration between the welfare and the medical sectors, and proactive approach adopted by medical social workers to reach out to the target groups.
 - (2) Four additional medical social worker posts will be created in 2008-09 to cope with the increase in service demand.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : With regard to the indicators for cases served, cases closed having achieved case goal plan per team and clients identified under “outreaching social work” of this Programme, the Revised Estimate for 2007-08 under the above items are all higher than the actual figures in 2006-07. Could the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the reasons for the higher Revised Estimate for 2007-08 as compared with the actual figures in 2006-07?
- (2) whether the Administration would consider increasing the number of outreaching social work service teams?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Below is a comparison of the service figures of the outreaching social work teams (OSWTs) under the 2007-08 Revised Estimate with those of the past three years -

Year	Cases served	Cases closed having achieved case goal plan per team	Clients identified
2004-05	13 891	93	4 986
2005-06	13 506	104	4 955
2006-07	13 255	77	4 750
2007-08 (Revised Estimate)	13 381	91	4 853

It is noted that there are slight fluctuations in the service figures which are considered to be normal.

The existing 16 OSWTs are established on a district basis to provide support to youth at risk. As a steady service trend is noted as per the information given above, the Administration has no plan to increase the number of teams.

Nevertheless, the Social Welfare Department has earmarked an additional recurrent provision of \$4.1 million per annum effective from 2008-09 to enhance the staffing of existing OSWTs. An additional social worker post

will be provided for each OSWT to facilitate early identification and engagement of youth at risk.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the indicators for the cost per case per month for outreaching social work under this Programme, the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has increased by 3.7% as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure, while the 2008-09 Estimate has only increased \$1 as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. Could the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons for the lower percentage increase in the 2008-09 Estimate?
- (2) whether it has assessed the cost implications of inflation?
- (3) of the impacts of underestimating the inflation rate on service users?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

- Reply :
- (1) The increase by 3.7% in the cost per case per month in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate as compared to the 2006-07 actual figure is mainly due to the increase in subvention following the 2007 Civil Service Pay Adjustment. As the salary level in the cost per case per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is the same as that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate, the percentage increase in the cost per case per month in the 2008-09 Estimate is lower than that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate.
 - (2) The cost per case per month in the 2008-09 Estimate has also reflected the increase in subvention for other charges (OC) due to inflation.
 - (3) Subvention for OC will be adjusted annually in line with the changes in the Government-wide price adjustment factor. For 2008-09, in line with the increase in the adjustment factor, additional OC subvention amounting to \$16 million will be allocated to non-governmental organisations operating different subvented services. Subvention for personal emoluments will also be adjusted annually according to the Civil Service Pay Adjustment. Supplementary subvention will be provided in the course of the year to implement the pay adjustment, if any.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
700 – General non-recurrent

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the expenditure under this Sub-head, the expenditure of the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged, “Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise” Project and “Special Training and Enhancement Programme” only accounts for 10%, less than 50% and 20% of the actual commitment respectively. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) what are the targets and manpower arrangements of the above-mentioned fund or programmes?
- (b) has the Administration explored the reasons for the less-than-enthusiastic response?
- (c) what measures will be taken to encourage target organisations to apply for the above-mentioned fund or programmes so as to meet the original target? And would the Administration consider relaxing the eligibility criteria and other relevant requirements?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (PFD)

- (a) The PFD aims to promote the development of a tripartite partnership among the Government, the business community and the welfare sector to help the disadvantaged. We do not set annual targets. Three staff are designated for managing the Fund.
- (b) An evaluation study is being conducted for the PFD and the result is not yet ready.
- (c) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has implemented various promotional and relaxation measures for the PFD including increasing the maximum amount of the matching grant and the number of applications that can be made by the same non-governmental organisation (NGO), making press announcements, as well as producing guidebooks and leaflets to attract more applications.

“Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise” Project

- (a) The “Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise” Project (3 E’s Project) launched by SWD in 2001 aims to support NGOs to create and operate small businesses with a view to providing more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Operating NGOs have the liberty to employ suitable staff to run their businesses and the number of employees with disabilities should not be less than 50% of the total number of employees in each business. Staffing requirements for administering the 3E’s Project is met by internal redeployment within SWD.
- (b) The 3 E’s Project is open for application all year round. NGOs interested in applying can consult the Marketing Consultancy Office (Rehabilitation) of SWD for advice when writing up their business proposals. As at February 2008, SWD has received more than 90 applications for the 3 E’s Project and supported a total of 45 businesses of various natures, including cleaning, catering, car beauty, mobile massage, retail shops, vegetable supply and processing, household service, travel agency, etc.
- (c) SWD would continue to encourage NGOs to set up more social enterprises through various promotional activities and marketing events. Currently, all bona-fide charitable NGOs recognised under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap 112) can apply for funding support to operate small business under the 3 E’s Project. SWD considers it appropriate to uphold the existing eligibility criteria for application to ensure employment protection for employees with disabilities.

Implementation of the Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP)

- (a) and (b) My STEP is a trial employment assistance project which seeks to motivate and assist long-term Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) able-bodied unemployed youth aged between 15 and 29 to rejoin the workforce or return to mainstream schooling. Following the satisfactory performance of two My STEP projects from October 2006 to September 2007, four additional My STEP projects were commissioned to four NGOs for two years from October 2007 to September 2009. The 2007-08 Revised Estimate therefore covers only the estimated expenditure for six months (October 2007 to March 2008) out of the full project period of 24 months for these projects. So far a total of 317 participants have joined My STEP projects, which is in line with our target. Staffing requirements for administering My STEP is met by internal redeployment within SWD.

- (c) The four projects aim at providing a comprehensive package of employment assistance services and motivational/disciplinary training to long-term CSSA unemployed youth. They are all making good progress.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)067

Question Serial No.

0189

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the expected increase in passenger trips for rehabus scheduled route services upon operation of the eight new rehabuses to be procured in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Six of the eight new rehabuses will be used to provide scheduled route (SR) services. As each rehabus carries about ten passengers, the total number of additional passengers that can be carried per day will be about 60. Assuming the demand for SR services remains at the present level, the six additional rehabuses will be able to fully accommodate the service demand of persons with disabilities on the current waiting list.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (5) Subvention: Skills Centres

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

There is an increase in provision for 2008-09 by \$5.8 million over the Revised Estimate for 2007-08. The Administration explains that it is mainly due to the increased salary provision and requirement for capital expenditure. What are the reasons for the increased salary provision and what is the amount of the provision?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

There is an increase in salary provision of around \$2.5 million to cover the expenditure relating to filling of vacant posts in 2008-09.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

The "Gender Focal Points Network" has been set up for quite some time. Please provide a breakdown of the number of Gender Focal Points and their ranks, and illustrate how their work in 2007 has effected the formulation of government policies.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Administration, on the advice of the Women's Commission (WoC), has since 2003 set up a network of Gender Focal Points (GFPs) in all bureaux and departments. They serve as the contact and resource persons within their respective organisations and are tasked to help raise awareness and understanding of gender-related issues, and promote the use of the Checklist within their areas of work. To date, we have 74 GFPs from all bureaux and departments and the majority (i.e. 67) of them are directorate officers.

To further promote gender mainstreaming within the Administration, a core group of GFP has been set up to devise plans and strategies to facilitate the proactive application of the Checklist by bureaux and departments. On the suggestion of the core group, we are strengthening gender-related training for civil servants to enhance understanding of gender mainstreaming. Furthermore, with the assistance of WoC, we arranged two exchange sessions with GFPs in 2007-08 to share experience in applying the Checklist and in further promoting the Checklist and gender mainstreaming concept within their respective bureaux and departments.

In 2008-09, we will continue to provide more gender-related training for civil servants. As per the advice of the core group, we are also planning to develop a web-portal and produce an information leaflet on gender mainstreaming for handy reference by all civil servants. We will continue to strengthen the network of GFPs through regular meetings and experience-sharing sessions.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In December 2006, the Administration decided to allocate \$20 million to commission the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to establish the Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre, the CEASE Crisis Centre, for a period of three years until the end of December 2009. The centre provides services for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence, including abused men and people facing other family crises. Under this Programme, would the Administration please inform this Committee the following:

- (1) the number of sexual violence cases the CEASE Crisis Centre has dealt with since its establishment and the expenditure incurred?
- (2) has the Administration evaluated whether the one-stop service provided for victims of sexual violence by the CEASE Crisis Centre meets the needs of the victims? If yes, what are the details?
- (3) whether the Administration will consider funding the Rainlily, a non-profit-making organisation which has been providing one-stop service for victims of sexual violence for over five years, in order to safeguard the interests of the victims and provide them with more choices?
- (4) upon the expiry of the three-year commissioning period, what will be the Administration's plan on the provision of services for victims of sexual violence?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : (1) The CEASE Crisis Centre (the Centre) is funded by the Lotteries Fund on a pilot basis with an estimated total operating cost of \$20 million for three years. The Centre has since 26 March 2007 commenced its first phase service, providing a 24-hour hotline and outreaching/crisis intervention services and case consultation. As at the end of December 2007, the Centre has handled a total of 82 adult sexual violence cases.

- (2) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has all along been closely monitoring the effectiveness and performance of the Centre through a set of output and outcome indicators as agreed with the operator.

SWD also submits progress report to the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee on a yearly basis.

- (3) The Administration has no plan to allocate resources for other similar services following the operation and provision of services by the Centre.
- (4) SWD will closely monitor the development and service provision of the Centre. If the services and delivery mode of the Centre are proven to be effective, SWD will consider seeking recurrent funding for the provision of such services after the pilot period.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding the financial provision for women's interests, the Estimate for 2008-09 has an increase of \$2.6 million (13.8%) over the Revised Estimate for 2007-08 and the provision is mainly used for implementing the Capacity Building Mileage Programme and creating a new post in 2008-09. Please explain how the increased provision will be used for the Capacity Building Mileage Programme and the terms of referene of the new post created.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The increased provision for the Capacity Building Mileage Programme will be used to strengthen course contents in the four broad subject areas, viz. health, financial management, interpersonal relationships and daily life, and to support the continued operation of the programme.

One Executive Officer grade post will be created to strengthen the general administrative support in the Bureau to meet increasing work demand under this programme area.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)072

Question Serial No.

0521

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the reasons for the decrease in the number of persons with disabilities (PWDs) waiting for rebus scheduled route (SR) services from 62 (actual) in 2007 to 42 (estimate) in 2008?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Two rebus have been added to the fleet in early 2008. As each vehicle carries about ten passengers, it is estimated that the number of persons with disabilities (PWDs) on the waiting list can be reduced from 62 to 42 in 2008.

In 2008-09, the Administration will allocate additional resources for acquiring eight additional rebus and six of them will be deployed to further enhance the SR services. Assuming the demand for SR services remains at the present level, the six additional rebus will be able to fully accommodate the service demand of PWDs on the current waiting list.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)073

Question Serial No.

0568

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the schemes coordinated by the Transport Department in 2008-09 to improve access to public transport for persons with disabilities (PWDs)? Please elaborate.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

The schemes coordinated by the Transport Department in 2008 include:

- (i) displaying route numbers on the destination plates of trams to help low-visioned passengers in boarding trams;
- (ii) assisting the transport trade to search for LPG driven wheelchair accessible taxi models for use by wheelchair-bound passengers;
- (iii) installation of tactile warning strips in front of staircases at MTR station entrances for the convenience of visually impaired passengers;
- (iv) improving accessible facilities at public transport interchanges such as drop kerbs and tactile warning strips; and
- (v) updating “A Guide to Public Transport for People with Disabilities” for dissemination of public transport information to PWDs

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **25 March 2008**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)074

Question Serial No.

0507

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : With regard to the community support service for persons with disabilities (PWDs), would the Government please provide the following information:

- (1) a breakdown of the allocation of the \$35 million provision and the expenditure incurred for each item.
- (2) the types of service, target clients and number of places provided by the 16 centres as well as the staff establishment and annual operational expenses of each centre.
- (3) are there any concrete plans to support the family/relatives or carers of PWDs and what kind of services will be provided for them?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) The annual provision of about \$35 million is reserved for re-engineering the existing community support services and setting up 16 District-based Community Support Centres (The Centres) to provide one-stop centre-based community support services to PWDs and their families/carers. As the Social Welfare Department is still finalising implementation details of the re-engineering programme, we are not in a position to provide a breakdown of the expenditure incurred at the present moment.

- (2) Subject to confirmation on further details, the planned services are as follows :

Type of service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual or group training/programmes and support services for PWDs;• Allied health support service for PWDs;• Respite service;• Social, recreational and personal development programmes;• Training programmes/educational courses/workshops for the family members/carers of PWDs; and• Community education.
Target participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PWDs living in the community;• Family members/carers of PWDs; and• General public.

Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fixed capacity for the centre
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-disciplinary team comprising social worker, allied health professionals, caring staff and supporting staff.
Recurrent expenditure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The additional recurrent cost for the 16 Centres is about \$35 million.

- (3) With the setting up of the 16 Centres, PWDs and their families/carers would be able to receive a wide range of community support services conveniently in one stop in the vicinity of their homes. These community support services, as set out in (2), aim to enable PWDs to continue to live independently at homes, and to strengthen their families/carers' caring capacity and to relieve their stress.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : With regard to the day training service for persons with disabilities, 450 additional places will be provided by the Government. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the distribution of these 450 additional places by service types;
- (2) despite the fact that 2 748 persons with disabilities are awaiting day services according to the record of the Social Welfare Department as at 30 September 2007, only 450 additional places will be provided to cope with the demand. Does the Government have any concrete plans to shorten the waiting list?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) Distribution of the additional 450 places is as follows:

Types of Service	Number of Places
Day Activity Centre	130
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre	320
Total	450

- (2) Additional resources, including funding and premises, have been obtained for the provision of additional day training places in 2008-09 and we will continue to seek additional resources in the future to meet demand.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)076

Question Serial No.

0544

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : According to the 2007-08 Estimate, the Government originally planned to provide 161 additional day activity centre places to make up a total of 4 480 places. However, it turned out that the final total was 4 370, 110 places short, as shown in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. In 2008-09, the Government plans to increase drastically the day activity centre places by 245 additional places. Does the Government have any concrete plan to ensure the smooth provision of the 245 additional places? If yes, please provide details of the plan. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has already secured the funding and identified premises required for the provision of the additional 245 day activity centre places in 2008-09. Also, SWD has already started preparation work for the new projects and will closely monitor the progress of work to ensure that it is completed on time.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) under the indicators of this Programme, would the Government please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the numbers of service users of IHCS for both frail and ordinary cases in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively and the average waiting time for service?
- (b) why the Government predicted that the cost per case served per month will only increase five dollars from \$1,247 to \$1,252 (about 0.4%) in 2008-09 despite continuous inflation in the coming year?
- (c) whether the Government intends to let the non-governmental organisations operating the IHCS bear the cost for inflation? If yes, what measures will be taken to ensure that the service quality can be maintained?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (a) In 2006-07, the number of service users for both frailty tested and non-frailty tested home care services under IHCS was 26 899. In 2007-08, the number of service users is estimated to be 28 399.

For frailty tested home care services, the average waiting time is about two months. For non-frailty tested home care services, the waiting time varies ranging from a few days to a few months. As a guiding principle, the IHCS Teams will accord priority to elders who have urgent needs for services and provide them with the most needed services (e.g. meal delivery) almost instantly.

- (b) The increase in cost per case served per month in the 2008-09 Estimate as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate has reflected the increase in subventions to non-governmental organisations for other charges (OC) due to inflation.

(c) Subvention for OC will be adjusted annually in line with the changes in the Government-wide price adjustment factor. For 2008-09, additional OC subvention amounting to \$16 million will be allocated to non-governmental organisations in line with the increase in the price adjustment factor. Subvention for personal emoluments will also be adjusted annually in line with the Civil Service Pay Adjustment and supplementary subvention will be provided in the course of the year to implement the pay adjustment, if any.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in the Budget Speech that an additional funding of \$18 million will be provided each year for district elderly community centres (DECCs) to recruit more staff to strengthen their counselling and referral services and their processing of applications for subsidised long-term care services for the elderly. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the number of additional staff to be employed? And which aspect of counselling services would be strengthened?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : Additional funding of about \$18 million will be allocated to 41 DECCs to enable each of them to recruit an additional social worker. With the additional manpower, counselling and referral services particularly for suspected elder abuse, neglect, depression and suicide cases, as well as processing of applications for subsidised long-term care services will be strengthened.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It was stated in the 2007-08 Budget Speech that an additional \$38 million would be allocated to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreach programmes, so as to reach out to more elderly singletons, particularly the hidden ones. In the brief description under this Programme, the Social Welfare Department also mentioned that it would increase the manpower of District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) so as to strengthen the outreach and support services to hidden and vulnerable elders. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) has all the provision been spent on this project and increasing the manpower of elderly centres and NECs?
- (b) under this project, how much additional manpower has been employed by elderly centres and NECs?
- (c) how many hidden elders and vulnerable elders have been contacted and provided with outreach and support services since the project was launched?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (a) The additional funding has been allocated to 41 DECCs and 115 NECs since January 2008 for recruitment of additional staff to strengthen their outreach services to hidden and vulnerable elders.
 - (b) Each DECC and NEC can employ an additional social worker with the new provision. In other words, a total of 156 additional social workers will be employed under this initiative.

- (c) Each DECC and NEC is expected to reach out and provide services to 40 hidden and vulnerable elders at any one time with the additional manpower provision. The centres are now of building up the caseload and will submit the first round of statistics to Social Welfare Department in April 2008.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Why is there an increase in the number of average supervision cases per worker to 51 in the 2008-09 Estimate despite a worsening problem of domestic violence? Has the Social Welfare Department (SWD) requested the Government to enhance the manpower of Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) so as to relieve the caseload of existing workers and increase the average time between the clients and workers spent in each case?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : The projected average number of supervision cases per worker in Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in 2008-09 is derived from the revised estimate of the supervision cases served in 2007-08 (based on the average growth rate of the new cases and closing rate of cases in the first six months in 2007-08), and the enhanced manpower that will be available in the year.

In view of the increase in caseload in FCPSUs over the past few years, additional resources have been allocated to increase the manpower of FCPSUs. Taking into account the five additional social workers to be allocated in 2008-09, the number of social workers in FCPSUs will have been increased by 27% (or 30% if supervisors are included) since 2005-06.

In addition to strengthening manpower, SWD has also introduced different measures to address the workload of social workers in FCPSU over the past few years. These include deploying non-social work staff to provide general support to social workers, improving multi-disciplinary collaboration with the Police and medical services, enhancing support services like refuge centres for women and child care services, strengthening training, supervisory and clinical support for front-line social workers. SWD will continue to keep in view the workload and manpower situation of the FCPSUs and explore improvement measures where necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)081

Question Serial No.

0794

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What criteria has the Social Welfare Department (SWD) adopted in deciding to provide five additional workers for the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in the estimate?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah Ronny

Reply : The manpower requirement for FCPSUs has taken into account the following factors -

- (a) the projected number of supervision cases to be handled by frontline workers of FCPSUs;
- (b) the total number of frontline workers in FCPSUs;
- (c) measures in place to address the workload of FCPSU social workers, such as deployment of non-social work staff to provide support to social workers, improvement in multi-disciplinary collaboration with the Police and medical services, enhancement of support services like refuge centres for women and child care services, strengthening of training, supervisory and clinical support for frontline social workers; and
- (d) availability of resources.

SWD will continue to keep in view the workload and manpower situation of the FCPSUs and explore improvement measures where necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)082

Question Serial No.

0795

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the work undertaken by Family Support Networking Teams (FSNTs)? What is their manpower provision?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : FSNTs provides the following services -

- (a) To render proactive and targeted outreaching services to the vulnerable individuals/families through concern visits, street counters or other outreaching means;
- (b) To refer the vulnerable individuals/families to appropriate welfare or mainstream services such as Integrated Family Service Centres, Social Security Field Units for follow-up services; and
- (c) To network the vulnerable individuals/families to serve as volunteers for assisting in outreaching/networking efforts.

There are now seven FSNTs with a total of 20 Social Work Assistants (SWAs). Five of the FSNTs have two SWAs each while the remaining two FSNTs have four and six SWAs respectively.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)083

Question Serial No.

0796

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the total number of places now available at the Refuge Centres for Women? Is there any statistical estimation on the number of such places required to meet the territory-wide demand?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : In the beginning of 2007-08, there were 180 places in four Refuge Centres for Women providing temporary accommodation and supportive services to women and their children affected by domestic violence or family crisis. The average occupancy rate of these four centres in the first three quarters of 2007-08 was 93%. Through on-site expansion in one of these centres, the total number of places was increased to 195 in January 2008. In 2008-09, additional resources will be allocated to further increase the number of places to a total of 260 places by phases to meet service demand.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)084

Question Serial No.

0797

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the Batterer Intervention Programme (BIP), are there any statistics available and what are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : An annual provision of \$1.041 million was allocated to a non-governmental organisation to launch a pilot project on BIP between January 2006 and March 2008. On the part of Social Welfare Department, the development and implementation of the BIP was undertaken by staff of the Clinical Psychology Units and the Family and Child Protective Services Units within existing resources and there was no breakdown of funding specifically for this purpose.

Under this project, a total of 33 groups of 267 batterers took part in the BIP.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)085

Question Serial No.

0798

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Would the Administration please inform this Committee the details of the anti-domestic violence publicity programme and the financial resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has since 2002 launched a series of territory-wide publicity and district-based programmes on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence” to enhance public awareness of the need to strengthen families and prevent domestic violence.

In 2008-09, recurrent funding of \$5 million is allocated to strengthen the publicity efforts of this campaign, which aims at encouraging families to seek early assistance and promoting the concept of neighbourhood watch.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Would the Administration please inform this Committee the details of the pilot Child Fatality Review Mechanism and the expenditure required?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : A two-year Pilot Project on Child Fatality Review has been launched by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) since February 2008. The review will cover cases of children who died of non-natural causes since 2006. The objective of the review is to examine child death cases with a view to coming up with suggestions for improving the current child protection and child welfare services to prevent future cases. Through identifying the pattern and trends of, and examining the practice and service issues pertaining to, the child death cases, it is hoped that reference can be drawn from the pilot project for improving related services and systems and enhancing multi-disciplinary collaboration.

The project is implemented through internal deployment of resources within SWD.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Do the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Social Welfare Department have any plan to review the components of the price index under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme. If yes, when will the review be conducted? If no, why not?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : The Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) is specially compiled by the Census and Statistics Department on a monthly basis to measure inflation/deflation experienced by CSSA households in their expenditure patterns. It consists of the same items as the Consumer Price Index, except for items that are covered by special grants under the CSSA Scheme (for example, rent) or provided free by the Government (for example, medical treatment at public hospitals or clinics in Hong Kong). The movement of the Index is used as a reference for making adjustments to CSSA standard payment rates to take account of price changes. As this arrangement has been working effectively over the years, we have no plan to review it.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)088

Question Serial No.

0815

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide information on the median duration of stay on the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) by nature of case in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The median duration of stay on CSSA in years by nature of cases as at the end of 2005, 2006 and 2007 are set out below:

Nature of case	Dec 2005	Dec 2006	Dec 2007
Old Age	6.8	7.0	7.2
Permanent Disability	6.6	6.7	7.3
Ill Health	4.2	4.6	5.1
Single Parent	3.9	4.5	5.1
Low Earnings	3.4	4.2	5.0
Unemployment	2.9	3.6	4.2
Others	2.3	2.3	2.5
Overall	4.9	5.3	5.9

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the year of residence of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients, please provide information on the number of recipients who have resided in Hong Kong for seven years or less than seven years, specifying the length of residence, in 2005-06 and 2006-07 and the expenditure on CSSA involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Statistics on the number of CSSA recipients who have resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years are as follows:

Length of residence in Hong Kong	As at March 2006	As at March 2007
< 1 year	1 945	1 664
1 - < 2 years	2 362	3 055
2 - < 3 years	5 549	2 826
3 - < 4 years	8 778	5 854
4 - < 5 years	10 113	8 852
5 - < 6 years	14 363	10 048
6 - < 7 years	13 149	13 893
Total	56 259	46 192

The CSSA expenditure involved in 2005-06 and 2006-07 were \$1.8 billion and \$1.5 billion respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the trial employment assistance projects, including the “District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects”, the “Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP)”, the “Enhanced Community Work Project” and the “Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs)”, would the Administration inform the progress and implementation details of these projects in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department has commissioned non-governmental organisations to continue to operate employment assistance projects for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance able-bodied unemployed recipients.

- (1) Three DEAT Projects have been launched in Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, Tung Chung and Tin Shui Wai districts since October 2006. Up to end-January 2008, there were a total of 357 participants. Amongst them, 120 participants secured full-time paid employment.
- (2) Four My STEP Projects have been launched in Tin Shui Wai/Yuen Long, Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan/ Kwai Tsing, Tai Po/ North and Shatin, Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung districts since October 2007. Up to end-January 2008, there were a total of 317 participants. Amongst them, 32 participants secured full-time paid employment.
- (3) The Extended Community Work Experience and Training Programme has been launched since April 2007 in Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong districts. Up to end-January 2008, there were a total of 434 participants. Amongst them, 20 participants secured full-time paid employment.

- (4) Four batches of 145 IEAPs have been launched since October 2003. The 4th batch of 40 IEAPs has been in operation since October 2006. From October 2003 to end-January 2008, there were altogether 52 048 participants. Amongst them, 24 157 secured full-time paid employment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : (1) Please provide a breakdown of the number of “unemployment” cases and the number of recipients transferred from other Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) case categories in December 2006 and December 2007 respectively.

(2) Please provide a breakdown of the number of “low-earnings” cases and the number of recipients transferred from other CSSA case categories in December 2006 and December 2007 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) Among the 32 893 unemployment cases involving 62 284 recipients as at end-December 2007, 3 770 cases were originally classified under other categories as at end-December 2006. Details are set out below:

Nature of case as at end-December 2006	Number of cases changed to unemployment category as at end-December 2007	Number of recipients
Old Age	378	913
Permanent Disability	202	311
Ill Health	1 080	1 780
Single Parent	890	2 048
Low Earnings	946	3 086
Others	274	546
Total	3 770	8 684

(2) Among the 17 221 low earnings cases involving 60 071 recipients as at end-December 2007, 3 358 cases were originally classified under other categories as at end-December 2006. Details are set out below:

Nature of case as at end-December 2006	Number of cases changed to low earnings category as at end-December 2007	Number of recipients
Old Age	436	1 450
Permanent Disability	76	256
Ill Health	226	776
Single Parent	449	1 306
Unemployment	2 072	7 018
Others	99	327
Total	3 358	11 133

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)092

Question Serial No.

0819

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : A number of cases concerning mental patients committed suicide or murder were reported in 2007-08, including the tragedies happened at Pok Hong Estate and Tin Shui Wai. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) what were the enrolment rates of halfway houses and long stay care homes during the period 2003-2007?
- (b) Did the patients need to wait for the services during the period 2003-2007? If yes, how long did they have to wait?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (a) The enrolment rates of halfway houses and long stay care homes from 2003-04 to 2006-07 are as follows:

Year	Enrolment rate	
	Halfway House	Long Stay Care Home
2003-04	100%	99%
2004-05	97%	99.5%
2005-06	99%	99.4%*
2006-07	99%	99.5%*

* Owing to phased admission of cases in the new Tuen Mun Rehabilitation Complex in 2005-06 and 2006-07, the enrolment rate of the centre is not included.

- (b) The average waiting time for halfway houses and long stay care homes from 2003-04 to 2006-07 are given below:

Year	Average waiting time (year)	
	Halfway House	Long Stay Care Home
2003-04	0.45	7.73
2004-05	0.50	6.33
2005-06	0.53	6.05
2006-07	0.42	4.29

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)093

Question Serial No.

0746

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In order to improve the rebus services, the Administration plans to make provision of \$20 million in 2008-09 for the procurement of eight new rebus and the replacement of 24 old ones.

(a) Please provide figures of the following items for the last five years in table form:

- (i) the number of rebus;
- (ii) the number of persons benefited from the rebus services;
- (iii) the number of persons who required the services; and
- (iv) the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients among those who required the services.

(b) How many people will be benefited from the services upon the Administration's procurement of eight new rebus?

(c) The number of persons with disabilities (PWDs) waiting for rebus scheduled route services increased from 53 in 2006 to 62 in 2007, but the Administration estimates that the figure will decrease to 42 in 2008. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

(a) The numbers of rebus^{Note} and passenger trips in the past five years are as follows:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
(i) Number of rebus	78	78	78	86	86
(ii) Number of passenger trips	450 000	547 000	549 818	585 172	615 468

Note Exclude vehicles held in a reserve pool for replacing rebus undergoing regular checks and maintenance

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)093

Question Serial No.

0746

With the availability of more accessible public transport services and facilities, PWDs at present have more choices on the mode of transport to travel around the territory than before. Given the changing circumstances, it is difficult to ascertain the number of PWDs who require the rebus service. We do not have figures of CSSA recipients who require the rebus service.

- (b) Six of the eight additional rebuses will be allocated to scheduled route (SR) services. As each rebus carries about ten passengers, the total number of additional passengers that can be carried per day will be about 60. Assuming the demand for SR services remains at the present level, the six additional rebuses will be able to fully accommodate the service demand of PWDs on the current waiting list. The other two rebuses will be deployed to provide the dial-a-ride (DAR) services. Assuming that the demand for DAR services remains at the current level, we estimate that the two additional rebuses can help reduce the number of declined orders by about 20%.
- (c) Two rebuses have been added to operate the scheduled route services in early 2008. As each rebus carries about ten passengers, the number of persons on the waiting list will therefore be reduced from 62 in 2007 to 42 in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

The provision estimated for 2008-09 is \$7.5 million higher than the Revised Estimate for the previous year. The increase is mainly due to the creation of one position of Under Secretary, one position of Political Assistant and other posts. In this connection, will the Administration provide an update on the progress of recruitment for these positions and when the appointees are expected to take office, and inform this Committee whether a delay in the taking of office will result in an over-assessment of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

On 14 December 2007, the Legislative Council Finance Committee approved the creation of one Under Secretary and one Political Assistant positions under Head 141 with effect from 1 April 2008. The funding allocated to each bureau should be sufficient to meet the needs arising from the establishment of the additional political positions.

The recruitment exercise is in progress. We must ensure that the new positions will be filled by individuals of the right calibre. If necessary, these positions will be filled in phases.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the median monthly incomes of the unemployed and low-earnings Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients benefited from disregarded earnings in 2006-07 and 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The median monthly incomes of the unemployed and low-earnings CSSA recipients, who have benefited from disregarded earnings under the CSSA Scheme, as at end-February 2007 and end-February 2008, are as follows:

Month/Year	Median monthly incomes of CSSA recipients who benefit from disregarded earnings under the CSSA Scheme	
	Unemployed CSSA recipients	Low-earnings CSSA recipients
as at end-February 2007	900	4,750
as at end-February 2008	900	4,800

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the “District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Projects” launched by the Administration in 2007-08, please provide information on:

- (a) the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who have joined the projects;
- (b) the distribution of their age and sex;
- (c) the number of recipients who have secured full-time and part-time employment respectively, the category of employment secured by them and their median wages;
- (d) the number of recipients who have left the CSSA net; and
- (e) the average amount of payment deducted per month.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Three DEAT Projects have been launched since October 2006 :

- (a) Up to the end-January 2008, there were a total of 357 participants.
- (b) Out of the 357 participants, 275 are male and 82 are female. Distribution of the participants by age group is as follows :

Age group	Number of participants
Below 30	20
30 — 39	50
40 — 49	197
50 — 59	90
Total :	357

- (c) 120 participants have secured full-time paid employment. They mainly work as service workers and in elementary occupations. The median monthly wage is \$5,300.
- (d) Up to the end-January 2008, a total of 24 participants left the CSSA net as a result of taking up paid employment.
- (e) We have no separate record on the number of sanction in respect of participants of the DEAT.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the “Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs)” launched by the Administration in 2007-08, please provide information on:

- (a) the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who have joined the projects;
- (b) the distribution of their age and sex;
- (c) the number of recipients who have secured full-time and part-time employment respectively, the category of employment secured by them and their median wages;
- (d) the number of recipients who have left the CSSA net; and
- (e) the average amount of payment deducted per month.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has launched 145 IEAPs by four batches since October 2003:

- (a) Up to the end-January 2008, a total of 40 378 CSSA able-bodied unemployed recipients joined the IEAPs.
- (b) Out of the 40 378 CSSA participants, 26 760 are male and 13 618 are female. Distribution of the participants by age group is as follows :

Age group	Number of participants
Below 30	7 390
30 — 39	5 849
40 — 49	14 077
50 — 59	13 062
Total :	40 378

- (c) Out of the 40 378 CSSA participants, 17 917 participants have secured full-time paid employment. They mainly work as service workers, cleaners and in elementary occupations. The median monthly wage is \$5,000.
- (d) Up to the end of January 2008, 5 262 participants left the CSSA net as a result of taking up paid employment.
- (e) We have no separate record on the number of sanction in respect of the IEAPs participants.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the “Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme” launched by the Administration in 2007-08, please provide information on:

- (a) the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who have joined the scheme;
- (b) the distribution of their age and sex;
- (c) the number of recipients who have secured full-time and part-time employment respectively, the category of employment secured by them and their median wages;
- (d) the number of recipients who have left the CSSA net; and
- (e) the average amount of payment deducted per month.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Relevant information on the SFS Scheme in 2007-08 is as follows:

- (a) As at end-January 2008, there were 32 045 participants in the SFS Scheme.
- (b) Out of the 32 045 participants, 20 509 were male and 11 536 were female. Distribution of the participants by age group is as follows :

Age group	Number of participants
15 — 19	1 695
20 — 29	2 483
30 — 39	3 958
40 — 49	9 431
50 — 59	14 478
Total :	32 045

- (c) From 1 April 2007 to end-January 2008, a total of 8 543 SFS participants successfully secured full-time paid employment. They mainly worked as service workers, shop assistants and in elementary occupations. Statistics on SFS participants' median wages are not available. From 1 April 2007 to end-January 2008, 16 474 jobs were secured by the SFS participants, including 12 030 jobs with monthly salary of \$1,450 or above and the remaining 4 444 jobs with monthly salary below \$1,450.
- (d) Out of the 8 543 SFS participants who secured full-time paid employment, 1 400 participants left the CSSA net.
- (e) We have no record on the average amount of payment deducted per month.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the “New Dawn (ND) Project” launched by the Administration in 2006-07 and 2007-08, please provide information on:

- (a) the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who have joined the projects;
- (b) the distribution of their age and sex;
- (c) the number of recipients who have secured full-time and part-time employment respectively, the category of employment secured by them and their median wages;
- (d) the number of recipients who have left the CSSA net; and
- (e) the average amount of payment deducted per month.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The ND Project was in operation from April 2006 to September 2007:

- (a) There were a total of 9 131 participants.
- (b) Of the 9 131 participants, 7 848 were female and 1 283 were male. Most of the participants were aged between 40 and 49. Distribution of the participants by age group is as follows :

Age group	Number of participants
Below 30	34
30 — 39	1 923
40 — 49	5 584
50 — 59	1 590
Total :	9 131

- (c) Of the 9 131 participants, 1 297 participants secured full-time paid employment and 2 005 secured part-time paid employment. They mainly worked as service workers, shop assistants, cleaners, domestic helpers and in other elementary occupations. The median monthly wage for full-time employment and part-time employment was \$4,300 and \$1,500 respectively.
- (d) A total of 504 participants left the CSSA net as a result of taking up paid employment.
- (e) During the project period, 5 480 sanctions were administered with a deduction of \$200 from their monthly CSSA payment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the subsidies for pre-primary education, would the Government please inform this Committee of the total amount of the grant to cover school fees (the grant) for pre-primary education paid to children from families on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), the number of children benefited and the average amount of the grant paid to each child in the 2006/07 and 2007/08 school years?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : Statistics on the number of CSSA recipients attending child care centre or kindergarten and receiving the grant are as follows:

School year*	Number of CSSA recipients attending child care centre or kindergarten and receiving the grant	Average amount of the grant per child per month	Total amount of the grant paid
2006/07	14 203	\$1,189	\$159 million
2007/08 (up to February 2008)	12 700	\$1,349	\$84 million

Note: * Refer to August of a year to July of the following year

Children on CSSA attending kindergartens may apply for fee subsidy through the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

In 2008-09, on which area of social welfare will the Social Welfare Advisory Committee conduct long-term development planning study? Will the study report be published in the same year? How will the Committee plan the development? Will there be any specific target groups? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The Administration has undertaken to study the long-term development planning for social welfare in Hong Kong through the Social Welfare Advisory Committee (the Committee). The study will be conducted on a macro and strategic level instead of focusing on a particular service area. The Committee is about to firm up its consultation plan. As regards the time-table for the completion of the review, it is to be worked out later in the light of feedback received. The expenditure involved in the exercise will be absorbed within the existing resources of the Labour and Welfare Bureau.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Administration plans to strengthen day foster care services by promoting different forms of child care services. Please elaborate what is meant by “different forms” of services.

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : The proposed funding of \$45 million over the next three years is for piloting more flexible forms of day child care services at the neighbourhood level that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of the parents; and for strengthening day foster care service.

The pilot child care projects will target children aged under six and will comprise two components: centre-based care group and home-based child care service. As a start, the projects will be implemented in phases in districts where the demand for flexible child care services is more pressing. Local charitable organisations, including non-governmental organisations, women’s groups, religious bodies, etc., will be invited to participate in the pilot projects.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Which areas of direct support to victims of domestic violence and vulnerable families will be strengthened? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : In 2008-09, additional recurrent funding of \$40 million will be provided to strengthen support to victims of domestic violence and families in need. The estimated breakdown of allocation for these support services is as follows :

- (a) \$5.3 million for enhancing the hotline service of the Social Welfare Department (SWD);
- (b) \$5 million for increasing the capacity of and enhancing support for Refuge Centres for Women;
- (c) \$7.8 million for increasing the capacity of residential homes for children;
- (d) \$5 million for sustaining and strengthening the effort of the publicity campaign on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence”;
- (e) \$2 million for enhancing the training of relevant front-line professionals in handling domestic violence and families in need;
- (f) \$11.7 million for enhancing the training of childcare staff;
- (g) \$2.1 million for increasing social work manpower for Family and Child Protective Services Units of SWD; and
- (h) \$0.9 million for providing an anti-violence programme for batterers of domestic violence upon enactment of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

How much resources will be allocated by the Administration to support the Task Force on Poverty?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The Task Force on Poverty is supported by the Poverty Team under the Labour and Welfare Bureau. The provision in the 2008-09 Draft Estimate for the Poverty Team is \$3.05 million, which covers the cost for five officers comprising two Administrative Officers, one Executive Officer and two secretarial and clerical support staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : How will the Administration help the able-bodied Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients become self-reliant? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : Under the CSSA Scheme, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been implementing the Support for Self-reliance (SFS) Scheme since June 1999 to assist the able-bodied unemployed CSSA recipients to secure full-time paid employment and move towards self-reliance. Employment assistance services provided by SWD to able-bodied CSSA recipients include job matching, post-placement support, and arranging community work to help developing work habit, enhancing self-esteem and widening their social network. The provision of Disregarded Earnings under the CSSA Scheme also aims to provide more incentive for able-bodied recipients to rejoin the workforce. The revised estimate for the SFS Scheme in 2007-08 is \$58.4 million.

SWD has also commissioned non-governmental organisations to operate a series of employment assistance projects including :-

- (1) 145 Intensive Employment Assistance Projects for CSSA able-bodied unemployed recipients and 'near-CSSA' unemployed persons;
- (2) three District Employment Assistance Trial (i.e. DEAT) Projects for the 'hard-to-assist' and long-term CSSA able-bodied unemployed recipients;
- (3) six projects under the Special Training and Enhancement Programme (i.e. My STEP) which include structured motivational/disciplinary training element for long-term CSSA able-bodied unemployed youth aged 15 to 29;

- (4) the Extended Community Work Experience and Training Programme which covers the provision of targeted job skills training in addition to community work placement for long-term CSSA able-bodied unemployed recipients;
- (5) the New Dawn (ND) Project and the Enhanced ND Project for CSSA single parents and child carers with their youngest child aged 12 to 14.

The estimated total expenditure for all the above employment assistance projects to be implemented from October 2003 to March 2010 is \$350.4 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Has the Administration drawn up any plans to carry out and strengthen public education on the prevention and handling of domestic violence? What are the goals and target recipients? Will the Administration consider other means of promotion apart from Television Announcement of Public Interest and posters? Does the Administration have any specific means of promotion?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has since 2002 launched a series of territory-wide publicity and district-based programmes on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence” to enhance public awareness of the need to strengthen families and prevent domestic violence.

In 2008-09, additional recurrent funding of \$5 million is allocated to sustain and strengthen the publicity efforts of this campaign, with the focus on encouraging families to seek early assistance and promoting the concept of neighbourhood watch. Apart from launching Television and Radio Announcement in the Public Interest, SWD will also make use of various mass media channels and transportation networks to publicise its messages. Territory-wide and district-based public education initiatives and activities will also be organised.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

With which local women's groups and service agencies will the Administration hold meetings and exchanges in 2008-09? Will their inputs be adopted? Also, which relevant international fora will the Administration participate in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

To enhance mutual understanding and build up a closer partnership, the Administration, in conjunction with the Women's Commission (WoC), conducts district visits and meets with women's groups and service agencies to discuss issues of common concern on a regular basis. Views and suggestions collected will be carefully considered and reflected to concerned bureaux and departments for consideration where appropriate. In 2007-08, visits were made to Sai Kung and Wan Chai and meetings were held with the respective District Councillors, representatives of district women's groups and service organisations. Exchange sessions with representatives of nearly 40 local women's groups and related organisations were also held to exchange views on a variety of topics of interest, including the status of women in Hong Kong, gender mainstreaming, women in poverty, empowerment of women leaders, women's health, review of the Domestic Violence Ordinance and the work of WoC. In 2008-09, we will continue to arrange such meetings and exchange sessions.

The Administration, in conjunction with WoC, also participates in regional and international conferences, including the annual session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Women Leaders' Network meeting and the East Asian Women's Forum. In 2008-09, we will take part in the annual session of the UNCSW.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

What sort of new services will be promoted by the Administration in 2008-09? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

To empower women and enable them to participate more fully in the community, the Women's Commission (WoC) keeps under review, in the light of women's needs, services delivered within and outside the Administration. Over the past years, key services reviewed included health services, public housing, information technology training, employment services and job-related training, adult and continuous education, welfare and family services, services for victims of domestic and sexual violence and violence prevention programme, services for disabled and minority women, and leisure services. Advice was also given to the Administration on possible improvements to better cater for women's specific circumstances and needs. In 2008-09, areas which WoC plans to discuss with concerned bureaux and departments include further enhancement of women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies, health services for women, and the proposed health care financing scheme.

Resources required for carrying out the improvement measures arising from the reviews will be absorbed within the existing provisions of the concerned bureaux and departments.

Signature

Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Post Title

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

Date

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

How will the Administration enhance women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies? What are the Administration's strategies to boost incentives for women to participate in the above bodies? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The Administration has set a gender benchmark of 25% as an initial working target for appointment to advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs). A proactive approach has been taken to achieve the target, including –

- (a) increasing the number of female candidates in the Central Personality Index managed by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB);
- (b) requiring all submissions making recommendations for appointments to ASBs to include a paragraph on gender consideration; and
- (c) encouraging bureaux and departments to reach out, identify and cultivate women who are able and willing to contribute to the work of ASBs.

According to the information provided by HAB, women's participation in ASBs reached the target of 25% in December 2005, against the level of 20.3% in December 2002. As at end-December 2007, 26.5% of the appointed members were women.

To further encourage women's participation in public affairs, we supported the Women's Commission (WoC) to organise a talk on "Women in Leadership" on 8 March 2008 with four outstanding women leaders sharing their experiences with some 200 participants. In the coming year, we will work with WoC and other women's organisations in promoting training for women leaders and encouraging more women to participate in ASBs.

Resources required for carrying out the above measures are absorbed within the existing provisions of concerned bureaux and departments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding the public education and publicity programmes, what strategies does the Administration have to enhance public awareness of gender-related issues? How much resources will be allocated by the Administration for the publicity programmes?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

Over the past years, the Administration and the Women's Commission (WoC) have worked together to organise a number of public education and publicity programmes to reduce gender prejudice and stereotype and to raise public awareness of women-related issues. These included organising open forums and seminars, producing three TV drama series "Women with Dreams" on capacity building and empowerment of women, producing Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio and posters, as well as organising essay competitions, an Orientation Camp Game Design Contest, and celebration events for the International Women's Day on 8 March every year. In 2007-08, in connection with the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, we organised a series of activities, collectively named "Colourful Lives of Women", to recognise the contribution of all sectors, in particular the women's groups, in empowering women. These included the production of a series of short TV programmes to introduce the achievements and contributions of local women's groups and non-governmental organisations in helping women to build up self-confidence and independence. In addition, a large-scale exhibition on "Women of Hong Kong – A Century of Contribution and Development" was organised from 30 November to 3 December 2007 to showcase the development of women in the areas of work, family, education and social participation in the past century and to pay tribute to women's contribution to the society.

In 2008-09, the Administration and WoC will continue to work together to organise more public education and publicity programmes to reduce gender prejudice and stereotype. About \$2.5 million has been earmarked for this purpose.

Signature
Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

Post Title
Date

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Please advise what initiatives were taken by the Women's Commission in 2007-08 to promote the interests and well-being of women? What were the resources involved? What kinds of support does the Women's Commission intend to provide to the women in need in 2008-09? How to empower the women? What are the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

In 2007-08, the Administration has continued to work closely with the Women's Commission (WoC) to promote the well-being and interests of women through the three-pronged strategy, viz. the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women and public education. The revised financial provision under this programme area in 2007-08 is \$18.9 million. For 2008-09, an amount of \$21.5 million has been earmarked for this programme area.

On the provision of an enabling environment, WoC has advised and assisted the Administration in implementing gender mainstreaming and applying the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist to 28 policy or programme areas to date, including the four new areas, viz. qualification framework, retraining programmes, prevention of HIV/AIDS and provision of cultural and leisure facilities applicable in 2007-08. For 2008-09, WoC has suggested that the Administration should apply the Checklist to another four new areas, viz. pre-primary education, health programme for women, provision of sports facilities and provision of market facilities.

WoC also keeps under review, in the light of women's needs, services delivered within and outside the Administration. In 2007-08, key services reviewed included services for victims of domestic and sexual violence and violence prevention programme, services for disabled and minority women, and leisure services. Advice was also given to the Administration on possible improvements to better cater for women's specific circumstances and needs. In 2008-09, areas which WoC plans to discuss with concerned bureaux and departments include further enhancement of women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies, health services for women, and the proposed health care financing scheme.

Another initiative of WoC in 2007-08 was to promote family-friendly employment policy and practices, including co-organisation of a large-scale seminar with the Labour Department and other stakeholders in June 2007 and issue of a promotional leaflet widely distributed to different sectors. In 2008-09, such efforts will continue.

On empowerment of women, the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP), launched since March 2004, is a key initiative of WoC. CBMP is a flexible learning programme implemented jointly with the Open University of Hong Kong, Commercial Radio and nearly 80 women’s groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), seeking to encourage life-long learning and a positive attitude and mindset of women. It is mainly delivered through radio broadcasting, supplemented by optional learning activities and face-to-face courses delivered by the NGOs. The courses cover subjects such as managing interpersonal relationships, finance management, health and other practical issues in daily life. Starting from 2007-08, the Administration has earmarked about \$10 million to support the continued operation of the CBMP for three years. In 2008-09, WoC will continue to oversee the operation of the CBMP and will work closely with the collaborators to further improve it.

To further encourage women’s participation in public affairs, we supported WoC to organise a talk on “Women in Leadership” on 8 March 2008 with four outstanding women leaders sharing their experiences with some 200 participants. In the coming year, we will work with WoC and other women’s organisations in promoting training for women leaders and encouraging more women to participate in advisory and statutory bodies.

On public education, WoC and the Administration have worked together to organise a number of public education and publicity programmes to reduce gender prejudice and stereotype and to raise public awareness of women-related issues. In 2007-08, we organised a series of activities, collectively named “Colourful Lives of Women”, to recognise the contribution of all sectors, in particular the women’s groups, in empowering women. These included the production of a series of short TV programmes to introduce the achievements and contributions of local women’s groups and NGOs in helping women to build up self-confidence and independence. In addition, a large-scale exhibition on “Women of Hong Kong – A Century of Contribution and Development” was organised from 30 November to 3 December 2007 to showcase the development of women in the areas of work, family, education and social participation in the past century and to pay tribute to women’s contribution to the society. In 2008-09, such efforts will continue.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

With regard to the study on the long-term development planning for social welfare in Hong Kong, would the Administration advise:

- a) the work details (including the progress, timetable and target completion date), the manpower and the expenditure involved in the project, and
- b) the measures to be taken to ensure the views of service users will be adopted.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Chief Executive has tasked the Social Welfare Advisory Committee (the Committee) to study the long-term development planning for social welfare in Hong Kong. The Committee is about to firm up its consultation plan. The completion date of the review will have to be worked out later in the light of the response received. The manpower and the expenditure involved in the exercise will be absorbed within the existing resources of the Labour and Welfare Bureau.

Signature
Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Post Title

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

Date

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding the study on the long-term planning for subsidised welfare services for the elderly, would the Administration inform this Committee of :

- (a) the operational details (including the progress, timetable and target completion date) and the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- (b) the measures that would be put in place to ensure that views of the service recipients are also taken heed of?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The Administration has been working closely with the Elderly Commission (EC) on the long-term planning for subsidised welfare services for the elderly. Arising from the recommendations of the former Commission on Poverty (CoP) regarding the waitlisting situation of subsidised residential care services, EC has looked into the key issues involved and decided to conduct a further study on the subject to explore the following aspects –
 - (i) how to target subsidised residential care services at elders most in need; and
 - (ii) how to promote further development of quality self-financing/private residential care services and encourage shared responsibilities among individuals, their families and the society in meeting the long-term care needs of the elderly.

In conducting the above-mentioned study, EC will also take into account CoP's recommendations and the Administration's overall objective of encouraging "ageing in the community". Details of the arrangements, including time-table, resource implications, consultation strategy, for the study are being worked out.

(b) We expect that the EC will seek the views of various stakeholders as appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding the Child Development Fund, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (a) the operational details (including the progress, timetable, target launch date and effectiveness of poverty alleviation) and the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- (b) whether consideration would be given to increasing the number of places, reducing the geographical coverage, lowering or waiving the contributions from poor families, increasing the matching contributions and financial incentives provided by the Administration or external bodies, clarifying the workload and responsibilities of non-governmental organisations, and establishing a centralised mechanism by the Administration to seek sponsorship and handle matters related to the opening of accounts?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Administration has earmarked \$300 million for the establishment of the Child Development Fund (CDF), which is a recommendation of the former Commission on Poverty.

With the support of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services (Welfare Services Panel), the Administration plans to submit the CDF proposal to the Finance Committee (FC) for consideration at its meeting in April 2008. Subject to FC's approval in April, the first batch of pioneer projects is expected to be launched in the second half of 2008.

The CDF will be overseen by the Poverty Team under the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The provision in the 2008-09 Draft Estimate for the Poverty Team is \$3.05 million, which covers the cost for five officers comprising two Administrative Officers, one Executive Officer and two secretarial and clerical support staff.

As discussed with the Welfare Services Panel, the Administration has injected flexibility into the savings target of \$200 per month for the participating children. To address special needs or individual circumstances, the participating children and their families, together with the operating NGOs, can agree to set a lower savings target. Apart from the \$3,000 special financial incentive to be provided by the Government for each of the participating children upon completion of their two-year savings programme and the matching contribution from the private sector, the Administration will also set aside \$15,000 under the pioneer projects to provide training/programmes for each participating child. On the number of participants, the seven pioneer projects represent only the first batch of pioneer projects under the CDF. In the light of experience, subsequent batches will be rolled out.

The operating NGOs are expected to be responsible for the operation of the pioneer projects, including the identification and recruitment/solicitation of participating children, suitable mentors and matching contributions; the provision of training and guidance to participating children to help them achieve the targets as set out in their personal development plans; the provision of training and guidance to the parents/guardians to engage them in the life planning and financial planning for the children; the provision of training and guidance to the mentors; monitoring the implementation of the savings programmes and the short-term development targets of the children; and the organization of regular sharing sessions for participating children, their parents/guardians, mentors and donors etc.

A Steering Committee, comprising largely unofficial members, will be set up under LWB to give policy steer to the design as well as oversee and monitor the implementation of the CDF. The practical experience in implementation of the first batch of pioneer projects will be taken into account in considering whether modifications/improvements to the design or arrangements are required for subsequent batches to be launched. The implementation of the CDF will be closely monitored and evaluated throughout the process. The results of the evaluation will be taken into account in considering the long-term model. On sponsorship by the private sector, the Administration will actively promote the CDF to the private sector to encourage their participation and sponsorship. The Steering Committee will provide a platform for overseeing the sponsorship and the matching between the operating NGOs and interested sponsors.

Signature	Paul TANG
Name in block letters	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Post Title	25 March 2008
Date	

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : With regard to the Task Force on Poverty, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the details of the poverty alleviation work (including the progress, schedule, organisation structure and effectiveness), the manpower and the expenditure involved?
- (b) When and how will the indicators of poverty for 2008 be published? Will the Administration consider setting time-limited objectives for poverty alleviation so as to enhance the effectiveness of the work?
- (c) Will the Administration consider reinstating the Commission on Poverty or inviting people from different sectors of the community to join the Task Force in order to enhance its recognition?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The former Commission on Poverty (CoP) has examined the poverty situation in Hong Kong and submitted a report to the Administration on the direction for future poverty alleviation work. With the conclusion of the work of the CoP, the Chief Executive announced the establishment of an inter-bureau/departmental Task Force on Poverty (Task Force), which is headed by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare with senior officials from relevant bureaux/departments as members. The Task Force, through the efforts of different bureaux/departments, will maintain liaison with the relevant stakeholders.

In 2008-09, the Task Force will concentrate on the following areas: monitor the progress in implementing the recommendations of the CoP; co-ordinate Government's efforts in tackling poverty related issues which have cross-policy implications; and enhance the understanding of poverty.

The Task Force is supported by the Poverty Team under the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The provision in the 2008-09 draft estimate for the Poverty Team is \$3.05 million, which covers the cost for five officers comprising two Administrative Officers, one Executive Officer and two secretarial and clerical support staff.

The updated poverty indicators for the year 2007 are expected to be available by mid-2008 and will be uploaded onto the website of LWB.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, please inform this Committee:

- (a) the number of applications received, the number of projects and the amount of provisions approved so far, and the proportion of rejected applications (with reasons);
- (b) the number of applications submitted by social enterprises, the number of social enterprises' projects and the amount of provisions approved so far, the districts involved and the ways in which the Administration supports the development of these social enterprises.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) As at February 2008, the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) has received a total of 980 project applications with 176 projects approved involving a total commitment of \$161.23 million. The rate of acceptance varies from 6.5% for the first batch of applications processed in October 2002 to 59% for the twelfth batch processed in February 2008. The reasons for non-acceptance of the applications include:
 - (i) non-eligibility of the project applicants (projects that are submitted by individuals or government departments and/or entirely for profit are not eligible);
 - (ii) lack of valid and proper documents to verify the bona fide status of the organisations;
 - (iii) duplication with existing subvented services;
 - (iv) the aims and objectives of the proposals do not contribute to the development of social capital;

- (v) there are major questions regarding the technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the proposals;
- (vi) poor track record of the applicant; and
- (vii) lacking in sustainability planning.

In most cases, the CIIF Committee will offer advice to the applicants and invite them to improve and resubmit the proposals. In some cases, the applicants declined the invitation to resubmit.

- (b) The policy of the development of social enterprises rests with the Home Affairs Bureau, and the “Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme” (ESR) administered by the Home Affairs Department provides funds to support eligible social enterprise projects.

The CIIF promotes the development of social capital, which can manifest itself in different forms, including but not limited to social enterprises. Accordingly, projects supported by the CIIF have wider objectives such as changing the mindset of the public, building up the capacity and raising the motivation of the participants, extending their connections through cross-strata networks, and creating new social and economic participation opportunities for participants through tripartite partnerships. A number of CIIF-funded projects have helped the participants to enhance their social and economic participation and achieve employment outcomes, which is quite similar to some social enterprise projects.

Currently, there are about 20 co-operatives of various scales established through the CIIF-funded projects in various districts, particularly those with greater needs (e.g. Tung Chung, Kwun Tong and Tin Shui Wai).

Signature	Paul TANG
Name in block letters	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Post Title	25 March 2008
Date	

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, the Bureau will continue to strengthen multi-disciplinary community mental health support services, and to raise general awareness and promote early intervention of mental health problems. Please provide details on the specific services provided from the relevant resources to be allocated. Will the Administration allocate extra funding to strengthen its under-age mental health education? If yes, please provide details.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : It is the Government's policy objective to provide those in need with comprehensive mental health services. Over the years, the Government has launched a series of initiatives adopting a multi-disciplinary approach to enhance our community mental health services. They include the Community Mental Health Link, Community Mental Health Care Service for Ex-Mentally Ill Persons, Early Assessment Service for Young People with Psychosis, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Community Support Project, Community Mental Health Intervention Project, etc. These programmes involve close collaboration of medical practitioners, social workers, occupational therapists, clinical psychologists and teachers, etc. to provide holistic treatment, care and support to persons facing mental health problems.

In 2008-09, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will allocate \$3.5 million for setting up a new Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) in Tin Shui Wai to provide one-stop community support and social rehabilitation services for discharged mental patients and persons with suspected mental illness, as well as their families / carers in the community. Apart from providing centre-based training and supportive group work services, the ICCMW will reach out to persons with suspected mental health problems in the community and provide them with suitable counselling and support services.

As regards mental health education, the Government is committed to promoting mental health amongst members of the public, including the under-aged. The Hospital Authority is promoting mental health through its psychiatric services. Special educational efforts targeting the under-aged have been made through its children and adolescent health services and projects like the Early Assessment Service for Young People with Psychosis. The Department of Health has also included mental health in its overall public health education programme. In parallel, the SWD seeks to bring out messages on mental health in its rehabilitation programme and publicity activities. Through the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Community Support Project jointly implemented by the SWD and the Hospital Authority, schools and community youth centres are involved to promote mental health to youngsters and their parents. Relevant departments will continue to promote mental health through their on-going and new initiatives. As mental health education and promotion is part and parcel of the Government's health education and rehabilitation programmes, we do not have a breakdown of the resources specifically used in this regard.

In addition, the Labour and Welfare Bureau, in collaboration with more than 20 government departments and non-governmental organisations, has since 1995 been organising annually the "Mental Health Month", when territory-wide and district-based publicity campaigns are launched to enhance the awareness of the general public on mental health. In recent years, the project has been targeting children, youths and families, and its programmes have included television and radio campaigns, docudrama, adventure-based camp for teenagers, etc. In 2008-09, the Government has earmarked about \$0.5 million for this project.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)118

Question Serial No.

1248

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Transport Department will replace 24 rehabuses and procure eight additional rehabuses in 2008-09. Upon the commencement of operation of the eight additional rehabuses,

- (a) what will be the increased number of rebus scheduled routes? What will be the associated expenditure?
- (b) what will be the increased number of passenger trips? Will it be sufficient to satisfy the demand of all persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Hong Kong?
- (c) why is the estimated number of persons with disabilities waiting for scheduled route services dropping to 42 in 2008?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) Six of the eight additional rehabuses will be used to provide services for six new scheduled routes at an estimated capital expenditure of \$4.14 million. Rebus operation is a mixed mode comprising schedule route service and dial-a-ride service. As such, there is no apportioned operating cost for each of the service types. For estimate purpose, a sum of about \$0.3 million is budgeted as annual operating cost for each of the vehicle on the rebus fleet.
- (b) As each rebus carries about ten passengers, the six new buses will be able to serve 60 additional passengers on scheduled route (SR) services daily. Assuming the demand for SR services remains at the present level, the six additional rehabuses will be able to fully accommodate the service demand of PWDs on the current waiting list. The remaining two rehabuses will be deployed to provide dial-a-ride (DAR) services. Assuming that the demand for DAR services remains at the current level, we estimate that the two new rehabuses can help reduce the number of declined orders by about 20%.

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)118

Question Serial No.

1248

With the availability of more accessible public transport services and facilities, PWDs at present have more choices on the mode of transport to travel around the territory than before. Given the changing circumstances, it is difficult to estimate the prospective demand for rebus services. The Transport Department will continue to review annually the fleet size of rebus having regard to the service demand.

- (c) Two rebus, each carrying ten passengers, have been added to the fleet in early 2008. As a result, the number of persons on the waiting list has been reduced from 62 in 2007 to 42 in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What specific measures does the Bureau have to intensify direct support for victims of domestic violence and vulnerable families? Please give details of the measures and state which of them are new initiatives, the manpower and cost involved as well as the implementation timetable.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided through Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs), Clinical Psychology Units, Family Support Networking Teams, Refuge Centres for Women, Family Crisis Support Centre, Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre, residential care placements for children and child care centres, etc.

In 2008-09, additional recurrent funding of \$40 million will be provided to strengthen support to victims of domestic violence and families in need. The estimated breakdown of allocation for these support services is as follows :

- (a) \$5.3 million for enhancing the hotline service of SWD;
- (b) \$5 million for increasing the capacity of and enhancing support for Refuge Centres for Women;
- (c) \$7.8 million for increasing the capacity of residential homes for children;
- (d) \$5 million for sustaining and strengthening the effort of the publicity campaign on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence”;
- (e) \$2 million for enhancing the training of relevant front-line professionals in handling domestic violence and families in need;
- (f) \$11.7 million for enhancing the training of childcare staff;
- (g) \$2.1 million for increasing social work manpower for FCPSUs of SWD; and

- (h) \$0.9 million for providing an anti-violence programme for batterers of domestic violence upon enactment of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill.

SWD will work out the implementation details of the new initiatives in consultation with non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders concerned.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)120

Question Serial No.

1260

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : At the meeting of the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” held by the United Nations in 2006, the Government said that \$1,330 million had been allocated to tackling domestic violence. According to the 2008-09 Estimate, further funding of \$40 million will be provided in this respect, making the total provision \$1,370 million. In this connection, would the Government please provide:

- (1) a breakdown of the relevant expenditure for various departments; and
- (2) the expenditure for various districts.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided through Integrated Family Service Centres/Integrated Services Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units, Clinical Psychology Units, Family Support Networking Teams, refuge centres for women, Family Crisis Support Centre, Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre, residential care placements for children and child care centres, etc. In 2008-09, the total estimated provision for family and child welfare services is \$1,584.7 million. There is no breakdown of funding specifically for services in the area of domestic violence, or funding allocated to individual districts or units.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As regards the elders under the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme, is there any change in the estimated number of elders who will retire in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province respectively in 2008-09 when compared with that in 2007-08? What is the estimated Comprehensive Social Security Assistance expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The estimated number of PCSSA recipients residing in Guangdong and Fujian and the estimated total expenditure in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as follows :

	2007-08	2008-09
Estimated number of PCSSA recipients residing in Guangdong	3 175	3 245
Estimated number of PCSSA recipients residing in Fujian	150	195
Estimated total number of PCSSA recipients	3 325	3 440
Estimated total expenditure	\$103 million	\$107 million

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)122

Question Serial No.

1205

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : If the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme were extended to all provinces on the Mainland in 2008-09, what would be the estimated Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The PCSSA Scheme enables elderly CSSA recipients who have received CSSA for at least one year to continue to receive cash assistance if they choose to retire permanently in Guangdong or Fujian Province. As these two provinces already cover the places of origin of about 95% of the elderly CSSA recipients, we have no plan to further extend the Scheme to other provinces on the Mainland.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Social welfare agencies have long been suffering from a shortage of nurses. According to a survey conducted by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the overall shortage of nurses is expected to reach 1 184 in 2008-09. To meet the demands, the Government will continue with the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) what specific plan does the Government have to address the long-term shortage of nurses in the Welfare Sector?
- (2) of the number of applicants for each class of the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector, and the number of graduates who have become nurses?
- (3) whether the Government has any plan to increase the number of places of the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector? If yes, please give the details. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
- (1) To alleviate the problem of shortage of nurses in the Welfare Sector, the Social Welfare Department (SWD), in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, launched three batches of the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector (the Training Programme) in March 2006, November 2006 and December 2007 respectively. These three classes provided a total of 330 training places. Tuition fees are fully subsidised by SWD. The trainees will have to work in the Welfare Sector for at least two consecutive years after graduation.
 - (2) The numbers of applicants for the three batches of the training programme were 2 389, 1 897 and 2 542 respectively. As the first class of trainees will only graduate by mid-April 2008, it is premature to comment on their employment situations.

- (3) The Government has plans to launch two more batches of the Training Programme in the coming two years to provide an additional 220 enrolled nurses training places.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)124

Question Serial No.

1266

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : With regard to the workload and manpower involved in the supervision of community service orders, there is an increase of 16.5% in the number of supervision cases served in 2007-08 as compared with the original estimate by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). Why does SWD expect no increase in the number of supervision cases served in 2008-09? Why no additional manpower is provided for the service?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The number of convicted offenders put under Community Service Orders (CSO) is affected by a number of factors such as crime rate, number of people arrested by the police and the court's sentencing pattern, etc. Notwithstanding some fluctuations, the figures of CSO show a steady service trend in the past years as shown in the summary below -

Year	Cases Served
2004-05	2 671
2005-06	2 522
2006-07	2 567

The 2007-08 Estimate is only a projection of caseload having regard to the latest service statistics. We will, however, closely monitor the situation and deploy staff to cope with any sudden increase in caseload if necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)125

Question Serial No.

1267

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has considerably underestimated the growth of caseload in Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in 2006-07 and 2007-08, with an error rate doubling from 6.7% in 2006-07 to 12.7% in 2007-08. Instead of the originally expected 19.5% decrease in caseload as a result of manpower increase, the caseload of the workers remained unchanged. SWD estimates that the caseload of domestic violence will only be increased by 2% in 2008-09. Please state how the figure has been worked out.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The projected average number of supervision cases per worker in FCPSUs in 2008-09 is derived from the revised estimate of the supervision cases served in 2007-08 (based on the average growth rate of the new cases and closing rate of cases in the first six months in 2007-08), and the enhanced manpower that will be available later in the year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)126

Question Serial No.

1268

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will only increase five social workers for Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in 2008-09 and the caseload per social worker will be increased instead of decrease. How does SWD guarantee the service quality rendered to domestic violence cases?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In addition to strengthening manpower, SWD has introduced different measures to address the workload of FCPSU social workers over the past few years. These include deployment of non-social work staff to provide general support to social workers, improvement in multi-disciplinary collaboration with the Police and medical services, enhancement of support services like refuge centres for women and child care services, strengthening of training, supervisory and clinical support for front-line social workers. SWD will continue to keep in view the workload and manpower situation of the FCPSUs and explore improvement measures where necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the workload and staffing arrangement for Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs), the caseload and number of groups of IFSCs under the Social Welfare Department (SWD) over the past three years have increased by 2.5% and 28% respectively. However, only four additional staff at the most will be provided for IFSCs, i.e. less than 1% increase, in 2008-09. How does SWD come up with such staffing arrangement?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In the past three years, the numbers of intensive counselling/brief counselling/supportive casework cases served by IFSCs under SWD have increased by 10.3% (i.e. from 50 889 in 2005-06 to 56 149 in 2007-08), while the groups and programmes organised by these IFSCs have increased by 12.8% (i.e. from 5 628 in 2005-06 to 6 348 in 2007-08). Additional recurrent resources have been allocated to strengthen the manpower of IFSCs under SWD according to district needs since 2005-06. Social workers in IFSCs exercise vigorous caseload management to ensure that only cases genuinely in need of social work input will remain on the caseload. Apart from intensive counselling/brief counselling/supportive casework as well as groups and programmes, social workers of IFSCs will make flexible use of different intervention approaches, such as making referrals to other service units or drawing on other community resources to meet the multifarious need of individuals and families. We will closely monitor the service need and explore new resources to further strengthen the manpower of these centres where necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the manpower arrangement of Medical Social Services Units in the government sector, a number of cases concerning mental patients committed suicide or murder were reported in 2007-08, including the tragedies happened at Pok Hong Estate and Tin Shui Wai, even though the manpower of medical social workers has been increased by 3%. In spite of the fact that the number of this kind of cases served is expected to increase by 2.6% in 2008-09, the manpower of medical social workers will only be increased by 1%, resulting in no reduction in the caseload per worker. How does the Social Welfare Department (SWD) come to such a decision?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : SWD will create an additional four medical social worker (MSW) posts in 2008-09 for strengthening psychiatric medical social services. In serving persons with mental health problems, psychiatric MSWs are also supported and assisted by other subvented community support services provided by non-governmental organisations, e.g. Community Mental Health Link, Community Mental Health Care Services, Community Rehabilitation Day Services for the Ex-mentally ill, etc. These services are to help those persons with mental problems better re-integrate into the community. Besides, to address the mental health issue in Tin Shui Wai, SWD will set up an integrated community centre for mental wellness in 2008-09 with a view to reaching out to and providing one-stop community support and social rehabilitation services for discharged mental patients and persons with suspected mental illness as well as their families/carers in the community.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under the new initiative to help improve the homes of elderly people living in poor conditions, the amount of subsidy for each household will be subject to a ceiling of \$5,000. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee if the works seriously affect the living conditions and health of the elderly people (such as a large amount of dust or strong odour of paint resulted from the painting works), whether there is any plan to provide temporary accommodation for the elderly people to facilitate the home improvement works? If yes, please give the details. If no, how will the Government encourage the elderly people to take the initiative to improve their living conditions?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The 2008-09 Budget has earmarked one-off funding of \$200 million to help needy elderly people improve their homes in the next five years. The scheme targets at elders (aged 60 or above) without family support, who live in dilapidated homes with poor fittings and lack financial means to improve their home conditions. Elders will be provided with minor home maintenance and improvement services as well as the necessary fittings after an assessment on their financial situation and living environment. Examples are applying non-slippery materials on the floor, improving the lighting, installing grab bars in bathrooms and purchasing fans and electric heaters, etc. It is anticipated that such small-scale works will not seriously affect the daily living of the elders, and the delivery agencies will render appropriate assistance for cases with special needs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)130

Question Serial No.

1278

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the implementation of the pilot Child Fatality Review Mechanism, please state the exact implementation date and whether the mechanism has incorporated the recommendations made by the Panel on Welfare Services?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : A two-year Pilot Project on Child Fatality Review has been launched by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) since February 2008. The review will cover cases of children who died of non-natural causes since 2006. The objective of the review is to examine child death cases with a view to coming up with suggestions for improving the current child protection and child welfare services to prevent future cases. Through identifying the pattern and trends of, and examining the practice and service issues pertaining to the child death cases, it is hoped that reference can be drawn from the pilot project for improving related services and systems and enhancing multi-disciplinary collaboration.

The review mechanism has taken into account the comments and recommendations made by relevant stakeholders as well as the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)131

Question Serial No.

1279

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the current number of residents, the number of staff and the staffing establishment of the Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home (TMCJH) after the relocation of six correctional/residential homes? Please also provide the category of the seven posts deleted under this Programme.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The requested information about the TMCJH is as follows –

Item	Number
Average daily enrolment figure from August 2007 to January 2008	274
Staff establishment of various grades including Social Work Officer grade, Social Work Assistant grade and Others (i.e. Clerical Officer grade, Motor Driver grade and Artisan grade)	130
Staff strength	133*

* The difference in staff strength and establishment is due to employment of contract staff in meeting the nursing needs of the TMCJH.

The seven posts to be deleted under this programme belong to the Certificated Master/Mistress grade, Welfare Worker grade, Ward Attendant grade and Workman II grade. These were established posts in the former correctional/residential homes, but are no longer required in the TMCJH.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding monitoring and enhancing the service quality of private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), would the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) of the existing manpower for conducting surprise inspections and the average number of inspections carried out each year?
- (2) of the number of non-compliant RCHEs being prosecuted by the Government in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08?
- (3) whether there is any plan to recruit additional staff to strengthen the inspections of RCHEs? If yes, please set out the details and the estimated expenditure involved. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
- (1) There are four inspectorate teams in the Social Welfare Department's Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) overseeing the building safety, fire safety, health care, operation and management of RCHEs. At present, the four teams (comprising 36 inspectors) conduct surprise site inspections to over 760 elderly homes regularly. The average frequency of site inspections for each home is about seven times per year.
 - (2) In 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, the Government successfully prosecuted a total of 16 RCHEs that had breached the licensing requirements under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Chapter 459) and/or its subsidiary regulation.
 - (3) There has been an increase in the manpower of LORCHE. Details are as follows:
 - (a) In 2007-08, five posts of Assistant Social Work Officer grade were created to step up inspection and enforcement actions against RCHEs. The estimated provision is about \$1.8 million per year.

- (b) Since mid-2007, an officer of Senior Social Work Officer grade has been temporarily re-deployed to share out the heavy workload in supervising the overall operation of the LORCHE. As this is a re-deployment arrangement, no additional resource is required.
- (c) In 2008-09, five Registered Nurse posts will be created to replace the existing contract nurses to improve the inspection and monitoring mechanism in respect of health care services. The estimated provision is about \$1.5 million per year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Financial Secretary stated in paragraph 131 of his speech to move the Appropriation Bill 2008 that the Administration will provide funding of \$45 million over the next three years to strengthen day foster care service and to promote various types of child care services that offer greater flexibility:

- (1) Please provide the district distribution and the capacity of such foster care service.
- (2) Please provide the district distribution and the capacity of child care services.
- (3) In districts with the fastest growth of single-parent families, such as Yuen Long, Kwun Tong and Kwai Tsing, how do such foster care and child care services cater for the specific needs of single-parent, such as their going out early and coming home late, and their requiring services during rest days etc.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) Day foster care service is a territory-wide service with places dispersed in all districts. At present, there are 40 day foster care places. As the geographical distribution of day foster homes is not static, we do not have the district distribution of their provision.

- (2) & (3) The proposed funding of \$45 million over the next three years is for piloting more flexible forms of day child care services at the neighbourhood level that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of the parents; and for strengthening day foster care service.

The pilot child care projects will target children aged under six and will comprise two components: centre-based care group and home-based child care service. As a start, the projects will be implemented in phases in districts where the demand for flexible child care services is more pressing. Local charitable organisations, including non-governmental organisations, women's groups, religious bodies, etc., will be invited to participate in the pilot projects.

When planning the service, the need of single parents will be taken into consideration.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)134

Question Serial No.

1288

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Despite the great demand for elderly services in recent years, the provision for the government sector in the 2008-09 Estimate will be reduced by 15.9% when comparing to that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. What is the reason for this?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The reduction in provision under this Programme in the government sector in 2008-09 is mainly due to the re-classification of funding allocation for temporary posts from the government sector to the subvented sector. There is actually no reduction in the provision for elderly services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the trial employment assistance projects launched for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients in 2007-08 (including Intensive Employment Assistance Projects (IEAPs), Enhanced Community Work Project, Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP) and District Employment Assistance Trial (DEAT) Project), please provide information on the number of recipients joining the projects, the number and percentage of recipients who have secured employment with the help of the projects, the actual expenditure for the projects in 2007-08 and the estimated expenditure involved in 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department has commissioned non-governmental organisations to continue running a number of employment assistance projects for CSSA able-bodied unemployed recipients.

- (1) Four batches of 145 IEAPs have been launched since October 2003. From October 2003 to end-January 2008, there were altogether 52 048 participants. Amongst them, 24 157 (46.4%) participants secured full-time paid employment. The fourth batch of 40 IEAPs has commenced operation since October 2006. The revised estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is \$57.6 million and the estimated expenditure in 2008-09 (up to September 2008) is \$17.2 million.
- (2) The Extended Community Work Experience and Training Programme has been launched since April 2007. Up to end-January 2008, there were a total of 434 participants. Amongst them, 20 (4.6%) participants secured full-time paid employment. The revised estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is \$2.0 million and the estimated expenditure in 2008-09 is also \$2.0 million.

- (3) Two My STEP projects were in operation from October 2006 to September 2007. There were a total of 68 participants. Amongst them, 42 (61.8%) participants secured full-time paid employment or returned to mainstream schooling. The expenditure for the two My STEP projects in 2007-08 is \$0.9 million. Another four My STEP projects have been launched since October 2007 for two years. Up to end-January 2008, there were a total of 317 participants. Amongst them, 32 (10.1%) participants secured full-time paid employment. The revised estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is \$2.1 million and the estimated expenditure in 2008-09 is \$4.6 million.
- (4) Three DEAT Projects have been launched since October 2006. Up to end-January 2008, there were a total of 357 participants. Amongst them, 120 (33.6%) participants secured full-time paid employment. The revised estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is \$1.8 million and the estimated expenditure in 2008-09 is \$1.9 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the numbers of fraud cases on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, with breakdown on:

Means/Financial years	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Concealing/making false representation of income (cases)			
Concealing/making false representation of assets (cases)			
Abuse of housing grants (cases)			
Concealing other information (e.g. admission to prison, records of absence from Hong Kong or the number of household members)			
Total			
Report of suspected fraud cases on CSSA (cases)			
Established fraud cases (in percentage)			
Amount of payment involved			

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The numbers of fraud cases on CSSA in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (up to February 2008) are 764, 896 and 960 respectively, with breakdown as follows:

Means/Financial years	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (As at 29.2.2008)
Concealing/making false representation of income (cases)	447	509	591
Concealing/making false representation of assets (cases)	220	260	230
Abuse of housing grants (cases)	59	66	62
Concealing other information (e.g. admission to prison, records of absence from Hong Kong or the number of household members)	38	61	77
Total	764	896	960
Report of suspected fraud cases on CSSA (cases)	4 912	4 769	4 098
Established fraud cases (in percentage)	15.55%	18.79%	23.43%
Amount of payment involved	\$47.6 million	\$50.5 million	\$45.4 million

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide the number of households who are currently on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) living in public housing estates and their percentage in the total number of public housing households. Please also provide a breakdown of the number of households on CSSA by nature of case in each public housing estate.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : As at end-December 2007, the number of CSSA households living in public housing estates was 160 556, representing 23.5% of the total number of households living in public housing estates.

Breakdown of the number of households on CSSA by nature of case in each public housing estate is as follows:

Housing Estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Apleichau Estate	271	53	49	104	47	28	12	564
Bo Shek Mansion	61	1	—	3	1	—	—	66
Broadview Garden	8	3	2	10	7	4	—	34
Butterfly Estate	701	45	129	259	28	118	22	1 302
Chak On Estate	359	12	36	75	24	39	1	546
Cheung Ching Estate	309	33	51	87	65	82	12	639
Cheung Fat Estate	249	20	45	68	21	58	3	464
Cheung Hang Estate	362	33	51	78	41	77	7	649
Cheung Hong Estate	875	76	103	217	64	128	17	1 480
Cheung Kwai Estate	25	3	6	8	11	10	2	65
Cheung On Estate	290	44	56	60	26	68	10	554
Cheung Shan Estate	95	11	13	25	25	15	—	184
Cheung Wah Estate	437	23	96	131	58	58	13	816
Cheung Wang Estate	293	60	112	234	150	222	19	1 090
Ching Ho Estate	105	15	55	213	57	79	30	554
Cho Yiu Chuen	181	10	11	15	20	20	5	262
Choi Fai Estate	86	6	24	21	20	25	6	188
Choi Ha Estate	190	16	16	17	14	23	1	277
Choi Hung Estate	838	76	110	213	94	111	11	1 453

Housing Estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Choi Ming Court	226	48	113	135	130	120	6	778
Choi Wan(1) Estate	400	77	101	150	66	67	17	878
Choi Wan(2) Estate	213	23	49	89	47	41	4	466
Choi Yuen Estate	798	43	108	196	47	104	23	1 319
Chuk Yuen North	369	46	84	68	38	59	10	674
Chuk Yuen South	905	79	99	276	84	103	15	1 561
Chun Seen Mei Chuen	91	6	8	9	7	14	3	138
Chun Shek Estate	276	10	62	57	19	31	4	459
Chung On Estate	293	41	96	110	73	100	12	725
Clague Garden Estate	63	1	1	3	3	9	2	82
Easeful Court	14	4	8	11	21	18	3	79
Fortune Estate	606	32	59	48	41	59	6	851
Fu Cheong Estate	1 462	62	148	234	221	194	13	2 334
Fu Heng Estate	449	49	105	123	58	103	16	903
Fu Shan Estate	170	16	26	34	34	27	2	309
Fu Shin Estate	432	35	82	181	32	73	15	850
Fu Tai Estate	365	95	113	187	159	238	16	1 173
Fu Tung Estate	69	20	22	59	29	20	2	221
Fuk Loi Estate	334	25	31	77	22	32	12	533
Fung Tak Estate	513	29	86	53	34	53	7	775
Fung Wah Estate	90	14	18	12	7	12	1	154
Grandeur Terrace	103	20	109	378	189	252	7	1 058
Hau Tak Estate	351	37	87	127	67	75	9	753
Healthy Village Estate	91	6	10	7	6	8	1	129
Heng On Estate	271	26	48	77	28	40	14	504
High Prosperity Terrace	11	3	6	18	27	11	3	79
Hin Keng Estate	203	33	45	59	30	32	12	414
Hin Yiu Estate	81	13	23	56	15	17	4	209
Hing Man Estate	129	29	22	50	31	27	7	295
Hing Tin Estate	85	19	22	34	19	23	2	204
Hing Tung Estate	185	16	28	49	22	31	2	333
Hing Wah 1 Estate	286	49	56	56	47	39	6	539
Hing Wah 2 Estate	522	56	45	114	32	49	12	830
Ho Man Tin South Estate	677	54	120	119	104	84	12	1 170
Hoi Fu Court	582	25	59	98	118	94	16	992
Hoi Lai Estate	238	40	76	215	212	163	15	959
Hong Tung Estate	214	2	6	1	2	5	—	230
Hung Hom Estate	212	11	27	20	15	15	1	301
Jat Min Chuen Estate	332	25	34	42	26	28	4	491
Ka Fuk Estate	256	10	48	66	39	51	10	480
Ka Wai Chuen Estate	201	8	28	24	14	26	1	302
Kai Tin Estate	348	31	37	49	38	59	5	567
Kai Yip Estate	815	61	58	114	34	85	11	1 178
Kam Peng Estate	27	3	5	6	4	5	1	51
Kin Ming Estate	293	93	233	439	256	244	24	1 582
Kin Sang Estate	89	15	33	41	14	30	8	230
King Lam Estate	465	69	85	106	32	66	3	826

Housing Estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Ko Cheung Court	43	12	33	129	58	69	10	354
Ko Yee Estate	215	13	17	29	14	18	3	309
Kwai Chung Estate	863	182	230	588	306	454	61	2 684
Kwai Fong Estate	657	94	119	140	108	148	14	1 280
Kwai Hing Estate	91	11	10	26	8	13	3	162
Kwai Shing East Estate	720	85	112	170	128	194	18	1 427
Kwai Shing West Estate	472	47	71	127	76	93	14	900
Kwong Fuk Estate	513	56	119	207	73	94	23	1 085
Kwong Tin Estate	154	18	36	55	26	45	3	337
Kwong Yuen Estate	393	57	84	96	39	73	13	755
Kwun Lung House	80	4	4	2	7	4	1	102
Kwun Tong Garden Estate	499	37	54	65	51	83	10	799
Lai King Estate	397	48	47	107	58	69	16	742
Lai Kok Estate	481	53	52	113	30	70	6	805
Lai On Estate	220	21	25	20	11	18	3	318
Lai Tak Chuen Estate	127	12	26	20	14	18	5	222
Lai Yiu Estate	284	24	33	50	41	47	8	487
Lakeside Garden	13	5	2	3	1	1	—	25
Lee On Estate	271	53	117	121	62	88	11	723
Lei Cheng Uk Estate	362	42	50	82	41	97	9	683
Lei Muk Shue Estate	696	106	155	382	207	292	52	1 890
Lei Tung Estate	479	61	50	112	52	40	21	815
Lei Yue Mun Estate	389	39	53	126	105	124	14	850
Lek Yuen Estate	381	44	50	92	31	39	8	645
Leung King Estate	529	38	112	145	46	113	25	1 008
Lok Fu Estate	412	47	70	91	43	94	8	765
Lok Man Sun Chuen Estate	286	17	50	43	33	44	6	479
Lok Wah North Estate	126	24	40	60	33	49	7	339
Lok Wah South Estate	1 445	55	93	213	51	117	15	1 989
Long Bin Interim Housing	32	9	14	10	3	70	1	139
Long Ping Estate	523	63	124	392	101	184	23	1 410
Lower Ngau Tau Kok 2 Estate	799	55	68	50	25	102	9	1 108
Lower Wong Tai Sin 1 Estate	543	66	87	155	62	102	17	1 032
Lower Wong Tai Sin 2 Estate	493	66	103	158	59	113	10	1 002
Lung Hang Estate	303	30	83	113	83	85	13	710
Lung Tin Estate	67	11	4	8	2	13	—	105
Ma Hang Estate	47	11	11	25	16	4	2	116
Ma Tau Wai Estate	199	17	35	109	16	43	3	422
Mei Lam Estate	454	47	76	143	37	72	16	845
Mei Tin Estate	138	28	77	200	79	125	24	671
Mei Tung Estate	114	11	12	21	5	21	—	184

Housing Estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Ming Tak Estate	187	12	21	46	23	28	2	319
Ming Wa Dai Ha	161	14	23	12	12	21	1	244
Model Housing Estate	47	9	10	14	11	10	2	103
Moon Lok Dai Ha	82	7	13	7	4	9	2	124
Nam Cheong Estate	169	18	23	54	16	26	2	308
Nam Shan Estate	333	15	61	109	30	41	12	601
Nga Ning Court	12	1	3	13	11	19	1	60
Ngan Wan Estate	28	1	7	10	8	7	—	61
Oi Man Estate	346	57	118	209	96	88	7	921
Oi Tung Estate	676	54	53	103	41	45	5	977
On Tin Estate	25	8	8	50	44	46	1	182
On Ting Estate	576	81	104	150	47	153	16	1 127
On Yam Estate	518	56	66	69	70	75	13	867
Pak Tin Estate	1 498	49	202	284	170	227	19	2 449
Ping Shek Estate	355	42	43	91	41	79	7	658
Ping Tin Estate	977	87	100	142	91	129	22	1 548
Po Lam Estate Tseung Kwan O	298	49	77	158	58	46	13	699
Po Tat Estate	1 094	66	161	327	297	267	26	2 238
Po Tin Estate	516	102	224	114	9	294	29	1 288
Po Tin Interim Housing	127	28	73	38	5	164	10	445
Pok Hong Estate	288	24	81	84	45	50	12	584
Prosperous Garden	109	—	1	3	4	2	—	119
Sai Wan Estate	27	2	7	5	9	4	1	55
Sam Shing Estate	122	19	25	54	10	37	5	272
Sau Mau Ping 1 Estate	129	11	22	44	33	23	9	271
Sau Mau Ping 3 Estate	1 987	146	226	366	319	335	25	3 404
Sha Kok Estate	937	76	112	191	38	101	21	1 476
Sha Tau Kok Chuen Estate	35	5	11	4	11	10	3	79
Shan King Estate	717	57	145	261	68	164	18	1 430
Shek Kip Mei Estate	944	45	129	187	98	119	17	1 539
Shek Lei 1 Estate	702	85	84	177	99	114	22	1 283
Shek Lei 2 Estate	861	99	149	236	226	314	40	1 925
Shek Pai Wan Estate	445	47	46	66	88	42	9	743
Shek Wai Kok Estate	571	48	90	177	63	105	26	1 080
Shek Yam East Estate	365	46	34	41	31	54	4	575
Shek Yam Estate	404	38	51	73	109	90	8	773
Sheung Lok Estate	165	6	—	4	—	1	—	176
Sheung Tak Estate	478	65	165	205	184	177	11	1 285
Shui Pin Wai Estate	502	22	54	99	31	58	8	774
Shun Lee Estate	434	41	54	114	62	87	15	807
Shun On Estate	392	32	50	76	39	54	6	649
Shun Tin Estate	797	54	121	176	86	129	15	1 378
Siu Sai Wan Estate	329	64	62	134	66	72	9	736
So Uk Estate	568	64	65	95	60	92	2	946
Sun Chui Estate	621	72	107	208	52	92	20	1 172

Housing Estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Sun Tin Wai Estate	259	25	52	97	37	59	13	542
Tai Hang Tung Estate	452	18	63	45	23	46	4	651
Tai Hing Estate	1 046	95	209	267	79	261	25	1 982
Tai Ping Estate	30	4	21	34	6	30	3	128
Tai Wo Estate	556	42	128	135	45	88	10	1 004
Tai Wo Hau Estate	791	90	115	195	83	161	28	1 463
Tai Yuen Estate	366	33	117	132	71	107	18	844
Tak Tin Estate	810	45	72	82	42	92	11	1 154
Tin Chak Estate	417	39	155	269	124	199	9	1 212
Tin Heng Estate	218	46	149	483	361	379	23	1 659
Tin King Estate	124	14	37	103	29	40	8	355
Tin Ping Estate	182	26	64	117	42	52	12	495
Tin Shui Estate	503	69	138	348	109	196	32	1 395
Tin Tsz Estate	510	47	79	102	46	108	15	907
Tin Wah Estate	512	45	122	169	122	130	24	1 124
Tin Wan Estate	441	43	75	43	44	28	10	684
Tin Yan Estate	470	50	210	409	69	289	24	1 521
Tin Yat Estate	127	22	93	258	188	209	12	909
Tin Yiu Estate	570	58	202	359	115	213	39	1 556
Tin Yuet Estate	447	49	161	273	148	249	14	1 341
Tsing Yi Estate	159	13	38	29	19	44	4	306
Tsui Lam Estate	159	21	43	119	57	32	10	441
Tsui Lok Estate	120	6	3	8	4	3	—	144
Tsui Ping (South) Estate	580	29	36	57	37	69	10	818
Tsui Ping Estate	1 146	80	155	251	99	156	28	1 915
Tsui Wan Estate	138	18	16	31	8	17	7	235
Tsz Ching Estate	1 409	77	155	253	246	200	18	2 358
Tsz Hong Estate	110	15	35	140	136	81	13	530
Tsz Lok Estate	861	45	110	188	142	113	14	1 473
Tsz Man Estate	212	22	33	57	39	43	6	412
Tui Min Hoi Chuen Estate	12	4	3	5	5	3	1	33
Tung Tau Estate	1 158	86	97	144	64	155	11	1 715
Un Chau Estate	562	33	30	38	27	46	3	739
Upper Ngau Tau Kok Estate	387	22	51	25	35	40	3	563
Upper Wong Tai Sin Estate	783	76	76	118	77	126	9	1 265
Verbena Heights	138	8	27	16	7	24	—	220
Wah Fu Estate	582	95	103	222	142	55	18	1 217
Wah Kwai Estate	350	38	34	47	21	18	3	511
Wah Lai Estate	85	14	43	51	60	67	8	328
Wah Ming Estate	442	23	131	181	64	78	19	938
Wah Sum Estate	145	16	51	65	42	46	2	367
Wan Hon Estate	503	5	7	11	14	11	4	555
Wan Tau Tong Estate	195	27	41	46	14	29	4	356
Wan Tsui Estate	324	48	46	105	50	50	13	636

Housing Estate	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Wang Tau Hom Estate	423	77	66	160	79	115	23	943
Wo Che Estate	417	68	128	141	122	102	21	999
Wo Lok Estate	235	30	23	71	26	39	3	427
Wu King Estate	144	16	70	123	40	93	17	503
Yat Tung Estate	374	131	274	605	438	536	72	2 430
Yau Lai Estate	55	15	41	160	101	76	23	471
Yau Oi Estate	660	99	147	287	113	251	24	1 581
Yau Tong Estate	534	53	85	139	130	115	13	1 069
Yiu On Estate	206	28	59	94	23	42	10	462
Yiu Tung Estate	537	60	87	102	67	67	17	937
Yue Kwong Chuen	57	6	6	12	5	14	1	101
Yue Wan Estate	209	31	35	78	24	37	5	419
Yung Shing Court	247	15	67	86	84	82	4	585
Total	80 693	8 002	14 337	24 378	12 966	17 854	2 326	160 556

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases by nature of case in each District Council Constituency at present.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The number of CSSA active cases by nature of case and geographical district as at end-February 2008 are as follows:

Geographical district *	Case nature							
	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Central and Western	2 419	217	311	293	147	357	79	3 823
Eastern	8 491	1 129	1 029	1 583	734	978	309	14 253
Islands	1 670	262	440	899	617	824	210	4 922
Kowloon City	8 721	680	1 181	1 561	527	1 333	261	14 264
Kwai Tsing	14 292	2 112	2 145	3 417	2 104	3 173	492	27 735
Kwun Tong	19 461	1 657	2 264	4 002	2 327	3 178	558	33 447
North	7 137	667	1 320	2 138	723	1 226	400	13 611
Sai Kung	4 094	897	1 155	1 618	956	974	232	9 926
Sha Tin	9 085	1 408	1 796	2 461	1 038	1 533	394	17 715
Sham Shui Po	14 320	1 081	2 204	2 932	1 435	3 846	491	26 309
Southern	5 563	1 133	634	803	490	348	174	9 145
Tai Po	6 003	478	961	1 379	420	790	269	10 300
Tsuen Wan	4 976	428	570	1 204	431	915	234	8 758
Tuen Mun	10 377	2 277	2 426	2 916	831	2 862	484	22 173

Geographical district *	Case nature							
	Old age	Permanent disability	Ill health	Single parent	Low earnings	Unemployment	Others	Total
Wan Chai	1 639	121	214	164	69	378	108	2 693
Wong Tai Sin	13 071	1 236	1 760	2 889	1 587	2 175	362	23 080
Yau Tsim Mong	5 799	431	1 059	1 270	519	2 841	325	12 244
Yuen Long	12 069	1 603	2 893	5 179	2 049	4 120	624	28 537
Total	149 187	17 817	24 362	36 708	17 004	31 851	6 006	282 935

Notes: * The geographical district of cases in our Computerised Social Security System is broadly similar to the boundary of the District Council Constituency.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide information on the number of recipients under the unemployment and low-earnings categories of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, their sex, age distribution, number of years for receiving CSSA, the nature of jobs and their wages as well as the districts where they live in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Statistics on CSSA unemployed and low earnings[@] recipients with breakdown by selected profiles for February 2007 and February 2008 are as follows:

Sex	February 2007			February 2008		
	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earning recipients	Total	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total
Male	23 026	13 588	36 614	19 250	12 753	32 003
Female	11 723	12 240	23 963	10 791	11 938	22 729
Total	34 749	25 828	60 577	30 041	24 691	54 732

Age group	February 2007			February 2008		
	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total
15 – 19	1 578	1 585	3 163	1 403	1 451	2 854
20 – 29	2 287	4 234	6 521	1 806	3 868	5 674
30 – 39	3 891	4 232	8 123	3 282	3 920	7 202
40 – 49	10 848	10 697	21 545	8 917	10 093	19 010
50 – 59	16 145	5 080	21 225	14 633	5 359	19 992
Total	34 749	25 828	60 577	30 041	24 691	54 732

Duration of stay on CSSA (year)	February 2007			February 2008		
	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total
Not more than 1	6 228	2 376	8 604	4 422	1 699	6 121
More than 1 - not more than 2	3 813	2 609	6 422	3 188	2 132	5 320
More than 2 - not more than 3	3 592	2 905	6 497	2 639	2 200	4 839
More than 3 - not more than 4	4 401	3 981	8 382	2 708	2 529	5 237
More than 4 - not more than 5	4 078	3 519	7 597	3 339	3 396	6 735
More than 5	12 637	10 438	23 075	13 745	12 735	26 480
Total	34 749	25 828	60 577	30 041	24 691	54 732

Occupation	February 2007			February 2008		
	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total
Cleaner	213	3 782	3 995	229	3 637	3 866
Clerk	16	1 314	1 330	18	1 271	1 289
Construction worker/ labourer/ decoration worker	134	1 306	1 440	104	1 149	1 253
Delivery worker	189	1 316	1 505	173	1 261	1 434
Domestic helper / baby sitter	122	537	659	108	574	682

Occupation	February 2007			February 2008		
	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total
Driver	54	1 085	1 139	50	1 031	1 081
General worker / labourer (other than those of construction)	533	5 455	5 988	544	5 292	5 836
Salesperson	85	1 683	1 768	63	1 597	1 660
Waiter/ waitress	116	1 430	1 546	97	1 422	1 519
Watchman / guard	42	2 273	2 315	18	2 133	2 151
Others	437	5 647	6 084	380	5 324	5 704
Total	1 941	25 828	27 769	1 784	24 691	26 475

Employment earnings	February 2007			February 2008		
	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total
\$ 0	32 808	0	32 808	28 257	0	28 257
Less than \$1,450@	1 941	0	1 941	1 784	0	1 784
\$1,450@ – less than \$4,400	0	11 214	11 214	0	10 641	10 641
\$4,400 – less than \$6,000	0	7 870	7 870	0	7 050	7 050
\$6,000 – less than \$8,000	0	5 192	5 192	0	5 310	5 310
\$8,000 or above	0	1 552	1 552	0	1 690	1 690
Total	34 749	25 828	60 577	30 041	24 691	54 732

Geographical district *	February 2007			February 2008		
	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total	CSSA Unemployed recipients	CSSA Low earnings recipients	Total
Central and Western	350	165	515	257	171	428
Eastern	1 240	998	2 238	1 070	982	2 052
Islands	914	837	1 751	779	746	1 525
Kowloon City	1 376	812	2 188	1 209	762	1 971
Kwai Tsing	3 513	3 119	6 632	3 077	2 923	6 000
Kwun Tong	3 836	3 462	7 298	3 403	3 344	6 747
North	1 465	1 116	2 581	1 271	1 110	2 381
Sai Kung	1 255	1 458	2 713	1 007	1 333	2 340
Sha Tin	1 882	1 779	3 661	1 566	1 634	3 200
Sham Shui Po	3 689	1 923	5 612	3 265	1 900	5 165
Southern	451	635	1 086	399	608	1 007
Tai Po	1 078	833	1 911	852	814	1 666
Tsuen Wan	995	704	1 699	823	631	1 454
Tuen Mun	2 884	1 575	4 459	2 508	1 497	4 005
Wan Chai	340	101	441	246	80	326
Wong Tai Sin	2 487	2 455	4 942	2 214	2 390	4 604
Yau Tsim Mong	2 272	574	2 846	1 978	574	2 552
Yuen Long	4 722	3 282	8 004	4 117	3 192	7 309
Total	34 749	25 828	60 577	30 041	24 691	54 732

Notes: @ CSSA low-earnings recipients refer to those who are gainfully employed and with employment earnings equivalent to or more than the standard rate of an able-bodied adult in a family comprising not more than two able-bodied adults/children (i.e. \$1,450 with effect from 1.2.2007 and \$1,490 with effect from 1.2.2008).

* The boundary of geographical districts is broadly similar to that of the District Councils.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)140

Question Serial No.

1294

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the average amount per month deducted from the unemployed and low-earnings Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients under the provision of disregarded earnings (DE) in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : After disregarding the earnings from employment under the DE provision, the remaining earnings will be included as the monthly assessable income of the unemployed and low-earnings CSSA recipients. The monthly averages of such assessable income for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 are as follows:

Year	Unemployed CSSA recipients	Low-earnings CSSA recipients
2005-06	\$148	\$2,495
2006-07	\$152	\$2,598
2007-08 (as at end of February 2008)	\$96	\$2,656

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the number of cases that have been suspended payment of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) by nature of case in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively and the reasons for the suspension. Please also provide the number of cases that have resumed CSSA payment by month and by nature of case in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The number of cases closed during 2005-06 to 2007-08 by case nature and by closure reason are set out below:

Number of CSSA cases closed during the financial year 2005-06							
Closure reason							
Case nature	Excessive absences over limit	Deceased	Ineligible	Lost contact	Withdrawal	Others	Total
Old Age	139	10 459	166	246	1 710	199	12 919
Permanent Disability	9	191	54	95	600	80	1 029
Ill Health	23	461	133	444	1 708	207	2 976
Low Earnings	5	17	71	199	1 508	39	1 839
Single Parent	17	22	155	571	3 383	106	4 254
Unemployment	62	308	467	2 973	6 383	694	10 887
Others	5	25	35	244	681	192	1 182
Total	260	11 483	1 081	4 772	15 973	1 517	35 086

Number of CSSA cases closed during the financial year 2006-07							
Closure reason							
Case nature	Excessive absences over limit	Deceased	Ineligible	Lost contact	Withdrawal	Others	Total
Old Age	99	9 666	190	215	2 157	180	12 507
Permanent Disability	4	211	68	83	702	85	1 153
Ill Health	11	442	120	389	1 837	177	2 976
Low Earnings	—	15	67	172	1 774	25	2 053
Single Parent	7	27	164	580	4 120	73	4 971
Unemployment	30	345	379	2 424	6 350	544	10 072
Others	2	21	30	301	827	287	1 468
Total	153	10 727	1 018	4 164	17 767	1 371	35 200

Number of CSSA cases closed for the financial year 2007-08 (up to February 2008)							
Closure reason							
Case nature	Excessive absences over limit	Deceased	Ineligible	Lost contact	Withdrawal	Others	Total
Old Age	112	9 444	228	198	1 977	142	12 101
Permanent Disability	4	239	60	91	672	72	1 138
Ill Health	11	445	137	395	1 897	143	3 028
Low Earnings	3	19	56	151	1 644	23	1 896
Single Parent	10	32	117	502	3 959	81	4 701
Unemployment	53	345	294	2 241	5 517	395	8 845
Others	9	26	32	324	846	141	1 378
Total	202	10 550	924	3 902	16 512	997	33 087

The number of CSSA re-applications received in 2005-06 to 2007-08 is set out below:

Month	Financial year		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (up to Feb 2008)
Apr	2 455	1 933	1 713
May	2 337	2 185	1 899
Jun	2 452	2 723	1 818
Jul	2 919	2 153	1 816
Aug	2 447	2 220	1 919
Sep	2 346	2 062	1 787
Oct	2 311	1 875	1 825
Nov	2 266	1 983	1 674
Dec	2 040	1 716	1 468
Jan	1 825	1 916	1 574
Feb	2 042	1 351	1 396
Mar	2 399	2 131	—
Total	27 839	24 248	18 889

Note: The closure date of the above cases is not limited to the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : A number of cases concerning mental patients committed suicide or murder, including the tragedies happened at Pok Hong Estate and Tin Shui Wai, were reported in 2007-08. In this regard, would the Government please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the number of cases in which adults were institutionalised under probation from 2003 to 2007?
- (b) of the types of institutions that the adult probationers mentioned above were sent to and the reasons for the arrangements?
- (c) whether the adult probationers mentioned above had to wait for admission to the institutions where they were sent to? If yes, how long did they have to wait and what were the arrangements during their waiting period?
- (d) whether any probationers were found missing while awaiting admission? If yes, what was the number of missing cases?
- (e) what was the nature of these missing cases and the proportion of male to female probationers involved? What follow-up actions have been taken?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (a) & (b) Mental patients who committed suicide or murder would normally not be put under probation supervision. As revealed by our current statistical system, information on adult probationers with impairment by mental illness and/or retardation and with residential placement is as follows -

Year	No. of new adult probationers who were impaired by mental illness and/or retardation (A)	No. of residential placement arranged for needy probationers among (A)			
		DTRC Note 1	Half-way Houses	Both Note 2	Total
2003-04	89	3	2	0	5
2004-05	87	0	4	0	4
2005-06	104	0	2	0	2
2006-07	107	0	3	3	6

Note 1 DTRC refers to Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres

Note 2 Some probationers may need DTRC service initially and then non-governmental organisation half-way house upon treating of their drug problem

(c) For DTRC service, there is normally no waiting time. For half-way houses, the waiting time is about five months in 2006-07. While awaiting admission, day activities and training services may be rendered to adult probationers if needed.

(d) & (e) The current statistical system does not capture information about missing probationer cases including those missing while awaiting admission to an institution. If a probationer is found missing, the probation officer will inform the Court immediately for issuance of a warrant to arrest the probationer.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)143

Question Serial No.

1396

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in the brief description under this Programme that the Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CoMHIP) launched in 2007 is to provide proactive outreaching and early social work intervention for person with suspected mental health problems and their families. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) how many persons with suspected mental health problems and their families were served under this project in 2007-08?
- (b) will the services be expanded in 2008-09, such as increasing the number of CoMHIP Teams and their team members?
- (c) what was the expenditure involved in 2007-08 and what is the estimated expenditure in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (a) The CoMHIP is a three-year time-limited project which has commenced operation in October 2007. As at 31 December 2007, a total of 221 cases had been served under the CoMHIP.
 - (b) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has no plan to expand the service in 2008-09. Subject to the outcome of the review on the utilisation and effectiveness of the CoMHIP, SWD will consider to secure resources for continuation of this service upon expiry of the three-year funding.
 - (c) The estimated expenditure of the CoMHIP in 2007-08 and 2008-09 is \$9 million (half-year provision) and \$18 million respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)144

Question Serial No.

1397

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under this Programme, the provision for the government sector will be reduced from some \$140 million in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate to some \$44 million in 2008-09? What is the reason for the substantial reduction?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The reduction in the provision for the Young People (YP) Programme for the government sector in 2008-09 is mainly due to the re-classification of the funding allocation for the temporary posts from the government sector to the subvented sector. The total provision for YP services in 2008-09 is, in fact, higher than the Revised Estimate for 2007-08 by 14.2%.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Despite the fact that a number of youth problems have been observed in recent years, including drug abuse, suicide and delinquency, there is no increase in the projected number of cases served and that of clients identified in the indicators of outreaching social work under this Programme. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The figures of the Outreaching Social Work Services as per the table below show a steady service trend in the past years -

Year	Case served	Clients identified
2004-05	13 891	4 986
2005-06	13 506	4 955
2006-07	13 255	4 750
2007-08 (Revised Estimate)	13 381	4 853

There is no single factor accounting for the increase or decrease in the demand for young people services. The Social Welfare Department (SWD), in cooperation with non-governmental organisations, provides a wide spectrum of welfare services to deal with youth problems. The Outreaching Social Work Services only form part of these welfare services. In recognition of the youth problems relating to drug abuse, suicide and delinquency, etc, SWD has earmarked new resources of \$30.6 million under Programmes (1), (4) and (7) in 2008-09 to strengthen various services for young people to better meet their needs. These services include Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers, Outreaching Social Work Services, Young Night Drifter Services, Community Support Service Scheme, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres and Boys' and Girls' Homes with School for Social Development.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the plans and measures to be introduced to address youth problems and the expenditure involved in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD), in cooperation with non-governmental organisations, provides a wide spectrum of preventive, developmental and remedial services to help and develop young people to become mature, responsible and contributing members of the society. SWD has earmarked \$1,501.8 million in the 2008-09 Estimate for young people services under Programme (7).

New initiatives for young people services in under Programmes (1), (4) and (7) in 2008-09 include:

Items	Amount (\$ million)
Setting up two new Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers	7.3
Enhancement in social worker posts	4.1
• 16 additional Social Work Assistant posts under the Outreaching Social Work Services	5.8
• 18 additional Social Work Assistant posts under the Young Night Drifter Services	2.3
• 5 additional Assistant Social Work Officer posts under the Community Support Service Scheme	
Enhancement in residential services	7.6
• 101 additional residential places in subvented Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres	3.5
• 40 additional places in Boys' and Girls' Homes with School for Social Development	
Total	30.6

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : (1) Under this Programme, there will be a net increase of 112 posts in 2008-09. What are the duties, ranks and modes of employment of the posts concerned?

- (2) Among the 112 posts mentioned above, are any of them converted from non-civil-service contract posts to civil-service contract posts? If yes, would the Administration consider filling them by in-service recruitment or giving priority of employment to current non-civil service contract staff?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply : (1) The posts to be created are in the Social Security Officer grade and Social Security Assistant grade. They mainly provide front-line social security services including conducting interviews and investigations for processing or reviewing applications under various social security schemes. This will enhance the provision of social security services. These posts will be filled by officers appointed on civil service terms.

- (2) There are posts to be converted from non-civil service contract (NCSC) to civil service terms. Similar to all other posts on civil service terms, open recruitment will be conducted as we need to ensure that the recruitment process is open, fair and competitive. Generally speaking, NCSC staff who meet the basic entry requirements of the job and possess working experience relevant to the job should enjoy a competitive edge over other candidates in the selection process.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services
(7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in the Budget Speech of the Financial Secretary that the Administration will provide about \$1 billion over the next three years to create 3 000 three-year positions for young people aged between 15 and 29 in collaboration with non-governmental organisations(NGOs).

- (2) Please provide the schedule for creating these positions, the application criteria as well as the nature and category of these positions.
- (3) Would the Administration consider absorbing those young people who have performed well in their temporary positions; and, in case there is a continuous need for the above positions, changing them to permanent posts after three years?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

- Reply :
- (1) The 3 000 time-limited temporary positions, namely Programme Workers (PWs), will be created and allocated to the subvented welfare NGOs effective from April 2008 for three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11. They will assist in programme delivery under elderly, family, rehabilitation and young people services. Young people who are aged between 15 and 29 and are of Form 3 to Form 5 education level can apply for the PW positions. Those who have completed Form 5 education will be paid at \$8,000/month while those who have completed Form 3 to Form 4 education at \$6,000/month.
 - (2) This new initiative aims to provide job opportunities for targeted youth with a view to enhancing their work experience and capabilities and enabling them to seek jobs in the open labour market. As such, we do not see a continuous need for such posts nor does it have any plan to absorb these positions under various services upon the lapse of current funding in 2010-11. The operating NGOs, however, are free to provide the post holders with longer term employment at their own cost as they deem fit.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the “Enhanced New Dawn (ND) Project” launched by the Administration in 2007-08, please provide information on:

- (a) the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who have joined the project;
- (b) the distribution of their age and sex;
- (c) the number of recipients who have secured full-time and part-time employment respectively, the category of employment secured by them and their median wages;
- (d) the number of recipients who have left the CSSA net; and
- (e) the average amount of payment deducted per month.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Enhanced ND Project is an extension of the ND Project. The project has been launched in October 2007 and will run for 30 months :

- (a) Up to the end-January 2008, there were a total of 3 298 participants;
- (b) Of the 3 298 participants, 2 846 are female and 452 are male. Most of the participants are aged between 40 and 49. Distribution of the participants by age group is as follows :

Age group	Number of participants
Below 30	4
30 — 39	573
40 — 49	1 991
50 — 59	730
Total :	3 298

- (c) Of the 3 298 participants, 78 participants secured full-time paid employment and 212 secured part-time paid employment. They mainly worked as service workers, shop assistants, cleaners, domestic helpers and in other elementary occupations. The median monthly wage for full-time employment and part-time employment is \$4,200 and \$1,500 respectively;
- (d) Up to the end-January 2008, six participants left the CSSA net as a result of taking up paid employment;
- (e) Up to the end-January 2008, 1 236 sanctions were administered with a deduction of \$200 from their monthly CSSA payment.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the “Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP)” launched by the Administration in 2007-08, please provide information on:

- (1) the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who have joined the programme;
- (2) the distribution of their age and sex;
- (3) the number of recipients who have secured full-time and part-time employment respectively, the category of employment secured by them and their median wages;
- (4) the number of recipients who have left the CSSA net; and
- (5) the average amount of payment deducted per month.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : My STEP is a trial employment assistance programme which seeks to motivate and assist long-term CSSA able-bodied unemployed youth aged between 15 and 29 to rejoin the workforce or return to mainstream schooling. The requested information is as follows:-

- (1) Up to end-January 2008, a total of 317 CSSA able-bodied unemployed youth joined My STEP.
- (2) Out of the 317 participants, 201 are male and 116 are female. Most of the participants are aged between 15 and 24. Distribution of the participants' by age group is as follows:

Age group	Number of participants
15 — 19	134
20 — 24	134
25 — 29	49
Total :	317

- (3) 32 participants have secured full-time paid employment and nine have secured part-time paid employment. They mainly work as service workers, cleaners and in elementary occupations. The median monthly wage for full-time employment and part-time employment is \$4,900 and \$2,200 respectively.
- (4) Up to end-January 2008, two participants left the CSSA net as a result of taking up paid employment.
- (5) We have no separate record on the number of sanction in respect of participants of My STEP.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide in table form the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients under the single parent category, their sex, age distribution, marital status, level of education, the number of children in their families, the age distribution of their children (with breakdowns on aged 0-5, aged 5-10, aged 10-12, aged 12-14 and aged 15) as well as other sources of income apart from CSSA payments in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Statistics on single parent CSSA recipients with breakdown by selected profiles as at February 2007 and February 2008 are as follows:

Age group	February 2007			February 2008		
	Sex		Total	Sex		Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
18-24	14	529	543	13	448	461
25-29	133	1 503	1 636	106	1 348	1 454
30-39	990	10 759	11 749	862	10 080	10 942
40-49	2 349	13 799	16 148	2 050	13 334	15 384
50-59	1 726	2 825	4 551	1 833	3 066	4 899
60 or over	706	149	855	741	154	895
Total	5 918	29 564	35 482	5 605	28 430	34 035

Marital status	February 2007			February 2008		
	Sex		Total	Sex		Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
Never Married	130	1 380	1 510	126	1 415	1 541
Married/Cohabiting	2 239	2 788	5 027	2 059	2 567	4 626

Marital status	February 2007			February 2008		
	Sex		Total	Sex		Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
Separated	1 303	6 871	8 174	1 176	6 134	7 310
Divorced	1 784	12 759	14 543	1 819	12 769	14 588
Widowed	462	5 766	6 228	425	5 545	5 970
Total	5 918	29 564	35 482	5 605	28 430	34 035

Educational attainment	February 2007	February 2008
No schooling/kindergarten	3 892	3 624
Primary	16 660	15 735
Lower Secondary	9 452	9 235
Upper Secondary	5 045	5 027
Matriculation or above	433	414
Total	35 482	34 035

Number of children^ in family	February 2007	February 2008
1	18 286	17 846
2	13 316	12 708
3	3 184	2 877
4	583	508
5 or above	113	96
Total	35 482	34 035

Age of the children^ in single parent cases	Number of children^ in single parent cases	
	February 2007	February 2008
0-5	8 438	7 762
6-10	14 946	13 577
11-12	9 209	8 306
13-14	9 706	9 450
15 or over	15 530	15 745
Total	57 829	54 840

Type of monthly income resources of the single parent cases	February 2007 (\$'000)	February 2008 (\$'000)
Employment earnings from eligible family members of the case and meals provided by employer	25,431	27,348
Contributions from friends/relatives	992	1,026
Meals provided by other parties (e.g. kindergartens)	151	80
Maintenance payment*	2,858	2,894
Pension	139	142
Other income	242	228
Overall #	29,812	31,718

Notes: ^ Refer to those aged below 15 or 15-21 (engaging in full-time education) receiving child rate of CSSA.

* Excluding nominal amount of maintenance payment which is equivalent to a monthly sum of no more than \$1.

Individual figures may not add up to respective totals owing to rounding.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has considerably underestimated the growth of caseload in Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in 2006-07 and 2007-08, with an error rate doubling from 6.7% in 2006-07 to 12.7% in 2007-08. Instead of the originally expected 19.5% decrease in caseload as a result of manpower increase, the caseload of the workers remained unchanged. SWD estimates that the caseload of domestic violence will only be increased by 2% in 2008-09. Would the Government please inform this Committee:

- (1) the breakdown of cases handled by FCPSUs involving probation order in 2003-2007 by number, nature and gender distribution?
- (2) the breakdown of social enquiry reports involving child custody dispute cases in 2003-2007 by number, nature and gender distribution, as well as the number of children involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) The number of cases handled by FCPSUs involving probation orders from 2003-04 to 2007-08 (up to January 2008) is as follows :

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (April 2007 - January 2008)
29	48	61	78	157

These probation orders were related to child abuse, spouse battering or other offences committed by members of the families that are under the supervision of FCPSUs. SWD has no breakdown of the nature and gender distribution of persons involved in these cases.

- (2) The number of social enquiry reports involving child custody dispute cases that were completed by social workers of FCPSUs from 2003-04 to 2007-08 (up to January 2008) and the number of children involved are shown below :

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (April 2007 - January 2008)
No. of Social Enquiry Reports completed	812	846	885	991	840
No. of children involved	1 107	1 152	1 214	1 381	1 104

All these child custody dispute cases arose from divorce proceedings involving child custody and access arrangement. SWD has no breakdown of gender distribution of the children involved in these cases.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Will the additional 180 infirmary places in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) be provided by RCHEs which are currently providing such services? If yes, how many RCHEs will be involved? What criteria will the Administration use to select service operators? Besides, what are the costs of the infirmary places currently provided by the Hospital Authority and those to be provided by subsidised RCHEs respectively?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : We plan to upgrade the Infirmary Units (IUs) of nine subvented RCHEs, with a view to providing a total of 180 additional infirmary places. All the concerned RCHEs have proven experience in operating IUs and in taking care of elders who require infirmary care and thus are well placed to participate in the upgrading exercise. The infirmary places in RCHEs will take care of medically stable infirm elders in a non-hospital setting, while the infirmary places provided by the Hospital Authority (HA) will continue to serve medically unstable infirm elders who require more intensive medical care in a hospital setting. Because of the different service nature and target users, it is not appropriate to directly compare the unit costs of the infirmary places in RCHEs and that in HA's hospitals. The estimated financial provision for 180 additional infirmary places in RCHEs is about \$18.2 million per annum.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : How many additional subsidised residential care places for the elderly were provided in 2007-08? How does it compare with the number of subsidised residential care places in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : In 2007-08, 695 additional subsidised residential care places were provided, including 483 places purchased from private residential care homes for the elderly under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme and 212 places created in the new contract homes. In 2008-09, an additional 107 subsidised residential care places will be provided in the new contract homes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the total number of applicants waitlisted for subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) places and nursing home (NH) places in 2006-07 and 2007-08 (as at end February) respectively? Please provide the information in the table below:

	Total number of applicants waitlisted for subsidised C&A places	Total number of applicants waitlisted for subsidised NH places
2006-07		
2007-08 (as at end February 2008)		

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The total number of applicants waitlisted for subsidised C&A places and NH places on the Central Waiting List in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is as follows:

	Total number of applicants waitlisted for subsidised C&A places	Total number of applicants waitlisted for subsidised NH places
2006-07	16 191	6 063
2007-08 (as at end February 2008)	16 981	6 213

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the provision of an additional \$35 million for establishing 16 Community Support Centres to strengthen one-stop services and support for persons with disabilities as well as their family members and caretakers, would the Administration please provide the following information:

- (a) in which districts will these 16 Community Support Centres be set up?
- (b) what are the details of the services to be provided by these Centres?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (a) The 16 district-based community support centres will be distributed throughout the territory and their locations are yet to be confirmed.

(b) The district-based community support centres aim to provide one-stop community support services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their families/carers within the service boundary of the centre. Planned service components of centres include:

- individual or group training/programmes and support services for PWDs;
- allied health support service for PWDs;
- respite service;
- social, recreational and personal development programmes;
- training programmes/educational courses/workshops for family members/carers of PWDs; and
- community education.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is proposed in the Budget Speech that an additional funding of about \$100 million a year will be allocated to offer 300 more pre-school training places, 450 more day training places and 490 more subvented residential places. Would the Administration please list out the additional places to be provided and the additional provision to be allocated by category of services (such as early education and training centres, special child care centres, hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons, hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons, hostel for physically handicapped persons, care and attention homes for severely disabled persons, supported hostels, day activity centres, integrated vocational rehabilitation training centres)?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Breakdown of additional provisions for various rehabilitation services in 2008-09 are as follows:

Types of Service	Number of Places	Estimated Provision (Full Year) (\$ million)
Early Education and Training Centre	180	7.9
Special Child Care Centre	120	13.2
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons	85	5.5
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons	130	17.2
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons	45	6.4
Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons	50	7.5
Supported Hostel	80	5.8

Types of Service	Number of Places	Estimated Provision (Full Year) (\$ million)
Long Stay Care Home	100	10.9
Day Activity Centre	130	9.9
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre	320	12.1

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the number of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases that are receiving rent allowance? Amongst these cases, how many of them are receiving maximum rent allowance (please provide a breakdown of the number of cases living in private housing and those living in public housing by the number of household members) in 2006-07 and 2007-08 (for months with available data)?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The number of CSSA cases in (i) public housing estates and (ii) private housing receiving rent allowance by number of eligible members and whether actual rent exceeded the maximum rent allowance (MRA) as at March 2007 and February 2008 are as below:

(i) The number of cases in public housing estates receiving rent allowance by number of eligible members and whether actual rent exceeded the MRA

Number of eligible members	March 2007				February 2008			
	Actual rent less than MRA	Actual rent equal to MRA	Actual rent greater than MRA	Total	Actual rent less than MRA	Actual rent equal to MRA	Actual rent greater than MRA	Total
1	55 944	234	5 406	61 584	59 323	96	3 157	62 576
2	40 905	21	573	41 499	40 991	3	202	41 196
3	24 295	2	85	24 382	23 248	1	23	23 272
4	17 930	1	136	18 067	15 938	1	27	15 966
5	7 358	4	198	7 560	6 598		17	6 615
6 and above	3 343		14	3 357	2 801		3	2 804
Total	149 775	262	6 412	156 449	148 899	101	3 429	152 429

- (ii) The number of cases in private housing receiving rent allowance by number of eligible members and whether actual rent exceeded the MRA

Number of eligible members	March 2007				February 2008			
	Actual rent less than MRA	Actual rent equal to MRA	Actual rent greater than MRA	Total	Actual rent less than MRA	Actual rent equal to MRA	Actual rent greater than MRA	Total
1	8 878	621	13 628	23 127	8 164	663	13 430	22 257
2	7 254	206	4 445	11 905	6 591	204	4 426	11 221
3	4 086	39	2 855	6 980	3 836	39	2 826	6 701
4	1 749	9	1 231	2 989	1 541	4	1 160	2 705
5	469	11	402	882	411	7	381	799
6 and above	246	1	118	365	224	1	122	347
Total	22 682	887	22 679	46 248	20 767	918	22 345	44 030

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases and the government expenditure involved under various categories (including old age, disability, ill health, single-parent family, low earnings, unemployment and others) in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. What are the estimated caseload and expenditure for each category in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The average number of CSSA cases and the expenditure by nature of case for 2006-07 are as follows:

Nature of case	2006-07 Actual		
	Average number of cases	Average number of recipients	Expenditure (\$ million)
Old Age	147 802	201 908	8,282
Permanent Disability	17 227	27 369	997
Ill Health	22 714	46 779	1,589
Single Parent	36 848	99 023	3,137
Low Earnings	16 759	65 201	1,277
Unemployment	32 205	77 682	2,046
Others	5 149	8 926	309
Total	278 703	526 889	17,638

Note: Individual figures may not add up to respective totals due to rounding.

The estimated average number of CSSA cases and expenditure by nature of case for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as follows:

Nature of case	2007-08 Revised Estimate		
	Average number of cases	Average number of recipients	Expenditure (\$ million)
Old Age	148 100	200 400	8,636
Permanent Disability	17 300	26 700	1,036
Ill Health	23 000	45 700	1,642
Single Parent	35 800	94 800	3,113
Low Earnings	16 200	62 000	1,289
Unemployment	28 600	65 900	1,843
Others	5 400	9 200	331
Total	274 400	504 700	17,890

Nature of case	2008-09 Estimate		
	Average number of cases	Average number of recipients	Expenditure (\$ million)
Old Age	149 700	202 700	8,412
Permanent Disability	17 800	27 500	1,021
Ill Health	23 600	46 900	1,610
Single Parent	35 800	95 000	2,945
Low Earnings	17 200	66 000	1,256
Unemployment	27 800	64 000	1,686
Others	5 900	10 000	337
Total	277 800	512 100	17,267

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What were the numbers of cases and the government financial commitment involved in Higher Old Age Allowance (HOAA) and Normal Old Age Allowance (NOAA) in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively? What are the estimated numbers of cases and expenditure involved under these two categories in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The number of HOAA and NOAA cases and the expenditure incurred in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

	2006-07 Actual	
	Average number of cases	Expenditure # (\$ million)
HOAA	377 701	3,215
NOAA	76 094	583
Total	453 795	3,799

	2007-08 Revised Estimate	
	Average number of cases	Expenditure * (\$ million)
HOAA	389 000	3,561
NOAA	70 600	577
Total	459 600	4,138

Note : (#) Figures do not add up to total due to rounding.

(*) The 2007-08 Revised Estimate includes the payment of one additional month of allowance for OAA recipients.

The estimated average number of cases and expenditure for 2008-09 are provided below:

	2008-09 Estimate	
	Average number of cases	Expenditure ^ (\$ million)
HOAA	410 400	3,474
NOAA	69 200	519
Total	479 600	3,993

Note : (^) The 2008-09 Estimate has yet to include the additional payment of \$3,000 for OAA recipients as proposed in the 2008-09 Budget.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As regards the elders under the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme, is there any change in the estimated number of elders who will retire in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province respectively in 2008-09 when compared with that in 2007-08? What is the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated number of PCSSA recipients residing in Guangdong and Fujian and the estimated total expenditure in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as follows :

	2007-08	2008-09
Estimated number of PCSSA recipients residing in Guangdong	3 175	3 245
Estimated number of PCSSA recipients residing in Fujian	150	195
Estimated total number of PCSSA recipients	3 325	3 440
Estimated total expenditure	\$103 million	\$107 million

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)162

Question Serial No.

1578

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What was the number of participants in the Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP) in 2007-08? What is the provision for the Programme in 2008-09? Is there any change in the provision when compared with that in 2007-08? What is the estimated number of participants in the Programme?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : My STEP is a trial employment assistance programme which seeks to motivate and assist long-term Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) able-bodied unemployed youth aged between 15 and 29 to rejoin the workforce or return to mainstream schooling.

Two My STEP projects had been launched since October 2006 for one year and served 68 participants in Tin Shui Wai/Yuen Long districts. The estimated cost is \$1.5 million.

In view of the satisfactory performance of the two My STEP projects, another four My STEP projects have been launched for two years from October 2007 to September 2009 in Tin Shui Wai/Yuen Long, Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, Tai Po/North and Shatin, Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung districts. The estimated cost of the four My STEP projects is \$9.9 million. So far, a total of 317 CSSA unemployed youth have joined the My STEP projects.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)163

Question Serial No.

1579

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under the Programme of social security, there will be a net increase of 112 posts in 2008-09. What are the reasons for the increase? What are the duties of these new posts? What is the additional provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The posts to be created are in the Social Security Officer grade and Social Security Assistant grade. They mainly provide front-line social security services including conducting interviews and investigations for processing or reviewing applications under various social security schemes. The additional provision involved is about \$27.5 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
700-General non-recurrent

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged under Item 470 in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated expenditure for the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged under Item 470 in 2008-09 is about \$25 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding item 521 on the “Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise” Project, what is the action plan and the expenditure incurred in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The “Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise” Project (3 E’s Project) is a funding project providing seed money to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for setting up small businesses to create employment for persons with disabilities (PWDs). The Marketing Consultancy Office (Rehabilitation) [MCO(R)] of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides consultancy service to NGOs on the setting up and operation of businesses; liaises with government bureaux/departments and the commercial sector to assist NGOs in securing service/job orders; and promotes their businesses in publicity/marketing events. These support measures will continue in 2008-09 to further encourage NGOs to set up more small businesses.

Besides, the MCO(R) has been entrusted to continue to collaborate with NGOs in promoting the brand name of “SEPD” (Support of the Employment of People with Disabilities) registered by the Administration for the products and services provided by PWDs. In 2008-09, the MCO(R) will launch a series of promotional programmes for the brand building of SEPD, such as a drama script competition taking the work abilities of PWDs as the theme. It will also make use of an information gallery in Mongkok for displaying and promoting the products/services of PWDs, and those businesses funded under the 3 E’s Project.

A total sum of \$50 million was granted for the operation of the 3 E’s Project and, as at February 2008, \$24.8 million [i.e. 50 %] of the fund has been allocated to NGOs for running 45 small businesses.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare
Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
700 - General non-recurrent

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the provision for item 529 in 2008-09, what is the arrangement?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Provision for the non-recurrent Item 529 under Subhead 700 was for the employment of temporary workers. With effect from 2007-08, the provision for employment of these workers has been subsumed in the respective recurrent subheads, though \$0.2 million is still earmarked under Item 529 in 2008-09 to meet the estimated cashflow requirement for payment of contract gratuities to some of these workers.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)167

Question Serial No.

1583

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the reason for the substantial reduction of 22% in the number of groups and programmes organised by Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) in 2008-09? Regarding the provision for IFSCs in 2008-09, what are the financial provision for the government and the subvented sectors respectively?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The number of groups and programmes in 2007-08 (i.e. 6 348 and 2 568 for the government sector and subvented sector respectively) is the estimated number of groups and programmes that would have been organised by 31 March 2008. The estimate is based on the actual number of groups and programmes organised in the first two quarters of 2007-08. The estimated number in 2008-09 (i.e. 4 941 and 2 036 for the government sector and subvented sector respectively) is the aggregate of the output indicators as stipulated in the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs). IFSCs may, as in 2007-08, organise more groups and programmes than the output level required in the FSAs. The financial provision in the 2008-09 Estimate for IFSCs is \$466.3 million and \$180.2 million for the government sector and subvented sector respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)168

Question Serial No.

1584

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, what is the planned number of additional places in residential child care services? What is the total estimate for residential child care services?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2008-09, 100 additional residential child care places will be provided. The total estimate for residential child care services in 2008-09 is about \$387.3 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the planned number of places to be increased for the Refuge Centres for Women in 2008-09? What is the provision for the Refuge Centres for Women?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In the beginning of 2007-08, there were 180 places in four Refuge Centres for Women providing temporary accommodation and supportive services to women and their children affected by domestic violence or family crisis. The average occupancy rate of these four centres in the first three quarters of 2007-08 was 93%. Through on-site expansion in one of these centres, the total number of places was increased to 195 in January 2008. In 2008-09, additional funding of \$5 million will be provided to further increase the number of places to a total of 260 by phases to meet service demand. The total allocation for Refuge Centres for Women in 2008-09 is estimated to be about \$20 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under the Programme on “Services for Elders”, the Government has allocated \$3,661.6 million to promote the welfare of the elderly. Please state the respective provision in respect of residential care services and community care and support services for the elderly, and the respective provision in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The annual provisions for residential care services and community care and support services for the elderly over the years are as follows:

	2005-06 (Actual) (\$ million)	2006-07 (Actual) (\$ million)	2007-08 (Revised Estimate) (\$ million)	2008-09 (Estimate) (\$ million)
Residential Care Services	1,936.2	1,966.2	2,085.5	2,162.8
Community Care and Support Services	962.1	995.3	1,087.1	1,223.0

In 2008-09, apart from residential care services and community care and support services, additional resources have been earmarked for such initiatives as strengthening of administrative support of non-governmental organisations, provision of time-limited temporary posts of programme workers for three years, and the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme, etc. All these add up to the projected financial provision of \$3,661.6 million for “Elderly Services” in the 2008-09 Estimate.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)171

Question Serial No.

1589

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the estimated number of homes to participate in the conversion of self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places in 2008-09? How many S/C hostels and/or H/As have yet to participate in the programme? The participating homes plan to provide 5 019 residential care places in 2008-09. What is the provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2008-09, it is estimated that about six additional homes will kick-start the conversion programme. There remain eleven homes which have yet to participate in the programme. The estimated financial provision for a cumulative total of 5 019 places under the conversion programme is about \$535 million per annum.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : (a) What are the planned numbers of training places for professional and non-professional staff serving demented elders in 2008-09?

(b) What is the planned number of training places for care staff serving people with disabilities in the Integrated Home Care Services Teams in 2008-09? What is the provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (a) In 2008-09, a total of 240 training places will be offered to 120 professional staff and 120 non-professional staff who provide services to demented elders.

(b) In 2008-09, a total of 120 training places will be provided for the care staff serving people with disabilities in the Integrated Home Care Services Teams. The estimated expenditure is about \$30,000.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

- Question :
- (a) Despite the original plan to maintain 60 Social Centres for the Elderly (S/Es) in 2006-07, the Government has reduced the number of S/Es to 58 both in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Why has the number of S/Es not been increased for 2008-09?
 - (b) What are the reasons for not increasing the number of District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) and S/Es in 2007-08 and 2008-09? Is there any plan in 2008-09 to provide additional space for these centres? How much area will be increased?
 - (c) What is the planned increase in manpower for elderly centres in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

- Reply :
- (a) The number of S/Es was reduced from 60 to 58 in 2006-07 and further reduced to 57 in 2007-08 as a result of the merging of two S/Es into an NEC and the merging of an S/E with an NEC.

The Social Welfare Department initiated a re-engineering exercise in 2003 to upgrade the then Multi-service Centres for the Elderly (M/Es) and the S/Es into DECCs and NECs respectively. The objective of the exercise was to enhance the roles and functions of the elderly centres to provide a diversity of services for the elderly in an integrated approach. Following the re-engineering exercise, DECCs and NECs have become the mainstream community support service units providing holistic services to meet the multifarious needs of elders ageing in the community.

- (b) Currently, there are 41 DECCs, 115 NECs and 57 S/Es which form a territory-wide social support network for the elders in the community. We will monitor the service demand for new centres, especially in newly developed residential sites.

In view of the enhanced functions of DECCs and NECs, we added 83 square metres to the internal floor area (IFA) provision of a DECC (which now stands at 572 square metres) and 156 square metres to that of an NEC (which now stands at 394 square metres) when we launched the re-engineering exercise for upgrading the then M/Es and most of the S/Es to DECCs and NECs respectively. At present, about half of DECCs and a quarter of NECs have attained the enhanced standard space provision. We shall continue to help the remaining centres to relocate or set up sub-bases to meet the prescribed schedule of accommodation.

- (c) Additional funding of about \$18 million will be allocated to 41 DECCs to enable each of them to recruit an additional social worker to strengthen their counselling and referral services for the elderly, particularly for suspected elder abuse, neglect, depression and suicide cases as well as for processing applications for subsidised long-term care services. Moreover, additional manpower provision of 180 programme workers will be allocated to elderly centres for a period of three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)174

Question Serial No.

1592

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the specific details regarding the new initiative to help improve the homes of elderly people in 2008-09? What is the provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The 2008-09 Budget has earmarked one-off funding of \$200 million to help needy elderly people improve their homes in the next five years. The scheme targets at elders (aged 60 or above) without family support, who live in dilapidated homes with poor fittings and lack financial means to improve their home conditions. Elders will be provided with minor home maintenance and improvement services as well as the necessary fittings after an assessment on their financial situation and living environment. The amount of subsidy for each eligible elderly household will be subject to a ceiling of \$5,000 within the five-year period, regardless of the type of housing units occupied by the applicants and their status of being tenant or occupier owners.

District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), which have established networks in their respective districts and extensive experience in serving the elders, will be invited to be the delivery agencies of the scheme. The Social Welfare Department is working on the implementation details with DECCs and aims to launch the scheme in June 2008, subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee. We expect that about 40 000 elderly will benefit from this scheme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the financial resources involved in providing 2 215 places in Day Care Centres for the Elderly in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated expenditure for the provision of 2 215 day care places in 2008-09 is \$161 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)176

Question Serial No.

1594

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the provision earmarked by the Social Welfare Department for promoting Active Ageing in 2008-09? Is there any difference between the provision in 2007-08 and 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2008-09, the provision for the Opportunities for the Elderly Project is \$3.6 million. As compared to the provision of \$3 million in 2007-08, there will be an increase of 20%.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, how many training places will be provided under the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector? What is the provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2008-09, the Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, will launch the fourth batch of Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector to provide an additional 110 training places. The provision involved is about \$5.3 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) in 2008-09? Why does the average cost per place per month under the EBPS decrease while the costs for other services are on the increase in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The estimated expenditure on the provision of subsidised residential care places under the EBPS in 2008-09 is \$448.2 million.

The slight decrease in unit cost for an EBPS place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate is mainly due to the projected increase in enrolment rate from 95% to 96%.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : There will be no increase in the number of cases served by the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) in 2008-09. What are the reasons? What is the provision for the services?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has secured additional recurrent funding of \$20 million in 2006-07 to increase the service capacity of the non-frailty tested home care services for the elderly. With these resources, an additional 1 500 cases are estimated to be served in 2007-08 as compared with 2006-07. SWD will continue to monitor the service demand for IHCS and secure additional resources when necessary. The estimated expenditure on IHCS in 2008-09 is \$415.8 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the specific plans for support services for carers of elders in 2008-09? What is the provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The Government will continue to provide support services to carers of elders through various subsidised elderly service units in 2008-09. Elderly centres throughout the territory provide support to carers by offering information, training and counselling services, helping them with the formation of mutual assistance groups, setting up resource corners, and giving demonstration and loan of rehabilitation equipment. All subsidised residential care homes for the elderly and Day Care Centres/Units also provide relief to carers through their residential/day respite services.

Since the above carer support services are part and parcel of the services provided by the subsidised elderly service units, a breakdown on the expenditure on carer support alone is not available.

The Government has also launched other projects to further enhance the support to carers. Specifically, the 2007-08 Budget has allocated \$96 million to implement a trial scheme to provide integrated support services to elderly hospital discharges who have difficulty in taking care of themselves. This project also provides carers' training and support services. The first pilot has commenced operation in Kwun Tong in March 2008.

Besides, the Elderly Commission, Labour and Welfare Bureau and Social Welfare Department launched a District-based Trial Scheme on Carer Training (the Scheme) in October 2007, covering the districts of Eastern and Wanchai, Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung, and Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong. Under the Scheme, 11 District Elderly Community Centres were each provided with seed money of \$50,000 to run carer training programmes in collaboration with community organisations.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The provision for the government sector in 2008-09 will be reduced by 15.9% when comparing to that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. What is the reason for this? What expenditure items will be deleted? On the other hand, the provision for the subvented/private sectors in 2008-09 will be increased by 11.9% when comparing to that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. What is the reason for this? What expenditure items will be added?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The reduction in provision under this Programme in the government sector in 2008-09 is mainly due to the re-classification of funding allocation for temporary posts from the government sector to the subvented sector. There is no reduction in the provision for elderly services.

The increase in provision under this Programme in the subvented/private sectors in 2008-09 is mainly due to the above-mentioned re-classification of funding and the additional provision to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for enhancing the outreach services of elderly centres, increase in the supply of home care places, subsidised day and residential care places and infirmary places in residential care homes for the elderly, provision of additional staff in District Elderly Community Centres for enhancing their counselling and referral services and their processing of applications for subsidised long-term care services for the elderly, creation of time-limited positions for young people and strengthening of the administrative support of NGOs under the Lump Sum Grant.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will implement a new initiative to help improve the homes of elderly people living in poor conditions in 2008-09. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the details and the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The 2008-09 Budget has earmarked one-off funding of \$200 million to help needy elderly people improve their homes in the next five years. The scheme targets at elders (aged 60 or above) without family support, who live in dilapidated homes with poor fittings and lack financial means to improve their home conditions. Elders will be provided with minor home maintenance and improvement services as well as the necessary fittings after an assessment on their financial situation and living environment. The amount of subsidy for each eligible elderly household will be subject to a ceiling of \$5,000 within the five-year period, regardless of the type of housing units occupied by the applicants and their status of being tenant or occupier owners.

District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), which have established networks in their respective districts and extensive experience in serving the elders, will be invited to be the delivery agencies of the scheme. SWD is working on the implementation details with DECCs and aims to launch the scheme in June 2008, subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee. We expect that about 40 000 elderly will benefit from this scheme.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)183

Question Serial No.

1607

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Six additional posts will be created in 2008-09. What are the ranks, salaries and duties of the posts concerned?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The posts to be created are of the Registered Nurse grade. They are created to enhance the inspection and monitoring of health care services provided in residential care homes for the elderly and those under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services. The expenditure involved is about \$1.8 million per annum.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)184

Question Serial No.

1608

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Seven posts will be deleted in 2008-09. What are the ranks, salaries and duties of the posts concerned?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The posts to be deleted are mainly in the Certificated Master/Mistress grade, Welfare Worker grade, Ward Attendant grade and Workman II grade. The net reduction in expenditure is about \$1.0 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)185

Question Serial No.

1609

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Four additional posts will be created in 2008-09. What are the ranks, salaries and duties of the posts concerned?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The posts to be created are in the Social Work Officer grade and are mainly for strengthening the psychosocial intervention to substance abusers with mental problems. The additional expenditure involved is about \$1.9 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)186

Question Serial No.

1610

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As shown by the indicators for “Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)”, the number of groups and programmes organised has decreased. Will the relevant expenditure be reduced correspondingly? If yes, how much will be reduced and what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The number of groups and programmes in 2007-08 (i.e. 6 348 and 2 568 for the government sector and subvented sector respectively) is the estimated number of groups and programmes that would have been organised by 31 March 2008. The estimate is based on the actual number of groups and programmes organised in the first two quarters of 2007-08. The estimated number in 2008-09 (i.e. 4 941 and 2 036 for the government sector and subvented sector respectively) is the aggregate of the output indicators as stipulated in the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs). IFSCs may, as in 2007-08, organise more groups and programmes than the output level required in the FSAs. The financial provision in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate for IFSCs and in the 2008-09 Estimate for the same item are \$612.9 million and \$646.5 million respectively. There is no reduction in the expenditure in 2008-09. We have no breakdown on the expenditure for organising groups and programmes in IFSCs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)187

Question Serial No.

1611

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The provision for 2008-09 is \$577.3 million (2.3%) lower than the Revised Estimate for 2007-08, which is mainly due to the reduced requirement for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and Social Security Allowance (SSA) payments. What is the reason for such a reduced requirement for payments? What are the amount of payments involved respectively? What is the number of CSSA applicants involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The 2007-08 Revised Estimate for CSSA and SSA Schemes are \$17,890 million and \$6,080 million respectively whereas the 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes are \$17,267 million and \$5,982 million respectively.

The 2007-08 Revised Estimate includes payment of one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients. The financial implication for this measure is \$1.5 billion, comprising \$1.0 billion for the CSSA Scheme and \$0.5 billion for the SSA Scheme. The 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes is, in fact, higher than the respective Revised Estimate of 2007-08, if the one month additional payment for both Schemes is to be discounted. The increase in the estimated provision seeks to cope with the estimated increases in the number of cases under the two Schemes in 2008-09.

The estimated average numbers of CSSA recipients for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are 504 700 and 512 100 respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

With regard to empowerment of women and enabling them to participate more fully in the community, please provide the participation rate of women in advisory and statutory bodies.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

According to the record of the Home Affairs Bureau, as at 31 December 2007, the women's participation rate in advisory and statutory bodies was 26.5%, viz. 1 381 of the 5 202 Government appointed members were women.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : How much funding will be involved in extending the elder academies scheme to tertiary institutions? Which department will provide the funding?

What is the total amount of subsidy granted to the elder academies scheme since its implementation? What is the number of persons benefited from the scheme? What is the difference between the funding criteria for the scheme and those for the recurrent allocation for elderly centres?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Pilot Elder Learning Scheme (the Scheme) was launched by the Elderly Commission (EC) and the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) in early 2007. Altogether 32 elder academies, which are operated by primary/secondary schools in partnership with non-governmental organisations, have commenced operation, providing over 5 000 places in the 2007/08 academic year. Each of these elder academies has been granted seed money of \$50,000 (a total of \$1.6 million for 32 elder academies in 2006-07) by LWB and that they will continue to operate on a self-sustaining mode.

Our next target is to extend the Scheme to tertiary institutions. We have already obtained support from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Shue Yan University and the Lingnan University. The funding required in 2007-08 is \$250,000.

EC and LWB will continue to encourage more primary/secondary schools and tertiary institutions to join the Scheme. In 2008-09, LWB plans to spend around \$2 million to extend the Scheme further at different levels.

Unlike the recurrent allocation to elderly centres, the fund for the elder academies is provided as a one-off grant. The funding is provided on the basis of the merits of each proposal.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist and the Gender Focal Points Network in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09 under this Programme, would the Administration advise on:

- (a) the details of the work (including the progress, the timetable, to which policy areas or government departments they are introduced, anticipated effect), the expenditure and manpower so involved?
- (b) whether it will consider conducting public education to enhance public awareness of gender-related issues, and introducing a Gender Mainstreaming Checklist and the Gender Focal Points Network to commercial organisations and academic institutions?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Administration has, on the advice and with the assistance of the Women's Commission (WoC), implemented gender mainstreaming and has to date applied the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist (the Checklist) to 28 policy or programme areas. The Checklist is an analytical tool developed by WoC to assist government officials in incorporating, in a more systematic way, the gender perspectives in the policy formulation and programme development processes, so that women and men will have equitable access to, and benefit from, society's resources and opportunities. For 2008-09, WoC has suggested that the Administration should apply the Checklist to four new areas, viz. pre-primary education, health programme for women, provision of sports facilities and provision of market facilities. We will follow up with the concerned bureaux and departments on this.

Apart from adopting the Checklist, staff of many bureaux and departments have also applied the gender mainstreaming concept in the course of their daily work, taking into account the needs and perspectives of both genders. We will continue to promote the application of the gender mainstreaming concept.

Separately, the Administration, on WoC's advice, has since 2003 set up a network of Gender Focal Points (GFPs) in all bureaux and departments. They serve as the contact

and resource persons within their respective organisations and are tasked to help raise awareness and understanding of gender-related issues, and promote the use of the Checklist within their areas of work. To further promote gender mainstreaming within the Administration, a core group of GFP has been set up to devise plans and strategies to facilitate the proactive application of the Checklist by bureaux and departments. On the suggestion of the core group, we are strengthening gender-related training for civil servants to enhance understanding of gender mainstreaming. In 2008-09, we will continue to provide more gender-related training for civil servants. As per the advice of the core group, we are also planning to develop a web-portal and produce an information leaflet on gender mainstreaming for handy reference by all civil servants. We will continue to strengthen the network of GFPs through regular meetings and experience-sharing sessions.

To further promote gender mainstreaming in the community, WoC had, with our support, arranged a number of exchange sessions with members of the District Council and visited a number of districts to share experience in implementing gender mainstreaming in the past year. In 2008-09, such efforts will continue.

Resources required for carrying out the above measures are absorbed within the existing provisions of the Labour and Welfare Bureau, as well as other concerned bureaux and departments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)191

Question Serial No.

1640

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Would the Administration please provide information on the ranks, salaries and duties of the 112 additional posts to be created in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The posts to be created are in the Social Security Officer grade and Social Security Assistant grade. They mainly provide front-line social security services including conducting interviews and investigations for processing or reviewing applications under various social security schemes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Would the Administration please provide information on the ranks, salaries and duties of the nine additional posts to be created in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The posts to be created are in the Social Work Officer grade. The posts are mainly to enhance social work services and support for victims of domestic violence and families in need. The additional expenditure involved is about \$5.4 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)193

Question Serial No.

1345

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : To improve existing services, will the Administration consider providing financial support to Rainlily in 2008-09? If no, why not? As for the Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre (the CEASE Crisis Centre), what specific plan does the Administration have in place to improve its services? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : The CEASE Crisis Centre (the Centre) is funded by the Lotteries Fund on a pilot basis with an estimated total operating cost of \$20 million for three years. The Centre has since 26 March 2007 commenced its first phase of service, providing a 24-hour hotline and outreaching/crisis intervention services and case consultation. The second phase of service will commence in the first quarter of 2008-09, providing short-term accommodation services. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has all along been closely monitoring the effectiveness and performance of the Centre through a set of output and outcome indicators as agreed with the operator. SWD also submits progress report to the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee on a yearly basis. The Administration has no plan to allocate resources for other similar services following the operation and provision of services by the Centre.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As for drawing on other good practices, why does the Administration not draw on the work of Rainlily which has years of experience in providing assistance to victims of sexual violence?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply : Reference has been made to, among others, the experience of Rainlily when the Administration critically examined and reviewed the mode of service provision and service coordination among various departments in serving victims of sexual violence in 2006.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the work on extending the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS), would the Administration advise on the details of the work, the expenditures and manpower involved, as well as the effectiveness of helping the poor?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : Through our joint efforts with the Department of Health (DH), Hospital Authority (HA), Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Education Bureau, the Labour and Welfare Bureau has implemented the CCDS in phases since 2005.

Using the Maternal and Child Health Centres of the DH and other service units as the screening platform, the CCDS aims to identify at an early stage at-risk pregnant women, mothers with postnatal depression, families with psychosocial needs, as well as pre-primary children with health, developmental and behavioural problems. Children and their families in need are referred to appropriate health and welfare service units for follow-up.

A total of \$30 million has been allocated to launch, improve and extend the CCDS. We have strengthened the medical, nursing, paramedical, research and administrative manpower in the DH and HA, and improved the service facilities and information technology support, etc. in the DH. At present, the CCDS covers Sham Shui Po, Tseung Kwan O, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long (including Tin Shui Wai), Tung Chung and Kwun Tong.

To support more young children and families in need, we will further extend the CCDS to Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing in 2008-09. Starting from 2008-09, additional recurrent funding of \$12.7 million will be allocated to the DH, HA and SWD to strengthen their manpower support for the CCDS. Separately, one-off funding of \$1.8 million will be allocated to the DH in 2008-09 to further improve service facilities, etc.

The CCDS is not a poverty alleviation initiative *per se*. It aims to identify at an early stage children and families with health and social needs, including but not restricted to families in poverty, and provide them with timely

assistance such as social services in the Integrated Family Service Centres / Integrated Services Centres. Referrals for employment, accommodation or financial assistance are also made when necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

In 2008-09 financial year, the Administration will study the long-term development planning for social welfare in Hong Kong through the Social Welfare Advisory Committee. What is the expenditure for this programme? Will there be any public forums and seminars for wide consultation?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

The Administration has undertaken to study the long-term development planning for social welfare in Hong Kong through the Social Welfare Advisory Committee (the Committee). The Committee is about to firm up its consultation plan. The expenditure involved in the exercise will be absorbed within the existing resources of the Labour and Welfare Bureau.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated that the Government will further strengthen support to and increase the capacity of Refuge Centres for Women in 2008. Would the Government please inform this Committee the details of the above-mentioned measures and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : At present, there are four Refuge Centres for Women that provide temporary accommodation and supportive services to women and their children affected by domestic violence or family crisis. All of them are operated by non-governmental organisations with subvention from the Social Welfare Department.

The enhanced support for Refuge Centres for Women will be implemented by phases, including:

- (a) alignment of social work support from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays;
- (b) provision of three months of after-care service to discharged residents; and
- (c) increase of capacity from 180 to 260 places.

In 2007-08, additional funding of \$1.7 million was allocated for this purpose. In 2008-09, a further provision of \$5 million will be allocated to continue with the enhancement.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)198

Question Serial No.

0993

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Government states that clinical psychological support for victims of domestic violence, particularly children witnessing domestic violence, was strengthened and preparation for setting up a new clinical psychology unit in Tin Shui Wai to serve districts in north-western New Territories was made in 2007. When will the clinical psychology unit come into operation? What is the estimated number of cases handled per year? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The new clinical psychology unit in Tin Shui Wai is expected to commence operation in June 2008. It is estimated that the new unit will handle 400-500 new cases in the first year of operation, with an annual estimated operating cost of about \$9.3 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)199

Question Serial No.

0994

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Government has mentioned that an Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre (ICYSC) will be set up in Tin Shui Wai in 2008. When will this centre commence operation and what kinds of services will be provided? What is the expected number of clients served each year and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : ICYSCs serve young people aged six to 24 through provision of a wide range of programmes including personal guidance and counselling, supportive services for those in disadvantaged circumstances, socialisation programmes as well as activities on the development of social responsibility and competence.

A new ICYSC located in Phase Two of Tin Shui Wai Area 103 will be set up by an existing non-governmental organisation through pooling of existing resources. Subject to the progress of construction and fitting-out works, the new ICYSC is expected to commence operation by the end of 2008. The service utilisation figures of the new ICYSC are therefore not available at this stage.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)200

Question Serial No.

1049

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the staffing establishment of and the expenditure incurred by Social Security Field Units in 2008-09? With regard to the training provided by the Social Welfare Department for social security staff in 2008-09, what are the expenditure involved and the details of the training programmes?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : In 2008-09, the total establishment of Social Security Field Units is 1 321 posts comprising the Social Security Officer, Social Security Assistant, Clerical and Workman II grades. The annual expenditure involved is about \$337.8 million.

In 2008-09, we have reserved \$0.5 million for providing training in relation to professional, legal and management knowledge and customer service skills for various grades of social security staff.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)201

Question Serial No.

1142

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Revised Estimate for the Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation was \$8.6 million in 2007-08, a 31% increase when comparing with 2006-07. How many cases were approved in the year? What was the average compensation amount, and what were the highest and the lowest amounts?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply : The Revised Estimate for the Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation in 2007-08 is made on the basis of the average number of new paid cases per year during the three years from 2004-05 to 2006-07 and the average amount of payment per case.

In 2007-08, up to February 2008 the number of new cases approved was 266. The average amount of compensation per case was \$20,958. The highest amount was \$151,735 and the lowest \$149.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated that the provision for 2008-09 is \$184.8 million higher than the Revised Estimate for 2007-08 and this is mainly due to filling of vacant posts. What are the posts to be filled and the respective expenditure incurred? How will the additional \$184.8 million be deployed?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply : The posts to be created are Social Work Officer grade posts to enhance social work services and support for victims of domestic violence and families in need. The annual expenditure is about \$418,740 for each post. The increase in provision of \$184.8 million under this programme in 2008-09 is mainly due to the filling of vacant and new posts (\$35.2 million) and additional requirement for general departmental expenses, personnel-related expenses and programme expenses (\$8.1 million), implementing a comprehensive improvement package to tackle domestic violence and family crisis (\$40.0 million) and other new initiatives such as flexible child care services and creation of time-limited temporary positions for young people, etc. (\$39.0 million), strengthening the administrative support of non-governmental organisations under the Lump Sum Grant (\$18.8 million) and the full-year effect of new initiatives implemented in 2007-08 (\$40.8 million).

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The provision for 2008-09 is \$577.3 million lower than the Revised Estimate for 2007-08. What are the reasons for the reduced requirement for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and Social Security Allowance (SSA) payments? Is the amount so saved being used for offsetting the expenditure incurred for filling vacant posts and creating 112 posts? Why is there a need to create 112 posts? Please provide details of these posts.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply : The 2007-08 Revised Estimate for CSSA and SSA Schemes are \$17,890 million and \$6,080 million respectively whereas the 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes are \$17,267 million and \$5,982 million respectively.

The 2007-08 Revised Estimate has included one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients amounting to about \$1.0 billion for the CSSA Scheme and \$0.5 billion for the SSA Scheme. The 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes is, in fact, higher than the respective Revised Estimate of 2007-08, if the one month additional payment for both Schemes is to be discounted. The increase in the estimated provision seeks to cope with the estimated increase in the number of cases in the two Schemes in 2008-09.

The posts to be created are in the Social Security Officer grade and Social Security Assistant grade. They mainly provide front-line social security services including conducting interviews and investigations for processing or reviewing applications under various social security schemes. The provision is made under the Operational Expenses of Social Welfare Department, which is not included in the estimate for the CSSA and SSA Schemes.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)204

Question Serial No.

1159

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The service capacity of home care places is expected to increase in 2008-09. Is there any concrete plan? If yes, what is the additional service capacity and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply : In 2008-09, we will award six new contracts for providing a minimum service volume of 180 cases for the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services for frail elders. We have invited eligible non-governmental organisations to submit tenders in February 2008 and the additional service capacity is expected to come on stream in December 2008. The recurrent expenditure involved is \$7.5 million per annum.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)205

Question Serial No.

1161

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the financial provision for young people, please explain why the 2008-09 Estimate for the government sector is 69% lower than that of the 2007-08 Revised Estimate, whereas the 2008-09 Estimate for the subvented sector will be increased by 24%? What are the services affected by the said reduction or increase in provision?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply : The reduction in provision under this programme in the government sector in 2008-09 is mainly due to the re-classification of the funding allocation for the temporary posts from the government sector to the subvented sector. There is actually no reduction in the total provision for the service.

The increase in provision under this programme in the subvented sector in 2008-09 reflects the above-mentioned re-classification of funding allocation for the temporary posts from the government sector to the subvented sector, additional provision for the creation of time-limited positions for young people, enhancing the services of outreaching social work and community support service scheme, and strengthening the administrative support of the non-governmental organisations subvented under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)206

Question Serial No.

1162

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is anticipated that the average number of supervision cases served per social worker of family and child protection units in 2008-09 will be increased. Would the Government recruit additional staff to cope with the increasing workload? If so, what are the expenditure and the manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2008-09, additional provision of \$2.1 million will be provided for increasing five social workers in Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs).

In addition to strengthening manpower, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has also introduced different measures to address the workload of social workers in FCPSUs over the past few years. These include deploying non-social work staff to provide general support to social workers, improving multi-disciplinary collaboration with the police and medical services, enhancing support services like refuge centres for women and child care services, strengthening training, supervisory and clinical support for front-line social workers. SWD will continue to keep in view the workload and manpower situation of the FCPSUs and explore improvement measures where necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)207

Question Serial No.

1163

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2007, the Social Welfare Department strengthened the manpower and enhanced the outreach and support services of District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) to hidden and vulnerable elders. Would the Government please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the specific results achieved under the Programme in 2007-08?
- (b) whether the initiative will be continued in 2008-09 and what are the estimated manpower required and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : (a) Additional recurrent funding of \$38 million earmarked in the 2007-08 Budget has been allocated to 41 DECCs and 115 NECs since January 2008 for each of them to recruit an additional social worker to strengthen outreach services to hidden and vulnerable elders. Each DECC and NEC is expected to reach out and provide services to 40 hidden and vulnerable elders at any one time with the additional manpower provision. The centres are now building up the caseload and will submit the first round of statistics to the Social Welfare Department in April 2008.

- (b) This new initiative will continue in 2008-09 and has been incorporated into the Funding and Service Agreements of DECCs and NECs since its commencement in January 2008. For 2008-09, the estimated additional recurrent expenditure is \$41.8 million. As mentioned in (a), a total of 156 additional social workers will be employed.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2007, the Social Welfare Department enhanced the inspection and monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and the enhanced home and community care services (EHCCS) through strengthening the manpower and training of the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) and the Contract Management Section (CMS). Would the Government please inform this Committee:

- (1) of the outcome of the inspection and monitoring of RCHEs and EHCCS in 2007-08?
- (2) of the expenditure involved?
- (3) whether this initiative will be continued in 2008-09 and what are the estimated manpower required and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : (1) With strengthened manpower and training for LORCHE and CMS in 2007-08, the average frequency of inspections for each RCHE has been increased. As for EHCCS, all performance items showed obvious improvements with the closer service monitoring.

(2) The estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is about \$2.2 million.

(3) We will continue to enhance the inspection and monitoring of RCHEs and EHCCS. In this regard, six Registered Nurse posts will be created in 2008-09 to replace the existing contract nurses in LORCHE and CMS. The estimated provision is about \$1.8 million per annum.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, additional manpower will be provided for District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) to strengthen their counselling, referral and support services. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee whether it would consider enlisting the help of community nurses and allied health professionals to enhance the quality of these services?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Additional funding of about \$18 million will be allocated to 41 DECCs to enable each of them to recruit an additional social worker to strengthen their counselling and referral services for the elderly. Social workers of DECCs will continue to collaborate with district and community organisations including those from the medical and healthcare sectors, and refer cases to them for follow up as appropriate.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)210

Question Serial No.

1166

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : A Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CoMHIP) was launched by the Social Welfare Department in 2007 to provide proactive outreaching and early social work intervention for persons with suspected mental health problems and their families. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) how many occasions on which persons with suspected mental health problems and their families were served under this project in 2007-08? Were there any cases that needed follow-up action?
- (b) have criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of this project been set?
- (c) will this project continue in 2008-09? Please provide details of the manpower plan and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

- Reply :
- (a) The CoMHIP has commenced operation since October 2007. As at 31 December 2007, a total of 221 cases had been served under the CoMHIP.
 - (b) The effectiveness of the CoMHIP will be assessed on the basis of the following output indicators:
 - Number of new cases served each year;
 - Average number of home visits per case per quarter;
 - Number of support/developmental groups conducted per year; and
 - Number of educational programmes conducted per year.
 - (c) The CoMHIP is a three-year time-limited project and will continue in 2008-09. At present, there are 11 CoMHIP teams serving the territory. The standard staffing provision of each CoMHIP team is four social workers and a part-time clerical staff. The estimated expenditure of the CoMHIP in 2008-09 is \$18 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in paragraph 131 of the Budget Speech that the Government will strengthen day foster care services and promote various types of child care services that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of parents. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) How would the funding of \$45 million be used to take forward the above initiative over the next three years? Please provide the details of the initiative.
- (2) Would the “child care services that offer greater flexibility” include district-based child care services running in the form of cooperatives?
- (3) Would more resources be allocated to districts in urgent need of the above services (such as Sham Shui Po and Kwai Chung) to increase service capacity?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

- Reply :
- (1) The proposed funding of \$45 million over the next three years is for piloting more flexible forms of day child care services at the neighbourhood level that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of the parents; and for strengthening day foster care service.
 - (2) The pilot child care projects will target children aged under six and will comprise two components: centre-based care group and home-based child care service. Local charitable organisations, including non-governmental organisations, women’s groups, religious bodies, etc., will be invited to participate in the pilot projects.
 - (3) As a start, the projects will be implemented in phases in districts where the demand for flexible child care service is more pressing.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (5) Subvention: Skills Centres

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Would the Administration please advise what courses would be considered for development by the Skills Centres and how existing courses will be modified so as to enhance the employment opportunities of persons with disabilities? Would it entail additional expenditure and manpower?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Skills Centres of the Vocational Training Council (VTC) offer a range of market-driven training courses / programmes for people with disabilities aged 15 or above to enhance their employment prospects and equip them for open employment. These include courses in commercial and retailing services, catering, computer and network, design and desktop publishing, printing, packaging, office practice, general services, logistics service, massage service, etc.

These programmes are reviewed every year for updating and changes where appropriate, with input from relevant government departments, non-governmental organisations, special schools and experts from industries on VTC's Committee on Vocational Training for People with Disabilities, so as to meet the employment market demand and the aspirations of the people with disabilities. Vocational counseling service is also provided to the trainees of Skills Centres to help them secure and retain employment. The Skills Centres will allocate appropriate resources for the development of new courses and improvement of existing ones through effective redeployment of available funding.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention of the Labour and Welfare Bureau in the coming year is included promotion of the self-reliance and employment opportunities of persons with disabilities. With regard to this item of work, please give details as to its content and the fund required.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The Government's rehabilitation policy objective is to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in undertaking productive and gainful employment in the open job market. In accordance with the strategic directions set out in the 2007 Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP), we seek to promote employment of PWDs through empowering them and tripartite partnership. Various government authorities have been providing comprehensive support as follows:

(a) Vocational training and rehabilitation services

The Vocational Training Council (VTC), Employees Retraining Board (ERB) and Social Welfare Department (SWD) provide comprehensive vocational training and retraining, as well as rehabilitation service for persons with different abilities. Through the Skills Centres under the VTC, retraining programmes under the ERB and SWD's Integrated Vocational Training Centres, Sheltered Workshops, Supported Employment and Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres, PWDs acquire/re-acquire the work skills, as well as social and communication skills necessary for open employment.

(b) Employment service

The Selective Placement Division of the Labour Department provides a personalised employment service to help place PWDs in open employment. Apart from providing employment counselling and arranging job matching and referral, the placement officer assigned to each job-seeker with disabilities also prepare the latter for job interviews and, where necessary, accompany the latter to attend such

interviews. Follow-up service is also provided after each successful placement.

(c) Measures to enhance employment opportunities

The relevant government departments have also been vigorously implementing a series of measures to create more job opportunities for PWDs. These measures include "Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities", "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise" Project, Marketing Consultancy Office (Rehabilitation) and "Work Orientation and Placement Scheme", etc. On the one hand, they seek to provide incentives and encourage employers to provide on-the-job training and work opportunities to PWDs. On the other hand, they also support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to set up small businesses to engage more PWDs in gainful employment.

(d) Promotion of the work ability of and employment opportunities for PWDs.

The Labour and Welfare Bureau together with relevant government departments have made use of a wide range of channels to promote the work abilities of PWDs and to appeal to employers of different sectors to provide work opportunities to PWDs. The Rehabilitation Advisory Committee has identified "employment of persons with disabilities" as a focus of its public educational efforts of the year in the context of promoting the RPP. A series of publicity campaigns will be rolled out to draw the attention of the employers in the private sector and NGOs, and to solicit support from the business sector, 18 districts and community organisations in promoting the employment of PWDs.

The role of the Labour and Welfare Bureau is to coordinate the joint efforts of different government bureaux and departments, and to consolidate available resources from the business sector and the community. Therefore, a large portion of the resources involved cannot be quantified and the majority of expenditure incurred is not reflected in the estimates under Head 141 – Government Secretariat : Labour and Welfare Bureau.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Concerning the plan to strengthen direct support to victims of domestic violence and families in need, please elaborate on the work to be done and state the required provision.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : In 2008-09, additional recurrent funding of \$40 million will be provided to strengthen support to victims of domestic violence and families in need. The estimated breakdown of allocation for these support services is as follows :

- (a) \$5.3 million for enhancing the hotline service of the Social Welfare Department (SWD);
- (b) \$5 million for increasing the capacity of and enhancing support for Refuge Centres for Women;
- (c) \$7.8 million for increasing the capacity of residential homes for children;
- (d) \$5 million for sustaining and strengthening the effort of the publicity campaign on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence”;
- (e) \$2 million for enhancing the training of relevant front-line professionals in handling domestic violence and families in need;
- (f) \$11.7 million for enhancing the training of childcare staff;
- (g) \$2.1 million for increasing social work manpower for Family and Child Protective Services Units of SWD; and
- (h) \$0.9 million for providing an anti-violence programme for batterers of domestic violence upon enactment of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

The Labour and Welfare Bureau has put forward the initiative to “empower women and enable them to participate more fully in the community”. In this regard, what are the specific measures to be introduced and the provision involved in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

Empowerment of women is a main pillar of the overall strategy of the Women's Commission (WoC) in enabling women to fully realise their potentials and status. The Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP), launched since March 2004, is a key initiative of WoC in empowering women. It is a flexible learning programme implemented jointly with the Open University of Hong Kong, Commercial Radio and nearly 80 women's groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), seeking to encourage life-long learning and a positive attitude and mindset of women. It is mainly delivered through radio broadcasting, supplemented by optional learning activities and face-to-face courses delivered by the NGOs. The courses cover subjects such as managing interpersonal relationships, finance management, health and other practical issues in daily life.

Since its launch, the CBMP has received strong support from the community and encouraged women of different backgrounds and educational levels to pursue life-long learning and self-development. Up to November 2007, the cumulative number of enrolments exceeded 20 000, not to mention the large network of audience reached through the radio programmes. Feedback from students also shows that they have benefited from the programme tremendously in terms of increased interests in learning and enhanced confidence and knowledge in resolving problems in daily life. Starting from 2007-08, the Administration has earmarked about \$10 million to support the continued operation of the CBMP for three years. In 2008-09, WoC will continue to oversee the operation of the CBMP and will work closely with the collaborators to further improve it.

To further encourage women’s participation in the community, we supported WoC to organise a talk on “Women in Leadership” on 8 March 2008 with four outstanding women leaders sharing their experiences with some 200 participants. In 2008-09, we will work closely with WoC and women’s organisations to promote training for women leaders, and to encourage more women to participate in the community and public affairs. Resources required for carrying out the above measures are absorbed within the existing provisions of the Labour and Welfare Bureau.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Concerning the work to “introduce a ‘Gender Mainstreaming Checklist’ to more policy areas” under Matters Requiring Special Attention of the Labour and Welfare Bureau in the coming year, please set out the content of work and the provision required.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Administration has, on the advice and with the assistance of the Women's Commission (WoC), implemented gender mainstreaming and has to date applied the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist (the Checklist) to 28 policy or programme areas. The Checklist is an analytical tool developed by WoC to assist government officials in incorporating, in a more systematic way, the gender perspectives in the policy formulation and programme development processes, so that women and men will have equitable access to, and benefit from, society's resources and opportunities. For 2008-09, WoC has suggested that the Administration should apply the Checklist to four new areas, viz. pre-primary education, health programme for women, provision of sports facilities and provision of market facilities. We will follow up with the concerned bureaux and departments on this.

Apart from adopting the Checklist, staff of many bureaux and departments have also applied the gender mainstreaming concept in the course of their daily work, taking into account the needs and perspectives of both genders. We will continue to promote the application of the gender mainstreaming concept.

Resources required for carrying out the above measures are absorbed within the existing provisions of the Labour and Welfare Bureau, as well as other concerned bureaux and departments.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09 under this Programme, the Bureau will monitor and steer progress of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) to encourage and facilitate women to pursue continuous learning. Will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) of the number of women participated in the CBMP last year and the expenditure involved;
- (b) of the expected number of participants of the CBMP in the coming year and the estimated amount of expenditure?
- (c) whether the Government will launch more promotional activities for the CBMP and enhance the course content in the coming year to enable women participating in the programme and the course content itself to keep pace with the changing times. If so, what is the estimated expenditure for the promotion and course enhancements?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP), launched since March 2004, is a flexible learning programme initiated by the Women's Commission (WoC) and implemented jointly with the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK), Commercial Radio (CR) and nearly 80 women's groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). It is mainly delivered through radio broadcasting, supplemented by optional learning activities and face-to-face courses delivered by the NGOs. Starting from 2007-08, the Administration has earmarked about \$10 million to support the continued operation of the CBMP for three years.

In 2007, the CBMP recorded a total enrolment of over 6 500. The target number of enrolments in the 2008 is about 6 900. These have not included the large network of audience reached through the radio programmes.

Since its launch, the CBMP has received strong support from the community and encouraged women of different backgrounds and educational levels to pursue life-long learning and self-development. Feedback from students also shows that they have benefited from the programme tremendously in terms of increased interests in learning and enhanced confidence and knowledge in resolving problems in daily life. In 2008-09, WoC will continue to oversee the operation of the CBMP and will work closely with the collaborators to further improve it by strengthening the course contents in the four broad subject areas, viz. health, financial management, interpersonal relationships and daily life.

In 2007, WoC produced a new Announcement in the Public Interest (API) to promote public awareness of the CBMP. The API is aired on television on a regular basis. In addition, OUHK regularly conducts briefings, publicity events, and student engagement activities to reach out to target participants in different districts. CR also carries regular promotional sessions on radio. Expenditure involved in these promotion activities is absorbed within the provision earmarked for the CBMP.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Administration will set up an integrated community centre for mental wellness in Tin Shui Wai in 2008-09. In this connection, please provide further information of this initiative including the specific service content and coverage, service target, manpower establishment, the estimated number of service recipients and the expenditure involved. Does the Administration have any plan to set up similar integrated community centre for mental wellness in other districts? As for the adolescent mental health problem in particular, does the Administration have any specific measures to respond effectively to the special needs of different districts?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) plans to set up an Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) in Tin Shui Wai in 2008-09 to provide one-stop community support and social rehabilitation services for discharged mental patients and persons with suspected mental illness as well as their families/carers in the community. Apart from providing centre-based training and supportive group work services, the ICCMW will reach out to persons with suspected mental health problems in the community and provide them with suitable counselling and support services. The ICCMW, to be operated by a non-governmental organisation, will serve around 450 discharged mental patients/persons with suspected mental health problems and 1 200 family members/carers per year. The notional staffing of the planned ICCMW in 2008-09 is 11 including social workers, occupational therapists and clerical support, and its annual expenditure is estimated to be around \$3.5 million.

After the ICCMW commences operation, the SWD will monitor and assess its mode of operation and cost-effectiveness, and consider whether the ICCMW model should be applied to other districts.

As regards the mental health of adolescents, the Government is committed to taking preventive measures, as well as providing early identification and early intervention services for young people. On top of the wide range of mental health services provided for all, there are also in place a series of programmes targeting youths, such as the Early Assessment Service for Young People with Psychosis and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Community Support Project. These programmes involve close collaboration of medical practitioners, social workers, occupational therapists, clinical psychologists and teachers, etc. grouped into a number of teams serving different districts of the territories to provide holistic treatment, care and support to young persons facing mental health problems.

In parallel, various government authorities conduct public education and promotion on mental health targeting youths. For example, the annual “Mental Health Month”, co-ordinated by the Labour and Welfare Bureau and participated by more than 20 government departments and non-governmental organisations, has been targeting children, youths and families in its mental health promotion efforts in recent years. Relevant programmes include television and radio campaigns, docudrama, adventure-based camp for teenagers, etc. The Government will continue to enhance the awareness of young people on mental health through territory-wide and district-based publicity campaigns and other measures.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

The Administration is going to review the policies and services related to women. Please provide information on the contents of the review, the staffing requirement and expenses involved, as well as the implementation timetable.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

To empower women and enable them to participate more fully in the community, the Women's Commission (WoC) keeps under review, in the light of women's needs, services delivered within and outside the Administration. Over the past years, key services reviewed included health services, public housing, information technology training, employment services and job-related training, adult and continuous education, welfare services and family services, services for victims of domestic and sexual violence and violence prevention programme, services for disabled and minority women, and leisure services. Advice was also given to the Administration on possible improvements to better cater for women's specific circumstances and needs. In 2008-09, areas which WoC plans to discuss with concerned bureaux and departments include further enhancement of women's participation in advisory and statutory bodies, health services for women, and the proposed health care financing scheme.

Resources required for carrying out the improvement measures arising from the reviews will be absorbed within the existing provisions of the concerned bureaux and departments.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (5) Subvention: Skills Centres

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

The financial provision for this programme in the 2008-09 Estimate will be increased by \$5.8 million (6.8%). However, this does not cover additional vocational training places. Would the Administration please advise on the following:

- (a) Apart from being used for increased salaries and capital expenditure, will the additional provision in 2008-09 be used for improvement of vocational training, evaluation of services, development of new courses and modification of existing ones? If yes, what are the amounts?
- (b) Is waiting required for enrolling for training in Skills Centres? If yes, what is the waiting time required on average?
- (c) In 2008-09, what programmes and activities will the Administration organise to encourage more employers to employ trainees who have completed the courses in Skills Centres with a view to promoting employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs)? If yes, what are the expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) On an ongoing basis, the Skills Centres, having regard to changing market demand and needs of PWDs, regularly review the effectiveness and make suitable realignment of their existing programmes, and allocate appropriate resources for the development of new courses and improvement of existing ones through effective redeployment of available funding. In 2008-09, an additional provision of around \$3 million is earmarked for the construction of a bakery workshop and provision of training facilities for catering and design and desktop publishing courses in response to changing demand.

- (b) Currently, most applicants can be admitted to the Skills Centres' training programmes without a substantial waiting time, after completion of the application and evaluation process. In 2007, the average waiting time was less than two weeks.

- (c) Various publicity programmes and activities are organised to encourage employers to employ Skills Centres' graduates. Vocational counselors from Skills Centres pay regular visits to employers. An employer network has been built through which employers are engaged and involved in the Skills Centres' activities, such as Open Days, Presentation Ceremonies, etc. An 'Enlightened Employers Award' scheme is organised to promote the employment opportunities for PWDs and strengthen partnership relationship with employers. Surveys are conducted annually to collect employers' feedback on the Skills Centres' services with a view to enhancing collaboration with the employees. These are ongoing activities undertaken by the Skills Centres, and about \$50,000 is earmarked for organising these publicity activities in 2008-09.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

In 2008-09, the Administration will study the long-term development planning for social welfare in Hong Kong through the Social Welfare Advisory Committee and study with the Elderly Commission the long-term planning for subsidised welfare services for the elderly. Please provide information on the subjects, timetables and estimated expenditure of these studies.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The review on the long-term development planning for social welfare in Hong Kong will examine the welfare planning mechanism on a strategic and macro level, rather than focus on specific subject areas. The Social Welfare Advisory Committee is finalising the consultation plan and will consult various stakeholders. The review is expected to commence in the months ahead. The completion date of the review has yet to be determined as much depends on the progress of consultation. The expenditure involved in the exercise will be absorbed within the existing resources of the Labour and Welfare Bureau.

In addition, the Administration has been working closely with the Elderly Commission (EC) on the long-term planning for subsidised welfare services for the elderly. Arising from the recommendations of the former Commission on Poverty (CoP) regarding the waitlisting situation of subsidised residential care services, EC has looked into the key issues involved and decided to conduct a further study on the subject to explore the following aspects –

- (a) how to target subsidised residential care services at elders most in need; and
- (b) how to promote further development of quality self-financing/private residential care services and to encourage shared responsibilities among individuals, their families and the society in meeting the long-term care needs of the elderly.

In conducting the above-mentioned study, EC will also take into account CoP's recommendations and the Administration's overall objective of encouraging "ageing in the community". Details of the arrangements, including time-table, resource implications and consultation strategy for the study, are being worked out.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)222

Question Serial No.

1795

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will provide training courses on handling child abuse, domestic violence and suicide for social workers and professionals. What is the provision for these courses? What are the course contents? How many training places will be provided? Which professionals will receive training apart from social workers?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : In 2008-09, SWD will continue to provide a series of training programmes on handling of child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, suicide and sexual violence to social workers as well as other relevant front-line professionals including clinical psychologists, police officers and nurses.

SWD plans to organise a number of training courses including intensive and interactive training workshops on domestic violence for at least 4 500 social workers and relevant front-line professionals. The estimated total expenditure is about \$3 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the provision for prevention of elder abuse in 2008-09? What are the work items?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The Social Welfare Department provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need, including victims of elder abuse. Services pertaining to prevention of elder abuse are provided mainly under joint efforts of District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs), Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and Integrated Family Service Centres. Prevention of elder abuse is also covered by the publicity campaign on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence” and training for relevant front-line professionals. However, there is no breakdown for funding specifically allocated for prevention of elder abuse.

In 2008-09, additional funding of about \$18.5 million will be allocated to DECCs to enhance the manpower in dealing with, among others, suspected elder abuse, neglect, depression and suicide cases. In addition, \$5 million and \$2 million will be provided respectively for sustaining efforts in publicity campaigns/public education and training of relevant front-line professionals, including those relating to prevention of elder abuse.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (3) Women's Interests

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

Regarding the meetings and exchanges with women's group and service agencies mentioned in "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09" under this Programme, will the Administration reveal:

- (a) what women's groups and service agencies it had worked with in 2007-08 and whether it will consider working with other women's groups and service agencies in 2008-09?
- (b) the details of the meetings and exchanges conducted in 2007-08 (including the dates, issues and outcomes), and whether it will consider conducting more meetings and exchanges to discuss poverty among women in 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

To enhance mutual understanding and build up a closer partnership, the Administration, in conjunction with the Women's Commission (WoC), conducts district visits and meets with women's groups and service agencies to discuss issues of common concern on a regular basis.

In 2007-08, visits were made to Sai Kung and Wan Chai and meetings were held with the respective District Councillors, representatives of district women's groups and service organisations. Exchange sessions with representatives of nearly 40 local women's groups and related organisations were also held to exchange views on a variety of topics of interest, including the status of women in Hong Kong, gender mainstreaming, women in poverty, empowerment of women leaders, women's health, review of the Domestic Violence Ordinance and the work of WoC. Views and suggestions collected will be carefully considered and reflected to concerned bureaux and departments for consideration where appropriate. In 2008-09, we will continue to arrange such meetings and exchange sessions.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)225

Question Serial No.

1798

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the plan to further strengthen support to and increase the capacity of Refuge Centres for Women, please provide details of the work and the provision involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : At present, there are four Refuge Centres for Women that provide temporary accommodation and supportive services to women and their children affected by domestic violence or family crisis. All of them are operated by non-governmental organisations with subvention from the Social Welfare Department.

The enhanced support for Refuge Centres for Women will be implemented by phases, including:

- (a) alignment of social work support from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays;
- (b) provision of three months of after-care service to discharged residents; and
- (c) increase of capacity from 180 to 260 places.

In 2007-08, an additional funding of \$1.7 million was allocated for this purpose. In 2008-09, a further provision of \$5 million will be allocated to continue with the enhancement.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)226

Question Serial No.

1799

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the plan to launch the pilot Child Fatality Review Mechanism, please provide details of the work in 2008-09 and the provision involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : A two-year Pilot Project on Child Fatality Review has been launched by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) since February 2008. The review will cover cases of children who died of non-natural causes since 2006. The objective of the review is to examine child death cases with a view to coming up with suggestions for improving the current child protection and child welfare services to prevent future cases. Through identifying the pattern and trends of, and examining the practice and service issues pertaining to the child death cases, it is hoped that reference can be drawn from the pilot project for improving related services and systems and enhancing multi-disciplinary collaboration. The project is implemented through internal deployment of resources within SWD.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please list out the number of applicants waitlisting for care-and-attention (C&A) places, nursing home (NH) places and infirmary care places on the Central Waiting List, the average waiting time and the number of applications withdrawn due to the death of applicants in 2006 and 2007. Will any measures be put in place to shorten the waiting time in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Information relating to the applications for subsidised C&A and NH places under the Central Waiting List for Subsidised Long Term Care Services (CWL) in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is set out below. CWL does not cover applications for infirmary care places, the allocation of which is under the purview of Hospital Authority.

	2006-07			2007-08 (as at end of February 2008)		
	Average waiting time (in months)	No. of elders waitlisting	No. of elders passed away while waitlisting	Average waiting time (in months)	No. of elders waitlisting	No. of elders passed away while waitlisting
C&A places (Subvented/ Contract homes)	32	16 191	2 286	32.2	16 981	2 303
C&A places (Private homes under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS))	9.1			9.4		

	2006-07			2007-08 (as at end of February 2008)		
	Average waiting time (in months)	No. of elders waitlisting	No. of elders passed away while waitlisting	Average waiting time (in months)	No. of elders waitlisting	No. of elders passed away while waitlisting
NH places	38.2	6 063	1 542	43.2	6 213	1 539

To meet the demand for subsidised residential care services, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been increasing the supply of subsidised residential care places. In 2007-08, 695 additional subsidised residential care places were provided, including 483 places purchased from private residential care homes for the elderly under EBPS and 212 places created in the new contract homes. In 2008-09, an additional 107 subsidised residential care places will be provided in the new contract homes. In addition, the 2008-09 Budget has earmarked \$29.8 million to provide an additional 278 subsidised residential care places.

Also, under the conversion programme launched since 2005, more C&A places providing continuum of care up to nursing level of care will be created to better meet the long-term care (LTC) needs of elders. It is important to note that elders with LTC needs do not necessarily stay in RCHEs. SWD is in parallel providing a range of subsidised home-based and centre-based community care services to facilitate elders to age in the community.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)228

Question Serial No.

1801

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the work on “enhancing the inspection and monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly”, would the Administration please elaborate further what will be done in 2008-09 and the required provision?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : In 2008-09, five posts of the Registered Nurse grade will be created in the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) to replace the existing contract nurses. This initiative will enhance the inspection and monitoring of health care services provided in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). The estimated provision is \$1.5 million per annum.

With strengthened manpower in LORCHE, the frequency of routine inspection to private RCHEs will be further stepped up. Inspections will be extended to non-office hours, Sundays and public holidays, focusing on high-risk items such as staffing, drug management and application of physical restraint, etc.

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Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)229

Question Serial No.

1802

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the residential services in the 2008-09 Estimate, the cost per place per month for homes operated by the government sector and the subvented sector are \$12,418 and \$8,880 respectively, indicating a difference of about \$3,500. Why is there such a big difference in the cost of service provided by the two sectors?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The cost figures for the government sector reflect the full cost of services rendered by the Social Welfare Department, which include the cost of staff fringe benefits or rent charged to different expenditure heads and other non-cash expenditure such as depreciation, in addition to the expenditure reflected under Head 170 Social Welfare Department. On the other hand, the cost figures for the subvented sector are the net total cash provision required after taking fee income into account. No direct comparison of costs between the two sectors should be drawn.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the provision of residential services, what is the current average waiting time for each type of residential homes? As stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention, “additional day, residential and pre-school places” will be provided. What are the estimated number of additional places to be provided in 2008-09 and the respective expenditures incurred?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Information on the average waiting time for various types of residential care services for persons with disabilities, additional provisions for 2008-09 and estimated additional expenditure for 2008-09 are as follows:

Types of service	Average Waiting Time for 2006-07 (Month)	Number of Additional Places for 2008-09	Estimated Additional Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (Full Year) (\$ million)
Long Stay Care Home	51.5	100	10.9
Halfway House	5	-	-
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons	45.6	85	5.5
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons	82.8	130	17.2
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons	78	45	6.4

Types of service	Average Waiting Time for 2006-07 (Month)	Number of Additional Places for 2008-09	Estimated Additional Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (Full Year) (\$ million)
Care-and-Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons	40	50	7.5
Care-and-Attention Home for the Aged Blind	6.8	-	-
Supported Hostel	31.2	80	5.8
Small Group Home for Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children/Integrated Small Group Home	14.3	-	-

Signature

Name in block letters

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)231

Question Serial No.

1804

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : With regard to the services under probation, hostels for ex-offenders, probation homes and reformatory schools, what are the respective provisions for them in 2008-09? What are the recidivism rates of offenders who have received the above services?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The resources earmarked in the 2008-09 Estimate for the following services and their respective recidivism rates from 2004-05 to 2006-07 are as follows –

Item	2008-09 Estimate (\$ million)	Recidivism Rate (%) ^{Note 1}		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Probation Service	90.1	17	14	15
Probation Home	38.4	18	23	19
Reformatory School ^{Note 2}	9.3	45	22	57
Hostels for Ex-offenders ^{Note 3}	6.1	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Note 1 Recidivism rate refers to the percentage of cases with conviction of further offence within court order period against total number of expired/discharged cases in the respective years.

Note 2 There is only one Reformatory School with a small capacity. The discharges of hardcore cases who fail to complete the school order account for the fluctuating and relatively higher recidivism rate of the School.

Note 3 Since the service of Hostels for Ex-offenders is not a court sentence or a statutory requirement, recidivism rate is not applicable to the residents of this service.

Signature

Name in block letters

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Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What were the actual occupancy rates of probation homes, hostels for ex-offenders, reformatory schools and remand homes/places of refuge in 2007-08? What are the projected occupancy rates for them in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The co-location of probation homes, reformatory school and remand homes/places of refuge in a new residential training complex, namely the Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home (TMCJH), has taken place since July 2007.

The enrolment rates of the TMCJH and the Hostels for Ex-offenders are estimated as follows:

Services		Enrolment rates (%)	
		2007-08	2008-09 ^{Note}
TMCJH		71	71
Hostels for Ex-offenders	Male	100	100
	Female	93	93

^{Note} The enrolment rates for 2008-09 are estimated on the basis of the available figures of 2007-08. The enrolment rates are, however, subject to variation since admission to the homes is affected by various factors like crime rate, offenders' attitude, court disposals, family support and the length of stay, etc.

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Name in block letters

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)233

Question Serial No.

1806

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The average costs per place/resident for probation homes, hostels for ex-offenders, reformatory schools and remand homes/places of refuge are relatively high. Did the Government adopt any measures in 2007-08 to save and make better use of resources? Will the Government adopt any measures in 2008-09 to reduce the expenditure incurred by the above services?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : To address the relatively high operating costs of the probation homes, reformatory school and remand homes/places of refuge, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has constructed a new home, namely the Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home (TMCJH) to co-locate the above homes. The new home aims at creating synergy among services and restructuring service delivery to enable shared use of common facilities by different categories of residents to achieve economy of scale. The relocation of the above homes to the TMCJH was completed in July 2007. SWD will closely monitor the operation of the TMCJH and those hostels for ex-offenders operated by a non-governmental organisation, and continue to explore ways to maximise the use of resources.

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)234

Question Serial No.

1807

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the financial provision and estimate for Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09? How does the Government evaluate the effectiveness of IFSCs?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : There are 61 IFSCs over the territory providing a continuum of preventive, supportive and therapeutic services, including family life education, parent-child activities, mutual support groups, volunteer training, counselling and referral service, etc. The actual expenditure for IFSCs in 2006-07 was \$570.4 million, while the provision for the same item in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate and the 2008-09 Estimate is \$612.9 million and \$646.5 million respectively. Under the Service Performance Monitoring System, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) conducts on-going assessments to monitor service delivery and performance. SWD will also commission a review on the implementation of the IFSC service model in 2008.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The provision for social security in 2008-09 will be \$24.106 billion. What are the distribution and the respective proportion by Social Security Schemes?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The breakdown of the provision for the Social Security Schemes in the 2008-09 Estimate is as follows :

	2008-09 Estimate	
	\$ million	%
Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme	17,267.0	71.63
Social Security Allowance Scheme	5,982.0	24.81
Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme	50.9	0.21
Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation	8.6	0.04
Other operating account expenses, e.g. personal emoluments, general departmental expenses, administrative support cost, etc.	797.8	3.31
	24,106.3	100.00

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)236

Question Serial No.

1809

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The provision for social security in 2008-09 is \$24.106 billion, representing a decrease of 2.3% when compared with the original estimate. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The 2007-08 Revised Estimate for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and Social Security Allowance (SSA) Schemes are \$17,890 million and \$6,080 million respectively whereas the 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes are \$17,267 million and \$5,982 million respectively.

The 2007-08 Revised Estimate includes payment of one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients. The financial implication for this measure is \$1.5 billion, comprising \$1.0 billion for the CSSA Scheme and \$0.5 billion for the SSA Scheme. The 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes is, in fact, higher than the respective Revised Estimate of 2007-08, if the one month additional payment for both Schemes is to be discounted. The increase in the estimated provision seeks to cope with the estimated increase in the number of cases under the two Schemes in 2008-09.

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Name in block letters

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the criteria set by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for reviewing the effectiveness of the New Dawn (ND) Project? What was the provision for the ND Project in 2007-08? What is the estimated provision in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The ND Project has been extended for 30 months from October 2007 to March 2010 and re-titled as the Enhanced ND Project. A total of 20 projects have been commissioned to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The NGOs are required to achieve the following pre-set performance standards during the implementation period:

- (1) providing ordinary and intensive employment assistance services to project participants, as appropriate, referred by SWD;
- (2) assisting at least 30% of the ordinarily-assisted participants and 40% of the intensively-assisted participants to take up paid employment with working hours not less than 32 hours per month for at least one month; and
- (3) assisting at least 30% of the ordinarily-assisted and intensively-assisted participants to stay in paid employment with working hours not less than 32 hours per month for at least three months.

Each Enhanced ND Project is allocated about \$1.9 million. The total estimated expenditure for the Enhanced ND Projects is \$6.7 million in 2007-08 and \$13.5 million in 2008-09.

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Name in block letters

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Concerning the continued review of the existing Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) arrangements for the unemployed able-bodied recipients, what are the details and scope of the review? Is there any timetable for the review? How much resources will be allocated for the review?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has been implementing the Support for Self-reliance Scheme since 1999. In recent years, the department has commissioned non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate a series of projects to provide employment assistance services to able-bodied CSSA recipients. There is also the provision of Disregarded Earnings under the CSSA Scheme to give more incentives to encourage able-bodied CSSA recipients to secure and sustain paid work.

Reviewing the existing arrangements under the CSSA Scheme for helping and motivating the unemployed able-bodied recipients to rejoin the labour force and become self-reliant is an on-going effort. In 2008-09, we will continue with our efforts to motivate those long-term able-bodied CSSA recipients.

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)239

Question Serial No.

1812

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the financial provisions and estimates for integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSCs) in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively? How would the Government assess the effectiveness of the services provided by them?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : The Revised Estimate of 2007-08 and Estimate of 2008-09 for ICYSCs are \$746.2 million and \$756.9 million respectively.

ICYSCs are operated by subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs). They are assessed through the Service Performance Monitoring System managed by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), under which the operating NGOs have to sign a Funding and Service Agreement with SWD. Service performance indicators, including membership figures, core programme sessions and attendance, and rate of achieving programme plans, etc., are subject to monitoring.

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Name in block letters

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)240

Question Serial No.

1813

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Concerning the plan to complete the modernisation programme of integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSCs), please elaborate on the work to be done in 2008-09 and state the required provision.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : Following the formation of ICYSCs to meet the needs of young people in a holistic and comprehensive manner, the Hong Kong Jockey Club agreed with the Social Welfare Department in 2003-04 to finance the modernisation programme of ICYSCs through a joint grant from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and the Lotteries Fund. The total resources earmarked, amounting to \$400 million, can benefit 82 ICYSCs all over the territory. Each ICYSC can receive a grant of about \$5 million.

The modernisation programme will be completed in 2008-09. All the ICYSCs that benefit from the programme have upgraded and modernised their hardware which include up-to-date fitting out works and facilities, as well as trendy furniture and equipment to attract more young people and meet their changing needs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Administration plans to enhance the service of outreaching social work and Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS). Please elaborate on the work to be done in 2008-09 and state the required provision. Will additional provision be allocated to strengthen the work in this area?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams (YOTs) and Overnight Outreaching Services for Young Night Drifters (YNDs) operated by subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs) aim to reach out to high-risk youth with a view to rendering them with early identification and intervention, and timely support so as to steer them back to the right course. The CSSS, which is also operated by subvented NGOs, provides counselling and support services to young offenders cautioned under the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme. The resources earmarked under the 2008-09 Estimate of the above services are as follows –

Service	Estimate (\$ million)
YOT	77.1
YND	43.6
CSSS	20.1
Total	140.8

The Social Welfare Department has earmarked additional recurrent provisions in the 2008-09 Estimate to increase the number of social worker posts for the above services. A summary is given below –

Items	Estimate (\$ million)
• 16 additional Social Work Assistant posts under YOTs	4.1
• 18 additional Social Work Assistant posts under YNDs	5.8
• 5 additional Assistant Social Work Officer posts under CSSS	2.3
Total	12.2

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Name in block letters

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)242

Question Serial No.

1849

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Government will provide total funding of \$45 million to strengthen day foster care services and child care services. Would the Government please inform this Committee the additional number of places to be provided for such services respectively in 2008-09? In the face of long waiting time, a serious shortage of places and long-term occupancy of emergency places of residential homes for juveniles, will the Government provide more new residential homes for juveniles?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The proposed funding of \$45 million over the next three years is for piloting more flexible forms of day child care services at the neighbourhood level that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of the parents; and for strengthening day foster care services.

The pilot child care projects will target children aged under six and will comprise two components: centre-based care group and home-based child care service. As a start, the projects will be implemented in phases in districts where the demand for flexible child care services is more pressing. Local charitable organisations, including non-governmental organisations, women's groups, religious bodies, etc., will be invited to participate in the pilot projects.

In 2008-09, 100 additional residential child care places will be provided.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)243

Question Serial No.

1898

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide a breakdown of payments as well as the number of recipients under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme by nature of case in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The estimated average number of CSSA recipients and expenditure by nature of case for 2007-08 are as follows:

Nature of case	2007-08 Revised Estimate	
	Average number of recipients	Expenditure (\$ million)
Old Age	200 400	8,636
Permanent Disability	26 700	1,036
Ill Health	45 700	1,642
Single Parent	94 800	3,113
Low Earnings	62 000	1,289
Unemployment	65 900	1,843
Others	9 200	331
Total	504 700	17,890

Signature

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the number of low-earnings cases transferred from other Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) case categories (by comparing the figures as at the end of 2006 and those as at the end of 2007).

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : Among the 17 221 low earnings CSSA cases involving 60 071 recipients as at end-December 2007, 3 358 cases were originally classified under other categories as at end-December 2006. Details are set out below:

Nature of case as at December 2006	Number of cases changed to low earnings category as at December 2007	Number of recipients
Old Age	436	1 450
Permanent Disability	76	256
Ill Health	226	776
Single Parent	449	1 306
Unemployment	2 072	7 018
Others	99	327
Total	3 358	11 133

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provided training for social workers and professionals on a wide range of topics on handling child abuse, elder abuse, suicide and sexual violence with special focus on risk assessment, prevention, as well as post-trauma treatment in violence cases. Please provide:

- (1) the number of spouse battering and child abuse cases on which risk assessment was conducted from 2003-04 to 2007-08?
- (2) the number of cases requiring the consultation of psychologists/psychiatrists after risk assessment? Did the victims need to wait? If yes, how long did they have to wait?
- (3) the gender distribution of cases which have received risk assessment?
- (4) the follow-up period if consultation of psychologists/psychiatrists was required? What was the expenditure incurred?
- (5) the services required other than consultation of psychologists/psychiatrists? Please specify the details and the breakdown of the expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

- Reply :
- (1) In handling cases involving spouse battering and child abuse, social workers conduct assessment, including risk assessment, on every case at intake and throughout the process of intervention and before termination of the case.
 - (2) The number of spouse battering and child abuse cases referred to clinical psychological service from 2003-04 to 2007-08 (up to February 2008) is as follows :

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Apr 2007 - Feb 2008)
655	847	878	929	986

Under normal circumstances, the first appointment with the clinical psychological service will be assigned within two months. For urgent cases, the first appointment will be assigned within 2 to 3 days.

SWD has not kept any statistics on the number of cases involving spouse battering and child abuse requiring psychiatric service.

- (3) SWD has not kept any statistics on the breakdown of gender distribution of the spouse battering and child abuse cases with risk assessment conducted by social workers.
- (4) The duration of psychological treatment provided by clinical psychologists varies from case to case. Usually a case will be followed up for at least 6 to 12 months. There is no breakdown of funding specifically allocated for clinical psychological service provided to cases involving spouse battering and child abuse.

SWD has not kept any information on the duration of service or funding required for follow-up service by psychiatrists.

- (5) Apart from clinical psychological and psychiatric service, individuals and families affected by spouse battering and child abuse may require other support services including counselling, financial and housing assistance, shelter or child care service, etc. There is no breakdown of or funding allocated for provision of these support services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : (1) Please set out in the table below the waiting time for residential services by elders from 2003-04 to 2007-08 as well as that in 2008-09:

	Year		
	Average waiting time	No. of elders waitlisting	No. of elders passed away while waitlisting
Subvented/Contract homes (care-and-attention places)			
Nursing homes			
Private homes (Enhanced Bought Place Scheme)			

(2) Would the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provide additional resources to shorten the waiting time?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : (1) Information relating to the applications for subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) places and nursing home (NH) places from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is set out below. Figures for the 2008-09 financial year are not yet available.

	2003-04 (from December 2003 to March 2004) ^{Note}			2004-05			2005-06		
	Average waiting time (in months)	No. of elders waitlisting	No. of elders passed away while waitlisting	Average waiting time (in months)	No. of elders waitlisting	No. of elders passed away while waitlisting	Average waiting time (in months)	No. of elders waitlisting	No. of elders passed away while waitlisting
C&A places (Subvented/ Contract homes)	30.5	16 631	629	30.3	15 323	2 080	33.2	15 574	2 118
C&A places (Private homes under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme)	11.9			10.4			10.3		
NH places	38.9	5 265	337	39.2	5 195	1 310	37	5 734	1 441

	2006-07			2007-08 (as at end of February 2008)		
	Average waiting time (in months)	No. of Elders waitlisting	No. of elders passed away while waitlisting	Average waiting time (in months)	No. of elders waitlisting	No. of elders passed away while waitlisting
C&A places (Subvented/ Contract homes)	32	16 191	2 286	32.2	16 981	2 303
C&A places (Private homes under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme)	9.1			9.4		
NH places	38.2	6 063	1 542	43.2	6 213	1 539

^{Note} The computer system in support of the Central Waiting List for Subsidised Long Term Care Services was implemented in December 2003. In this connection, full year figures are not available for the financial year of 2003-04.

(2) To meet the demand for subsidised residential care services, SWD has been increasing the supply of subsidised residential care places. In 2007-08, 695 additional subsidised residential care places were provided, including 483 places purchased from private residential care homes for the elderly under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme and 212 places created in the new contract homes. In 2008-09, an additional 107 subsidised residential care places will be provided in the new contract homes. In addition, the 2008-09 Budget has earmarked \$29.8 million to provide an additional 278 subsidised residential care places.

Also, under the conversion programme launched since 2005, more C&A places providing continuum of care up to nursing level of care will be created to better meet the long-term care (LTC) needs of elders. It is important to note that elders with LTC needs do not necessarily stay in RCHEs. SWD is in parallel providing a range of subsidised home-based and centre-based community care services to facilitate elders to age in the community.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)247

Question Serial No.

2049

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What were the expenditures involved in implementing the Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector (the Training Programme) from 2003-2004 to 2007-2008? How many trainees have received training? How will the programme be assessed?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD), in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, launched three batches of the Training Programme in March 2006, November 2006 and December 2007 respectively providing a total of 330 training places. Tuition fees are fully subsidised by SWD. The financial provision involved was \$15.6 million.

The trainees will have to work in the Welfare Sector for at least two consecutive years after graduation. This will help alleviate the problem of shortage of nurses in the Welfare Sector.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)248

Question Serial No.

2050

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : How much resources will be allocated for launching a new round of “Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector” in 2008-09? How many training places will be provided?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : In 2008-09, the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, will launch the fourth batch of Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector to provide an additional 110 training places. The provision involved is about \$5.3 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the implementation details of the pilot project on the Batterer Intervention Programme (BIP) and the annual financial provision involved? How does the Administration evaluate the effectiveness of the project so far?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : An annual provision of \$1.041 million was allocated to a non-governmental organisation to launch a pilot project on the BIP between January 2006 and March 2008. On the part of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the development and implementation of the BIP was undertaken by staff of the Clinical Psychology Units and the Family and Child Protective Services Units within existing resources. There was no breakdown of funding specifically for this purpose.

A total of 267 batterers in 33 groups took part in the BIP.

With the completion of the pilot project, SWD is now conducting an evaluation with a view to identifying effective treatment modalities for batterers of various backgrounds. The experience drawn from the project will provide useful reference for defining the goals, contents and standards of BIP. An advisory group comprising academia, clinical psychologist, psychiatrist, social workers and an overseas consultant has been set up to advise SWD on the implementation and evaluation of the pilot project.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)250

Question Serial No.

2217

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Financial Secretary stated in his 2008-09 Budget Speech that the Administration will provide funding of \$45 million from 2008-09 to 2010-11 to strengthen day foster care services and child care services. What are the estimated expenditure for this new initiative and its breakdown in 2008-09? With additional resources provided, what is the estimated increase in the number of places in 2008-09? Does the Administration expect that the increase in the number of places will fully meet the demand of the public?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The proposed funding of \$45 million over the next three years is for piloting more flexible forms of day child care services at the neighbourhood level that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of the parents; and for strengthening day foster care service.

The pilot child care projects will target children aged under six and will comprise two components : centre-based care group and home-based child care service. As a start, the projects will be implemented in phases in districts where the demand for flexible child care services is more pressing. Local charitable organisations, including non-governmental organisations, women's groups, religious bodies, etc., will be invited to participate in the pilot projects.

We will keep in view the service demand and utilisation and explore improvement measures where necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Financial Secretary stated in his 2008-09 Budget Speech that an additional annual funding of \$40 million will be allocated to strengthen support to Refuge Centres for Women and provide relevant services. Please provide a breakdown of the allocation of the additional funding by services. How does the Administration evaluate whether the additional funding can fully meet service demand?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2008-09, additional recurrent funding of \$40 million will be provided to strengthen support to victims of domestic violence and families in need. The estimated breakdown of allocation for these support services is as follows :

- (a) \$5.3 million for enhancing the hotline service of the Social Welfare Department (SWD);
- (b) \$5 million for increasing the capacity of and enhancing support for Refuge Centres for Women;
- (c) \$7.8 million for increasing the capacity of residential homes for children;
- (d) \$5 million for sustaining and strengthening the effort of the publicity campaign on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence”;
- (e) \$2 million for enhancing the training of relevant front-line professionals in handling domestic violence and families in need;
- (f) \$11.7 million for enhancing the training of childcare staff;
- (g) \$2.1 million for increasing social work manpower for Family and Child Protective Services Units of SWD; and
- (h) \$0.9 million for providing an anti-violence programme for batterers of domestic violence upon enactment of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill.

SWD will work out the implementation details of the new initiatives in consultation with non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders concerned. SWD will keep in view the service demand and seek resources for service enhancement where necessary.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question :

As regards the supplement of \$200 per month for recipients of Disability Allowance and for recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance with 100% disability aged between 12 and 64, how is this amount of \$200 per month arrived at? Are there any justifications to prove that this amount of \$200 per month is adequate?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

To meet the basic transport needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs), the Administration has, in addition to the provision of Rehabus service, provided PWDs with financial assistance through the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and Disability Allowance (DA) payment. Depending on their degree of disability, the monthly standard rate of PWD recipients of CSSA ranges from \$1,820 to \$4,335. As to DA, it is provided to recipients on a non-means-tested basis. Normal and Higher DA amount to \$1,170 and \$2,340 respectively per month. Total government expenditure in this respect for 2008-09 is estimated at about \$7 billion.

The proposed transport supplement aims at providing the CSSA recipients with 100% disability aged between 12 and 64 and DA recipients in the same age group with an additional cash supplement to encourage them to participate more in activities away from home, thereby enhancing their contact with and integration into society.

In setting the amount of the monthly transport supplement of \$200, we have made reference to the findings of a survey on the transport needs of PWDs conducted by the University of Hong Kong in 2006, and the changes in transport pattern and expenditure of PWDs with regard to social integration if fare concessions are provided.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Paul TANG

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the applications for compensation under the Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Scheme, please provide the number of cases which involved domestic violence over the past five years. Please also provide a breakdown of the number of victims by sex and age group.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Among the applications for Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation in the past five years from 2003-04 to 2007-08, there were 32 cases involving family violence. A breakdown is given below:-

Year	Sex		Age Group								Total
			0 – 15		16 – 30		31 – 45		46 – 60		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
2003-04	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	6
2004-05	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
2005-06	1	—	1	1	—	3	2	1	—	1	10
2006-07	—	1	—	2	2	2	—	3	—	—	10
2007-08*	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	6
	3	2	1	5	3	8	2	7	0	1	32

* The figure is as at the end of February 2008

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)254

Question Serial No.

2239

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : How many cases have been exempted from joining the New Dawn (ND) Project on the ground of being victims of domestic violence ever since its implementation? What are the average number of children involved in each case and their age distribution?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The ND Project was in operation from April 2006 to September 2007 to help single parents and child carers who were on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and with their youngest child aged 12 to 14 build up their capacity for work, integrate into society and move to self-reliance through engagement in paid employment. The Project has been extended for 30 months from October 2007 to March 2010 and re-titled as the Enhanced ND Project.

From April 2006 to end-January 2008, eight target participants were exempted from joining the project on the ground of being victims of domestic violence. Under the ND and the Enhanced ND Projects, we have no separate record on the family composition of the exempted cases.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : A wide range of training programmes has been provided for social security staff. What are covered by the programmes? Do the programmes cover assessment of domestic violence? Has the “Gender Mainstreaming Checklist” been adopted to examine the contents of the programmes? Has the Administration ever invited Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients to share with social security staff during their training? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : We provide training for various grades of social security staff in relation to professional, legal and management knowledge as well as customer service skills. Elements on enlightening the awareness of gender perspectives and enhancing the sensitivity on domestic violence for proper referral to appropriate professionals for risk assessment are also included in the training programmes for social security staff. We shall continue to promote the awareness and understanding of domestic violence and importance of gender mainstreaming among our staff.

In the past, recipients of CSSA were invited to share in training programmes as appropriate with a view to further enhancing the quality of social security service. We shall continue our efforts on this front.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)256

Question Serial No.

1797

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Would the Government provide additional provision for setting up a central database for domestic violence cases in relation to the handling of these cases?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply : At present, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been keeping statistics on cases involving child abuse, elder abuse, spouse battering and sexual violence through the Child Protection Registry, the Central Information System on Elder Abuse Cases and the Central Information System on Battered Spouse Cases and Sexual Violence Cases respectively. These statistics are available on SWD's website for public information. SWD has no plan to set up another database.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : All

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please list out the post titles and duties of the 124 non-directorate posts to be created in 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : There will be an increase of 131 posts under Programmes (1) to (4). The breakdown is as follows -

Programme	Net increase in number and type(s) of posts	Major responsibilities
(1) Family and Child Welfare	9 posts in the Social Work Officer grade	To enhance social work services and support for victims of domestic violence and families in need.
(2) Social Security	112 posts in the Social Security Officer and Social Security Assistant grades	To provide front-line social security services including conducting interviews and investigations for processing or reviewing applications under various social security schemes.
(3) Services for Elders	6 posts in the Registered Nurse grade	To enhance inspection and monitoring of health care services provided in residential care homes for the elderly and those under Enhanced Home and Community Care Services.
(4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services	4 posts in the Social Work Officer grade	To strengthen the psychosocial intervention for substance abusers with mental problems.

The creation of these 131 posts will be partly offset by the deletion of seven posts under Programme (5): Services for Offenders in 2008-09; hence a net increase of 124 posts.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)258

Question Serial No.

2245

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the reasons why the indicators for the numbers of vulnerable households newly and successfully contacted through outreaching attempts per worker and vulnerable households newly and successfully referred to mainstream services per worker in the 2008-09 Estimate are the same as that in 2006-07 and 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The Family Support Networking Teams (FSNTs) were formed with resources pooled from the terminated Integrated Neighbourhood Projects (INPs) after a review conducted by the University of Hong Kong in 2002. Upon agreement reached with the service operators, resources of two Social Work Assistant (SWA) posts under each INP were re-engineered into a FSNT.

There are now seven FSNTs with a total of 20 SWAs. Among them, five of the FSNTs have two SWAs each while the remaining two FSNTs have four and six SWAs respectively. Given the relatively small staff size, the output targets of performance indicators for each social worker post in 2008-09, including successful identification of vulnerable households and referrals to mainstream services, are set at a comparable level as in the preceding years of 2006-07 and 2007-08.

It should be noted that FSNTs are not the only units which reach out to vulnerable families. For example, a Family Support Programme (FSP) has been launched in Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres (ISCs), Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units since early 2007. Under the FSP, through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, we aim to introduce families at risk to various support services available and motivate them to receive services to prevent further deterioration of their problems.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the groups and programmes organised by Integrated Family Service Centres, the figures for the government sector will be reduced from 6 348 in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate to 4 941 in the 2008-09 Estimate and the subvented sector from 2 568 in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate to 2 036 in the 2008-09 Estimate respectively. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The number of groups and programmes in 2007-08 (i.e. 6 348 and 2 568 for the government and subvented sectors respectively) is the estimated number of groups and programmes that would have been organised by 31 March 2008. The estimate is based on the actual number of groups and programmes organised in the first two quarters in 2007-08. The estimated number in 2008-09 (i.e. 4 941 and 2 036 for the government and subvented sectors respectively) is the aggregate of the output indicators as stipulated in the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs). Integrated Family Service Centres may, as in previous years and according to service needs, organise more groups and programmes than the output level required in the FSAs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)260

Question Serial No.

2247

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding family and child protection services, the average supervision cases per worker will increase from 49 in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate to 51 in the 2008-09 Estimate. Please provide the average time required for each worker to handle a family and child protection case in 2007-08 and the estimated time required by a worker to handle a case in 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : Social workers of the Family and Child Protective Services Units provide services to individuals and families affected by problems of child abuse, spouse battering and custody dispute. Depending on the need of individual case, the time spent by social workers on each case varies. The Social Welfare Department does not have an estimate of the average time spent on each case.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)261

Question Serial No.

2248

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The provision for social security in 2008-09 is 2.3% lower than that in 2007-08. What are the reasons for the reduction? What are the services affected by the said reduction?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The 2007-08 Revised Estimate for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and Social Security Allowance (SSA) Schemes are \$17,890 million and \$6,080 million respectively whereas the 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes are \$17,267 million and \$5,982 million respectively.

The 2007-08 Revised Estimate has included one additional month of CSSA standard rate payments for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients. The financial implication for this measure is \$1.5 billion, comprising \$1.0 billion for the CSSA Scheme and \$0.5 billion for the SSA Scheme. The 2008-09 Estimate for these two Schemes is, in fact, higher than the respective Revised Estimate of 2007-08, if the one month additional payment for both Schemes is to be discounted. The increase in the estimated provision seeks to cope with the estimated increase in the number of cases under the two Schemes in 2008-09.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : An additional 160 day care places for the elderly will be provided in 2008-09. What is their distribution?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : Of the additional 160 day care places to be provided in 2008-09, 140 places will be provided in three Day Care Centres for the Elderly in Shatin (60 places), Kwun Tong (40 places) and Tuen Mun (40 places) respectively. The remaining 20 places will be provided in a Day Care Unit attached to a new contract residential care home for the elderly in Kwai Tsing.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The enrolment rate of Day Care Centres for the Elderly in both 2006-07 and 2007-08 was as high as 110%. Even though an additional 160 day care places will be provided in 2008-09, the demand is expected to remain high. What will the Social Welfare Department do to cope with the demand?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : For reasons such as sickness and medical appointments, not all members of the Day Care Centres/Units can attend the Centres/Units every day. Therefore, the Centres/Units can take in additional elders to utilise the unused timeslots. It is on this basis that we have set the enrolment rate at 110% to enhance the utilisation of the day care places. The additional 160 day care places to be provided in 2008-09 will meet the need of districts with high service demand. We will continue to monitor the district demand and will, subject to the availability of resources and suitable venues, provide additional day care places where necessary.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The cost per place per month for Day Care Centres for the Elderly in the 2008-09 Estimate is \$5,743, \$3 less than the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. Why is there such a reduction despite inflation? Please state the areas of saving.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The slight decrease of \$3 in the cost per place per month for Day Care Centres for the Elderly in the 2008-09 Estimate as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate is mainly due to the decrease in administrative support costs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)265

Question Serial No.

2252

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The cost per place per month for private homes participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) is \$5,894 in 2008-09, which is lower than that in 2007-08. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The slight decrease of 0.57% in the unit cost of an EBPS place per month in the 2008-09 Estimate as compared to the 2007-08 Revised Estimate is mainly due to the anticipated increase in enrolment rate from 95% to 96%.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, additional 267 and 155 places will be provided in hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons and hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons respectively. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) what are the current number of severely mentally handicapped persons and moderately mentally handicapped persons waiting for admission to the above hostels and what is the current average waiting time for both types of hostels?
- (2) has any support services been provided for the mentally handicapped persons to meet their needs while they are waiting for admission? If yes, what are the details and what was the expenditure involved in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : (1) The waiting list and average waiting time for the hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons and hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons are as follows:

	Waiting List (as at December 2007)	Average Waiting Time (month) 2006-07
Hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons	1 787	82.8
Hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons	1 277	45.6

- (2) Persons with mental handicap waiting for residential care services can be provided with various day training services and community support services. Day training services include day activity centre; sheltered workshop; supported employment; and integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre. Community support services include home-based training and support service as well as

community-based support projects (e.g. day care service for the severely disabled; holiday care service; family-based respite service; home care service; home-based rehabilitation training service etc.).

Estimated provisions for these services in 2007-08 are as follows:

Types of Services	Amount (\$ million)
Day activity centre	301.6
Sheltered workshop	199.8
Supported employment	37.2
Integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre	101.7
Home-based training and support service	55.4
Community-based support projects	21.7

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Despite the fact that the enrolment rates of sheltered workshops (SWs) in the government sector and the subvented sector exceeded 100% over the past years, the number of sheltered workshop places has been decreased instead of increased. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) what are the reasons for not increasing the places in SWs during the past years?
- (2) what is the current number of applicants waitlisting for sheltered workshop places and what is the average waiting time?
- (3) what are the estimated expenditures spent on services such as SWs, supported employment, integrated vocational training centres, On-the-job Training Programme for People with Disabilities and Sunnyway On-the-job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

- Reply :
- (1) With the implementation of Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre (IVRSC) in April 2004, which is an enhanced vocational rehabilitation service incorporating the elements of SW and Supported Employment, the Administration has increased the provision of IVRSC instead of SWs in recent years. An additional 570 IVRSC places will be provided in 2008-09 to meet the vocational training needs for persons with disabilities (PWDs).
 - (2) As at 31 December 2007, there were 2 187 PWDs on the waiting list for SW and the average waiting time for the service was 14.4 months in 2006-07. Vacancies in IVRSC could also be filled by persons on SW waiting list.

- (3) The 2008-09 Estimate of the following vocational rehabilitation services is:

Services	2008-09 Estimate (\$ million)
Sheltered Workshop	203.1
Supported Employment	37.4
Integrated Vocational Training Centre	19.7
On-the-Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities	5.9
Sunnyway – On-the-Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities	7.8

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (5) Services for Offenders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Administration has launched a pilot scheme to enhance the provision of accommodation and employment assistance for discharged prisoners (DPs). Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the details of the project and the outcome of the project since its implementation.
- (b) the budget for implementing the project in 2008-09 and the target number of service users.
- (c) to assist DPs in finding employment has all along been one of the important objectives of services for offenders, but only a limited number of employers and corporations are willing to offer employment to DPs. Will the Administration introduce any policies and measures in 2008-09 to encourage more employers to offer employment to DPs? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : (a) & (b) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has earmarked \$3.8 million per annum for a two-year pilot project, namely the Short-term Rental Assistance (SRA) and the Enhanced Employment Service (EES) for DPs, with a view to providing tide-over financial assistance to newly DPs before they can secure employment or are eligible for other welfare assistance. This can facilitate their social integration into the community.

The project started in March 2007 and has been implemented in an effective manner. Up to 31 December 2007, 440 DPs received assistance under the SRA and 1 084 DPs were assisted under the EES (of whom 472 were offered employment). Comparable service figures are expected for 2008-09.

- (c) Community acceptance and support for rehabilitated offenders, notably employers' support, are vital to the successful rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders. To this end, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will continue to launch publicity activities to appeal for more public support for rehabilitated offenders, organise functions to promote better understanding of rehabilitated offenders by employers, and encourage non-governmental organisations to initiate proposals and plans for promoting fair employment opportunities of rehabilitated offenders. For example, CSD will continue to render support to the Merchants Support for Rehabilitated Offenders Committee to carry out the "One Company One Job" Campaign. In 2008-09, CSD has earmarked \$0.5 million for organising promotional activities for rehabilitated offenders, including those appealing for employers' support.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)269

Question Serial No.

2284

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Government will provide more residential child care places for vulnerable children in 2008. What are the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The total estimate for residential child care services in 2008-09 is about \$387.3 million, which includes the cost for providing 100 additional residential child care places.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the registration and allocation of services under the Central Waiting List for Subsidised Long Term Care Services (CWL), would the Government please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the total numbers of elders waitlisted for subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) places and nursing home (NH) places, the respective numbers of elders who were allocated places, withdrew their applications or passed away while waitlisting in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08? Please provide the information in the table below:

	Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (as at end February)
Subsidised C&A places	Number of waitlisted elders			
	Numbers of elders who were allocated places			
	Number of elders who withdrew their applications			
	Number of elders who passed away while waitlisting			
Subsidised NH places	Number of waitlisted elders			
	Numbers of elders who were allocated places			
	Number of elders who withdrew their applications			
	Number of elders who passed away while waitlisting			

(2) What is the current accommodation status of the elders who were waitlisted for NH places as at 31 March 2007?

	Number of elders
Subsidised C&A homes	
Homes for the aged	
Private homes (including those participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme)	
Public housing units	
Private dwellings	
Others	
Total	

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (1) Information relating to applications for subsidised C&A places and NH places is as follows:

	Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (as at end February)
Subsidised C&A places	Number of waitlisted elders	15 574	16 191	16 981
	Number of elders who were allocated places	2 900	3 323	3 410
	Number of elders who withdrew their applications	2 258	2 160	2 011
	Number of elders who passed away while waitlisting	2 118	2 286	2 303
Subsidised NH places	Number of waitlisted elders	5 734	6 063	6 213
	Number of elders who were allocated places	379	492	377
	Number of elders who withdrew their applications	244	260	307
	Number of elders who passed away while waitlisting	1 441	1 542	1 539

- (2) We cannot trace back the current accommodation status of those elders waitlisted for NH places as at 31 March 2007. Nevertheless, the accommodation status of the 6 213 elders waitlisted for NH places as at end February 2008 is set out below for reference:

Type of accommodation	No. of applicant
Residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) (excluding private RCHEs)	638
Private RCHEs (including those participated in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme)	3 727
Public housing units	774
Private tenements	997
Others (e.g. hospitals)	77

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, additional provision will be provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for implementing a comprehensive improvement package to handle domestic violence and family crisis cases. What are the specific details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : In 2008-09, additional recurrent funding of \$40 million will be provided to strengthen support to victims of domestic violence and families in need. The estimated breakdown of allocation for these support services is as follows :

- (a) \$5.3 million for enhancing the hotline service of SWD;
- (b) \$5 million for increasing the capacity of and enhancing support for Refuge Centres for Women;
- (c) \$7.8 million for increasing the capacity of residential homes for children;
- (d) \$5 million for sustaining and strengthening the effort of the publicity campaign on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence”;
- (e) \$2 million for enhancing the training of relevant front-line professionals in handling domestic violence and families in need;
- (f) \$11.7 million for enhancing the training of childcare staff;
- (g) \$2.1 million for increasing social work manpower for Family and Child Protective Services Units of SWD; and
- (h) \$0.9 million for providing an anti-violence programme for batterers of domestic violence upon enactment of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As released by the Census and Statistics Department recently, the number of single mothers has grown considerably by nearly one-fold; 675 child abuse cases were recorded from January to September in 2007, among them there were 416 cases (67.9%) where fathers/mothers were the abusers; and domestic violence cases have been on the rise. The Financial Secretary stated in paragraph 131 of his speech to move the Appropriation Bill 2008 that the Administration will provide funding of \$45 million over the next three years to strengthen day foster care services and to promote various types of child care services that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of parents. Please provide the capacity and district distribution of child care service, occasional child care service and foster care service from 2003-04 to 2007-08 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Before the harmonisation of pre-primary services in September 2005, day child care centre service was categorised as day crèche for children aged under two, and day nursery for children aged two to under six. After the harmonisation, day child care service has been re-defined as service for children aged under three while service for children aged three to under six has been defined as kindergarten service. Kindergarten-cum-child care centres are under the administration of the Education Bureau while standalone child care centres are under the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

The table below shows the breakdown of the number of places by the administrative districts of SWD:

SWD District	No. of places in Aided Day Crèche (DC) (aged 0 to 2)		No. of Places in Aided Day Nursery (DN) (aged 2-6)		No. of Places in Aided Standalone Child Care Centres (CCCs)* (aged 0-3)			No. of Places in Child Care Centre Sections of Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres (KG-cum-CCCs)** (aged 0-3)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Sept 2005	Sept 2006	Sept 2007
Eastern/Wan Chai	124	124	2 291	2 243	88	88	88	2 261	2 435	2 705
Central/Western & Islands	40	40	1 516	1 492	40	40	40 [#]	866	1 047	2 506 [#]
Southern	24	24	1 060	1 006	0 [@]	0 [@]		714	697	
Kwun Tong	48	48	3 108	2 971	0 [@]	0 [@]	0 [@]	1 101	1 294	1 237
Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung	40	40	3 495	3 553	0 [@]	0 [@]	0 [@]	1 188	1 303	1 563
Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong	136	136	3 460	3 327	136	136	136	2 705	2 742	2 973
Sham Shui Po	80	80	1 647	1 721	62	62	62	477	538	531
Sha Tin	70	70	2 437	2 431	70	70	70	1 314	1 266	1 301
Tai Po/North	84	48	2 167	2 167	48	48	48	720	886	1 066
Yuen Long	92	92	2 130	2 000	60	64	60	990	878	939
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	134	134	3 364	3 352	110	102	102	1 531	1 677	1 582
Tuen Mun	80	80	2 298	2 298	80	80	56	768	660	960

* The figure is the capacity of full-day places.

** The figure includes full-day and half-day places in non-profit-making and private centres.

In September 2007, SWD re-organised its district administration and merged Central, Western and Islands and Southern into one administrative district.

@ Places for children aged under 3 in these districts are provided in kindergarten-cum-child care centres.

The table below shows the service provisions of occasional child care service between 2003-04 and 2007-08 :

SWD District	No. of Occasional Child Care Places									
	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	DN*	DC [#]	DN*	DC [#]	Stand-alone CCCs [†]	KG-cum-CCCs [^]	Stand-alone CCCs [†]	KG-cum-CCCs [^]	Stand-alone CCCs [†]	KG-cum-CCCs [^]
Eastern/Wanchai	57	3	57	3	2	34	2	34	2	34
Central/Western & Islands	36	3	36	3	2	25	2	25	2	25
Southern	30	0	30	0	0	19	0	19	0	19
Kwun Tong	72	0	72	0	0	47	0	47	0	47

SWD District	No. of Occasional Child Care Places									
	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	DN [*]	DC [#]	DN [*]	DC [#]	Stand-alone CCCs [†]	KG-cum-CCCs [^]	Stand-alone CCCs [†]	KG-cum-CCCs [^]	Stand-alone CCCs [†]	KG-cum-CCCs [^]
Wong Tai Sin/ Sai Kung	78	3	81	0	0	62	0	56	0	54
Kowloon City/ Yau Tsim Mong	63	9	60	9	5	52	5	52	5	52
Sham Shui Po	39	3	36	3	3	30	3	30	3	30
Sha Tin	48	6	48	3	1	37	1	34	1	34
Tai Po/ North	54	6	54	6	3	46	3	46	3	46
Yuen Long	42	3	42	3	3	28	3	28	3	31
Tsuen Wan/ Kwai Tsing	72	6	69	6	6	59	6	59	6	59
Tuen Mun	60	12	60	6	4	37	4	37	2	37

* DN^{*} are for children aged 2 to under 6.

DC[#] are for children from 0 to under 2.

† Standalone CCCs serve children from 0 to under 3.

^ KG-cum-CCCs serve children from 0/2 to under 6.

Foster care service is a territory-wide service with places distributed in all districts. As the geographical distribution of foster homes is not static, we do not have the district distribution of their provisions. The number of foster care places provided between 2003-04 and 2007-08 is as follows:

Year	Number of Foster Care Places
2003-04	745
2004-05	795
2005-06	940
2006-07	950
2007-08	950

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)273

Question Serial No.

2316

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As released by the Census and Statistics Department recently, the number of single mothers has grown considerably by nearly one-fold; 675 child abuse cases were recorded from January to September in 2007, among them there were 416 cases (67.9%) where fathers/mothers were the abusers; and domestic violence cases have been on the rise. The Financial Secretary stated in paragraph 131 of his speech to move the Appropriation Bill 2008 that the Administration will provide funding of \$45 million over the next three years to strengthen day foster care services and to promote various types of child care services that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of parents. Please provide the utilisation rates of child care service, occasional child care service and foster care service from 2003-04 to 2007-08 respectively. Please state whether it was necessary for applicants to wait for the services. If yes, how long do they have to wait?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The utilisation rates of day child care centre service, occasional child care service and foster care service between 2003-04 and 2007-08 are as follows:

Type of Services	Utilisation Rates (%)				
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Day Nursery	83	82	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
Day Crèche	84	87	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
Standalone Child Care Centres	N/A**	N/A**	92	91	94
Child Care Centre Sections in Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres	N/A**	N/A**	62	62	70
Occasional Child Care Service	61.4	65	59.4	72.6	74
Foster Care Service	90	98	90	91	91

* The service type is no longer appropriate for presentational purpose upon the harmonisation of pre-primary service on 1 September 2005.

** The service type is adopted for presentation of services upon the harmonisation of pre-primary service on 1 September 2005.

Other than foster care service, the other two types of services (i.e. day child care centre service and occasional child care service) have no central waitlisting system. Normally, for an applicant for foster care service with no district preference, it would take less than three months on average for the case to be matched with a foster home.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As released by the Census and Statistics Department recently, the number of single mothers has grown considerably by nearly one-fold; 675 child abuse cases were recorded from January to September in 2007, among them there were 416 cases (67.9%) where fathers/mothers were the abusers; and domestic violence cases have been on the rise. The Financial Secretary stated in paragraph 131 of his speech to move the Appropriation Bill 2008 that the Administration will provide funding of \$45 million over the next three years to strengthen day foster care services and to promote various types of child care services that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of parents. In the 10 districts with the fastest growth of single parent families, such as Yuen Long, Kwun Tong and Kwai Tsing, how do day foster care services and child care services meet the specific needs of single parent families, such as the fact that they go out early and return home late, and that they require services during rest days as well?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The proposed funding of \$45 million over the next three years is for piloting more flexible forms of day child care services at the neighbourhood level that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of the parents; and for strengthening day foster care service.

The pilot child care projects will target children aged under six and will comprise two components : centre-based care group and home-based child care service. As a start, the projects will be implemented in phases in districts where the demand for flexible child care services is more pressing. Local charitable organisations, including non-governmental organisations, women's groups, religious bodies, etc., will be invited to participate in the pilot projects.

When planning the service, the need of single parent will be taken into consideration.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As released by the Census and Statistics Department recently, the number of single mothers has grown considerably by nearly one-fold; 675 child abuse cases were recorded from January to September in 2007, among them there were 416 cases (67.9%) where fathers/mothers being the abusers; and domestic violence cases have been on the rise. The Financial Secretary stated in paragraph 131 of his Speech to move the Appropriation Bill 2008 that the Administration will provide funding of \$45 million over the next three years to strengthen day foster care services and to promote various types of child care services that offer greater flexibility to meet the needs of parents. Regarding the ten districts with the largest increase of single-parent families, please provide the following information on these families:

- (1) the cause leading to single-parent families and the number of families involved in domestic violence;
- (2) the number of low income households;
- (3) the number of families on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA);
- (4) the ratio of single mothers and single fathers;
- (5) the income ratio of single mothers and single fathers;
- (6) the number of children and their age distribution (aged 0-5, 5-10, 10-12, 12-14, 15-16); and
- (7) the arrangement of parents for taking care of their children aged under 16 (aged 0-5, 5-10, 10-12, 12-14, 15-16) when they go out to work.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Based on the results of the 2006 Population By-census, the top ten districts with the largest increase in the number of single parents from 2001 to 2006 were Yuen Long, Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Sai Kung, Wong Tai Sin, Tuen Mun, Islands (including Marine), Tsuen Wan, Sha Tin and Eastern District.

- (1) There are different reasons leading to the increase in single-parent families including death of a spouse/parent, separation or divorce. We do not have the number of single-parent families involved in domestic violence.

(2) Low Income Households

The following table shows the number of single parents by whether monthly domestic household income was below average CSSA payment and household size in the top ten districts with the largest increase in the number of single parents in 2006. "Low income households" presented in the table below refer to those households with income below the average CSSA payment of the corresponding household size.

District	Low income households ^(a)				Other households				Total
	Household size			Sub-tota 1	Household size			Sub-total	
	2	3	4+		2	3	4+		
Yuen Long	815	1 844	585	3 244	1 627	2 117	1 129	4 873	8 117
Kwun Tong	915	1 317	556	2 788	1 692	1 923	1 291	4 906	7 694
Kwai Tsing	979	980	545	2 504	1 320	1 499	1 311	4 130	6 634
Sai Kung	358	530	217	1 105	749	940	675	2 364	3 469
Wong Tai Sin	537	809	430	1 776	937	1 216	837	2 990	4 766
Tuen Mun	867	1 081	393	2 341	1 526	1 479	1 005	4 010	6 351
Islands (including Marine)	64	187	218	469	271	389	302	962	1 431
Tsuen Wan	218	395	151	764	687	761	515	1 963	2 727
Sha Tin	578	939	446	1 963	1 160	1 580	1 060	3 800	5 763
Eastern	342	455	388	1 185	1 060	1 478	1 255	3 793	4 978
Others	2 229	2 877	1 265	6 371	4 682	5 533	3 780	13 995	20 366
Total	7 902	11 414	5 194	24 510	15 711	18 915	13 160	47 786	72 296(b)

Notes : (a) Low-income households refer to those households with income below the average CSSA payment of the corresponding household size.

(b) 30 single parents who were living in non-domestic households are not included. In the 2006 Population By-census, households comprising Mobile Residents only were not included as domestic households.

(3) The number of CSSA single parent cases for the ten districts with the largest increase in the number of single parents as at end-February 2008 are as follows:

District*	CSSA Caseload
Yuen Long	5 179
Kwun Tong	4 002
Kwai Tsing	3 417
Sai Kung	1 618
Wong Tai Sin	2 889
Tuen Mun	2 916
Islands	899
Tsuen Wan	1 204
Sha Tin	2 461
Eastern	1 583
Others	10 549
Total #	36 717

Notes: * The boundary of geographical districts is broadly similar to that of the boundary of the District Councils.

Including cases without information on geographical district.

(4) Ratio between Single Fathers and Single Mothers

Figures for single parents by sex in the top ten districts with the largest increase in the number of single parents in 2006 and the sex ratios in the respective districts are presented in the following table:

District	Sex of Single Parents		Sex Ratio ^(c)
	Male	Female	
Yuen Long	1 589	6 528	243
Kwun Tong	1 899	5 795	328
Kwai Tsing	1 056	5 578	189
Sai Kung	654	2 815	232
Wong Tai Sin	1 008	3 758	268
Tuen Mun	1 452	4 899	296
Islands (including Marine)	261	1 170	223
Tsuen Wan	624	2 103	297
Sha Tin	1 174	4 589	256
Eastern	917	4 061	226
Others	4 079	16 317	250
Total	14 713	57 613	255

Note: (c) Sex ratio of single parents refers to the number of single fathers per 1 000 single mothers.

(5) Income Ratio between Single Fathers and Single Mothers

The following table presents the median monthly domestic household income of single parents by sex in the top ten districts with the largest increase in the number of single parents in 2006.

District	Median Monthly Domestic Household Income of Single Parents (\$)	
	Male	Female
Yuen Long	11,008	8,500
Kwun Tong	11,705	8,900
Kwai Tsing	10,000	9,000
Sai Kung	15,000	10,300
Wong Tai Sin	11,205	8,500
Tuen Mun	12,000	8,300
Islands (including Marine)	13,920	9,800
Tsuen Wan	12,500	10,000
Sha Tin	13,000	10,000
Eastern	17,100	12,500
Others	13,000	10,000
Total	12,205	9,345

(6) Number and Age Distribution of Dependent Children of Single Parents

The following table presents the number of dependent children of single parents by age group of children in the top ten districts with the largest increase in the number of single parents in 2006.

District	Age Group of Dependent Children						Total
	< 5	5-9	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	
Yuen Long	962	1 882	1 954	2 159	2 534	2 445	11 936
Kwun Tong	789	2 373	1 543	1 673	1 939	2 430	10 747
Kwai Tsing	700	1 628	1 358	1 337	1 920	2 080	9 023
Sai Kung	270	842	653	752	1 085	1 185	4 787
Wong Tai Sin	569	1 234	888	1 133	1 315	1 503	6 642
Tuen Mun	1 060	1 450	1 124	1 715	1 712	1 663	8 724
Islands (including Marine)	164	667	324	236	520	342	2 253
Tsuen Wan	331	710	654	551	800	623	3 669
Sha Tin	529	1 198	952	1 288	1 816	2 161	7 944
Eastern	427	1 046	1 021	1 248	1 403	1 564	6 709
Others	2 293	5 220	3 812	4 761	5 447	6 023	27 556
Total	8 094	18 250	14 283	16 853	20 491	22 019	99 990

- (7) For children aged under six, various types of child care services including child care centre service, extended hours service and occasional child care service, day foster care service, day small group home service and mutual help child care centres are available to assist parents who cannot take care of their children due to social or financial difficulties. New flexible child care services will also be introduced in 2008-09.

Parents who are unable to take care of their children aged 6 to 12 during after-school hours can use the after school care programme (ASCP) operated by non-governmental organisations on a self-financing and fee charging basis. The Social Welfare Department, in cooperation with the non-governmental organisations, operates a fee subsidy scheme for eligible families for full fee waiving or half fee reduction for their children receiving the ASCP services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)276

Question Serial No.

2352

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : With regard to the target set for “private homes participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS)”, the number of places in the 2008-09 Estimate is the same as that in the 2007-08 Revised Estimate. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : In 2007-08, the Social Welfare Department purchased 483 additional places from private residential care homes for the elderly under the EBPS. This brings the total number of EBPS places to 6 636 which will be carried forward to 2008-09. Increasing EBPS places is not the only means to increase the provision of subsidised residential care places. In 2008-09, an additional 107 subsidised residential care places will be provided in the new contract homes. Furthermore, the 2008-09 Budget has earmarked \$29.8 million to provide an additional 278 subsidised residential care places.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the current number of applicants waiting for admission to residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs)? What measures will be taken to shorten the waiting time as quickly as possible?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : As at end February 2008, there were a total of 16 981 applicants waitlisted for subsidised care-and-attention (C&A) places and 6 213 applicants waitlisted for subsidised nursing home places.

To meet the demand for subsidised residential care services, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been increasing the supply of subsidised residential care places. In 2007-08, 695 additional subsidised residential care places were provided, including 483 places purchased from private residential care homes for the elderly under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme and 212 places created in the new contract homes. In 2008-09, an additional 107 subsidised residential care places will be provided in the new contract homes. Furthermore, the 2008-09 Budget has earmarked \$29.8 million to provide an additional 278 subsidised residential care places.

Also, under the conversion programme launched since 2005, more C&A places providing continuum of care up to the nursing level of care will be created to better meet the long-term care (LTC) needs of elders. It is important to note that elders with LTC needs do not necessarily stay in RCHEs. SWD is in parallel providing a range of subsidised home-based and centre-based community care services to facilitate elders to age in the community.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2007, the Social Welfare Department enhanced support to and increased the capacity of Refuge Centres for Women. Please state the number of Refuge Centres for Women in Hong Kong and the number of places provided.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : In the beginning of 2007-08, there were 180 places in four Refuge Centres for Women providing temporary accommodation and supportive services to women and their children affected by domestic violence or family crisis. The average occupancy rate of these four centres in the first three quarters of 2007-08 was 93%. Through on-site expansion in one of these centres, the total number of places was increased to 195 in January 2008.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : (a) Would the Social Welfare Department (SWD) please set out in the table below the waiting time for the following residential rehabilitation homes from 2003 to 2007 and that in 2008-09:

	Year	
	Average Waiting Time	Waiting List
Halfway House		
Long Stay Care Home		
Integrated Service Centre for Mentally Handicapped Persons		
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons		
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons		
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons		
Care-and-Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons		
Care-and-Attention Home for the Aged Blind		
Small Group Home for Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children/Integrated Small Group Home		
Supported Hostel		

(b) Will SWD provide additional resources to reduce the waiting time?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : (a) The average waiting time and waiting list for the residential services for persons with disabilities for the years from 2003-04 to 2006-07 are given in the table below. Information for 2007-08 and 2008-09 will only be available by the end of the financial year.

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Average Waiting time (month)	Waiting List	Average Waiting time (month)	Waiting List	Average Waiting time (month)	Waiting List	Average Waiting time (month)	Waiting List
Halfway House	6	602	6	589	6	551	5	511
Long Stay Care Home	92.4	919	75.6	887	73.2	914	51.5	763
Integrated Service Centre for Mentally Handicapped Persons	No such service type							
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons	37.2	1 302	45.6	1 500	49.2	1 486	45.6	1 294
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons	49.2	1 870	62.4	2 001	68.4	1 936	82.8	1 819
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons	37.2	243	45.6	276	42	251	78	333
Care-and-Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons	26.4	361	24	392	36	380	40	352
Care-and-Attention Home for the Aged Blind	15.6	120	8.4	111	10.8	81	6.8	87
Small Group Home for Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children/Integrated Small Group Home	10.3	25	10.3	46	16.5	51	14.3	59
Supported Hostel	14.4	262	14.4	383	22.8	535	31.2	659

- (b) To reduce the waiting time, the Administration will allocate additional resources in 2008-09 to provide 490 additional residential services places for persons with disabilities.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As regards the collaboration with the Elderly Commission to promote active ageing, what is the amount of funding granted to the elder academies launched in 2007-08 and how many people have been benefited under the project? It is learnt that elder academies have been extended to cover tertiary institutions, what is the amount of funding involved in this regard?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The Pilot Elder Learning Scheme (the Scheme) was launched by the Elderly Commission (EC) and the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) in early 2007. Altogether 32 elder academies, which are operated by primary/secondary schools in partnership with non-governmental organisations, have commenced operation, providing over 5 000 places in the 2007/08 academic year. Each of these elder academies has been granted seed money of \$50,000 (a total of \$1.6 million for 32 elder academies in 2006-07) by LWB and that they will continue to operate on a self-sustaining mode.

Our next target is to extend the Scheme to tertiary institutions. We have already obtained support from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Shue Yan University and the Lingnan University. The funding required in 2007-08 is \$250,000.

EC and LWB will continue to encourage more primary/secondary schools and tertiary institutions to join the Scheme. In 2008-09, LWB plans to spend around \$2 million to extend the Scheme further at different levels.

Signature

Name in block letters

Paul TANG

Post Title

Permanent Secretary
for Labour and Welfare

Date

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)281

Question Serial No.

1912

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : How many orders for rebus dial-a-ride (DAR) services were declined in 2007-08? Will there be any improvement measures and what are the expected achievements?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

9 101 orders for DAR services were declined in 2007, representing about 9.5% of the total orders received.

In 2008-09, two additional rebususes will be specifically deployed to strengthen the DAR services. Assuming that the demand for DAR services remains at the current level, we estimate that the two additional rebususes can help reduce the number of declined orders by about 20%. Rebus will continue to flexibly redeploy rebususes used for scheduled route services to help cater for the service demand for DAR services where feasible and appropriate during the inter-peak period and the Transport Department will review annually the fleet size of rebususes having regard to service demand.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **25 March 2008**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)282

Question Serial No.

1913

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, the Administration will arrange to replace 24 rehabuses and procure eight additional ones. Has the Administration made any assessment as to the increase in the number of passengers with disabilities as a result of the commencement of operation of the new buses? And, how many persons with disabilities (PWDs) are expected to be still on the waiting list for rebus services in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

Six of the eight additional rehabuses will be used to provide scheduled route (SR) services. As each rebus carries about ten passengers, the total number of additional passengers that can be carried per day will be about 60. Assuming the demand for SR services remains at the present level, the six additional rehabuses will be able to fully accommodate the service demand of PWDs on the current waiting list. The other two additional rehabuses will be deployed to provide the dial-a-ride (DAR) services. Assuming that the demand for DAR services remains at the current level, we estimate that the two additional rehabuses can help reduce the number of declined orders by about 20%.

The Transport Department will continue to review annually the fleet size of rehabuses having regard to the service demand.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **20 March 2008**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)283

Question Serial No.

2220

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Upon the procurement of eight additional rehabuses in 2008-09, what is the expected percentage increase in the passenger trips for rebus services per year? Can the procurement of the eight additional rehabuses fully meet the service demand of all persons with disabilities (PWDs)?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Upon the procurement of eight additional rehabuses, the number of passenger trips for rebus services in 2009 is expected to increase by about 10% compared with that of previous year.

Six of the eight additional rehabuses will be used to provide scheduled route (SR) services. As each rebus carries about ten passengers, the total number of additional passengers that can be carried per day will be about 60. Assuming the demand for SR services remains at the present level, the six additional rehabuses will be able to fully accommodate the service demand of PWDs on the current waiting list. The other two additional rehabuses will be deployed to strengthen the dial-a-ride (DAR) services. Assuming that the demand for DAR services remains at the current level, we estimate that the two additional rehabuses can help reduce the number of declined orders by about 20%.

With the availability of more accessible public transport services and facilities, PWDs at present have more choices on the mode of transport to travel around the territory than before. Given the changing circumstances, it is difficult to estimate the prospective demand for rebus services. The Transport Department will review annually the fleet size of rehabuses having regard to the service demand.

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)283

Question Serial No.

2220

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)284

Question Serial No.

2221

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What are the details of the schemes co-ordinated by the Transport Department to improve access to public transport for persons with disabilities? How much financial resources are deployed annually for such schemes?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The schemes co-ordinated by the Transport Department in 2008 include:

- (a) displaying route numbers on the destination plates of trams to help low-visioned passengers in boarding trams;
- (b) assisting the transport trade to search for LPG driven wheelchair accessible taxi models for use by wheelchair-bound passengers;
- (c) installing tactile warning strips in front of the staircases at MTR station entrances for the convenience of visually impaired passengers;
- (d) improving accessible facilities at public transport interchanges such as drop kerbs and tactile warning strips; and
- (e) updating “A Guide to Public Transport for People with Disabilities” for dissemination of public transport information to PWDs.

Schemes (a) and (b) do not require additional resources. For schemes (c), (d) and (e), the estimated expenditure will be about \$2 million in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)285

Question Serial No.

2222

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the provision of subventions in respect of special transport facilities for persons with disabilities under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, what were the annual expenditure breakdown and achievements made in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively? What are the details of the estimated expenditure in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The provision refers to the subvention to the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSAR) for subsidizing its rehabus operation. The breakdown of the subvention in 2006-07 to 2008-09 is as follows:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (Estimate)
(a) personal emoluments	\$19 million	\$20.8 million	\$23 million
(b) other operating costs	\$7.4 million	\$7.9 million	\$8.7 million
Total amount of subvention	\$26.4 million	\$28.7 million	\$31.7 million

Rehabus provided services for 585 172 and 615 468 passenger-trips in 2006 and 2007 respectively. The increase in subvention from 2006-07 to 2008-09 is to meet additional costs arising from the operation of 14 additional rehabuses and salary adjustment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please list out the number of medical social workers working in the psychiatric related field from 2003-04 to 2007-08 as well as in 2008-09 and the respective provisions involved in the following table:

Year	Expenditure/ Estimated Expenditure	Social Work Assistant (SWA) (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)	Senior Social Work Assistant (SSWA) (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)	Officers at Senior Social Work Assistant (SSWA) rank or above (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)	Assistant Social Work Officer (ASWO) (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)	Social Work Officer (SWO) (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)	Officers at Senior Social Work Officer (SSWO) rank or above (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)
2008-09							
2007-08							
2006-07							
2005-06							
2004-05							
2003-04							

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : The number of social worker posts in psychiatric medical social services (MSS) units from 2003-04 to 2008-09 and the expenditure/estimated expenditure for each year are as follows:

Year	Expenditure/ Estimated Expenditure (\$million) (Note 1)	SWA (no. of workers /average caseload per worker) (Note 2)	SSWA (no. of workers /average caseload per worker) (Note 2)	SWO/ASWO (Note 3) (no. of workers/average caseload per worker)	Officers at SSWO rank or above (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker) (Note 4)
2008-09	267.8	Not applicable	Not applicable	38 SWOs & 159 ASWOs / 83.6 cases per worker	Not applicable
2007-08	251.4	Not applicable	Not applicable	38 SWOs & 155 ASWOs / 87.5 cases per worker	Not applicable
2006-07	227.6	Not applicable	Not applicable	38 SWOs & 136 ASWOs / 91 cases per worker	Not applicable
2005-06	220.0	Not applicable	Not applicable	38 SWOs & 128 ASWOs / 95.7 cases per worker	Not applicable
2004-05	218.0	Not applicable	Not applicable	38 SWOs & 128 ASWOs / 96 cases per worker	Not applicable
2003-04	222.5	Not applicable	Not applicable	38 SWOs & 128 ASWOs / 94.7 cases per worker	Not applicable

Note 1: These figures are the total expenditure/estimated expenditure for the MSS, and there is no breakdown for the psychiatric MSS and the non-psychiatric MSS.

Note 2: There is no such establishment in the MSS.

Note 3: There is no separate average caseload for SWOs and ASWOs. As the work of SWOs also includes administrative duty, they are not counted as full strength in the calculation of average caseload per worker.

Note 4: The duty of SSWOs and Principal Social Work Officers in districts is to supervise the MSS units in their districts and they are not involved in providing direct service.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please list out the number of medical social workers working in non-psychiatric fields from 2003-04 to 2007-08 as well as in 2008-09 and the respective provisions involved in the following table:

Year	Expenditure /Estimated Expenditure	Social Work Assistant (SWA) (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)	Senior Social Work Assistant (SSWA) (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)	Officers at Senior Social Work Assistant (SSWA) rank or above (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)	Assistant Social Work Officer (ASWO) (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)	Social Work Officer (SWO) (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)	Officers at Senior Social Work Officer (SSWO) rank or above (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker)
2008-09							
2007-08							
2006-07							
2005-06							
2004-05							
2003-04							

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply : The number of social worker posts in non-psychiatric medical social services (MSS) units from 2003-04 to 2008-09 and the expenditure/estimated expenditure for each year are as follows:

Year	Expenditure/ Estimated Expenditure (\$ million) (Note 1)	SWA (no. of workers / average caseload per worker) (Note 2)	SSWA (no. of workers / average caseload per worker) (Note 2)	SWO/ASWO (Note 3) (no. of workers/average caseload per worker)	Officers at SSWO rank or above (no. of workers/ average caseload per worker) (Note 4)
2008-09	267.8	Not applicable	Not applicable	24 SWOs & 160 ASWOs / 64.3 cases per worker	Not applicable
2007-08	251.4	Not applicable	Not applicable	24 SWOs & 160 ASWOs / 62.8 cases per worker	Not applicable
2006-07	227.6	Not applicable	Not applicable	24 SWOs & 159 ASWOs / 65.1 cases per worker	Not applicable
2005-06	220.0	Not applicable	Not applicable	24 SWOs & 159 ASWOs / 70.8 cases per worker	Not applicable
2004-05	218.0	Not applicable	Not applicable	24 SWOs & 159 ASWOs / 78.5 cases per worker	Not applicable
2003-04	222.5	Not applicable	Not applicable	24 SWOs & 159 ASWOs / 75.1 cases per worker	Not applicable

Note 1: These figures are the total expenditure/estimated expenditure for the MSS, and there is no breakdown for the psychiatric MSS and the non-psychiatric MSS.

Note 2: There is no such establishment in the MSS.

Note 3: There is no separate average caseload for SWOs and ASWOs. As the work of SWOs also includes administrative duty, they are not counted as full strength in the calculation of average caseload per worker.

Note 4: The duty of SSWOs and Principal Social Work Officers in districts is to supervise the MSS units in their districts and they are not involved in providing direct service.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What was the total number of elders waitlisted for nursing home (NH) places during the period April 2007 to February 2008? How many of them have been allocated NH places, withdrawn their applications or passed away while waitlisting? What was their accommodation status (homes for the aged, private homes (including those participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme), public housing units and private tenements)?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : There were a total of 6 126 and 6 213 elders waitlisted for subsidised NH places as at April 2007 and February 2008 respectively. From April 2007 to February 2008, of the elders waitlisted for NH places, the respective number of elders who were allocated places, withdrew their applications and passed away during waitlisting are set out below :

No. of elders who were allocated places	377
No. of elders who withdrew their applications	307
No. of elders who passed away while waitlisting	1 539

The accommodation status of the 6 213 elders waitlisted for subsidised NH places as at end of February 2008 is as follows:

Type of accommodation	No. of applicant
Residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) (excluding private RCHEs)	638
Private RCHEs (including those participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme)	3 727
Public housing units	774
Private tenements	997
Others (e.g. hospitals)	77

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (2) Social Security

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the provision of disregarded earnings (DE) in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the total amount of income that was disregarded.
- (2) the total Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) expenditure reduced after taking into account the recipients' assessable income.
- (3) the average number of CSSA cases that have benefited from the provision of DE.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The statistics on CSSA recipients benefiting from the provision of DE under the CSSA Scheme for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 are as follows :

Year	Amount of DE (\$ million)	Remaining amount of earnings for assessing CSSA (\$ million)	Total number of CSSA recipients benefited
2005-06	808.6	845.1	36 966
2006-07	853.6	897.9	39 354
2007-08 (up to February 2008)	789.2	820.8	39 927

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please list out the allocation of additional provision and the targets for strengthening support to victims of domestic violence and families in need in the following table:

Item	Number	Provision for each item
To increase the places of refuge centres for women	Total number of places to be increased:	
To strengthen the Social Welfare Department's hotline services	Additional manpower:	
To launch publicity campaigns and public education	Types of publicity campaigns and public education:	
	Items under publicity campaigns and public education:	
To enhance the training of relevant front-line professionals	Number of training sessions and the target number of participants	
Total		\$40 million

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : Refuge Centre

In the beginning of 2007-08, there were 180 places in four Refuge Centres for Women providing temporary accommodation and supportive services to women and their children affected by domestic violence or family crisis. The average occupancy rate of these four centres in the first three quarters of 2007-08 was 93%. Through on-site expansion in one of these centres, the total number of places was increased to 195 in January 2008. In 2008-09, recurrent funding of \$5 million will be allocated to further increase the number of places to a total of 260 places by phases to meet service demand.

Hotline service

In 2008-09, additional funding of \$5.3 million will be provided for enhancing the hotline services of the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

Publicity and public education

SWD has since 2002 launched a series of territory-wide publicity and district-based programmes on “Strengthening Families and Combating Violence” to enhance public awareness of the need to strengthen families and prevent domestic violence. In 2008-09, recurrent funding of \$5 million is allocated to strengthen the publicity efforts of this campaign, with a focus on encouraging families to seek early assistance and promoting the concept of neighbourhood watch.

Training for front-line professionals

In 2008-09, SWD will continue to provide a series of training programmes on handling of child abuse, spouse battering, elder abuse, suicide and sexual violence to social workers as well as other relevant front-line professionals including clinical psychologists, police officers and nurses. SWD plans to organise a number of training courses including intensive and interactive training workshops on domestic violence for at least 4 500 social workers and relevant front-line professionals. The additional provision is about \$2 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (3) Services for Elders

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Administration plans to allocate \$60 million to increase 160 day care places, 278 subsidised residential care places and 180 infirmary places in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). What are the financial provisions for each type of service? What are the costs per place per month? Please provide the required information in the following table:

Services	New Additional Places	Average Cost per place per month	Additional Financial Provision
Day Care Services	160		
Subsidised Residential Care Places (In contract homes)	278		
Infirmary Places in Subvented RCHEs (Upgrading of care-and-attention (C&A) places)	180		
Total			\$60m

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : The required information is as follows:

Services	New Additional Places	Average Cost per place per month	Additional Financial Provision (\$ million)
Day Care Services	160	\$5,743 (Note 1)	12.0
Subsidised Residential Care Places (In contract homes)	278	\$6,175 (Note 1)	29.8
Infirmiry Places in Subvented RCHEs (Upgrading of C&A places)	180	\$8,471 (\$14,583 if including the basic unit cost of a C&A place) (Note 2)	18.2
Total			60.0

Note 1 : The unit costs provided are the respective unit cost in the 2008-09 Estimate, and will be revised in accordance with, amongst other factors, the annual Civil Service Pay Adjustment and adjustment to Other Charges when we invite service operators to provide the concerned services.

Note 2 : \$8,471 represents the additional unit cost for a C&A place to be upgraded as an infirmiry place in RCHE. Taking into account the basic unit cost of a C&A place (i.e. \$6,112), the average unit cost for an infirmiry place in RCHE will be \$14,583.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has considerably underestimated the growth of caseload in Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) in 2006-07 and 2007-08, with an error rate of 6.7% in 2006-07 and 12.7% in 2007-08. Instead of the originally expected 19.5% decrease in caseload as a result of manpower increase, the caseload of the workers remained unchanged. SWD estimates that the caseload of domestic violence will only be increased by 2% in 2008-09. Please provide information on the following:

- (1) the resources which have been allocated to help the victims/batterers/children of domestic violence cases from 2003-04 to 2007-08.
- (2) the expenditure involved in helping the victims of domestic violence cases rebuild their homes.
- (3) the expenditure involved in helping the children transfer to other schools.
- (4) the number of children involved.
- (5) the time that the victims (including children) of domestic violence need to recover from their trauma.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) SWD provides a wide range of preventive, supportive and specialised services to support victims of domestic violence and families in need. These services are provided through Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Services Centres, FCPSUs, Clinical Psychology Units, Family Support Networking Teams, refuge centres for women, Family Crisis Support Centre, Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre, residential care placements for children and child care centres, etc. The total provision for family and child welfare services from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is shown below :

2003-04# Actual (\$ million)	2004-05 Actual (\$ million)	2005-06 Actual (\$ million)	2006-07 Actual (\$ million)	2007-08 Revised Estimate (\$ million)
1,699.4	1,307.2	1,259.1	1,291.4	1,399.9

The figure includes provision for financial assistance to service providers of pre-primary services and fee assistance to children under the Child Care Centre Fee Assistance Scheme, which have been transferred to Head 156-Government Secretariat: Education and Manpower Bureau (now known as Education Bureau) and Head 173-Student Financial Assistance Agency upon harmonisation of pre-primary services.

There is no breakdown of funding specifically allocated for cases on domestic violence.

- (2) Victims of domestic violence who are in need of financial assistance to re-build their families will be helped through Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme or assistance by charitable trust funds. There is no recurrent funding specifically allocated for this purpose.
- (3) Depending on the need of individual case, social workers will provide assistance to children who need to transfer to another school. There is no breakdown of funding specifically allocated for such assistance.
- (4) SWD has not kept statistics on children who were in need of assistance in transferring to another school.
- (5) The time needed for victims of domestic violence, including children, to overcome their trauma varies greatly from case to case. SWD is unable to provide any estimate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : As released by the Census and Statistics Department recently, the number of single mothers has grown considerably by nearly one-fold; 675 child abuse cases were recorded from January to September in 2007, among them there were 416 cases (67.9%) where fathers/mothers being the abusers; and domestic violence cases have been on the rise. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has considerably underestimated the growth of caseload in Family and Child Protective Services Units in 2006-07 and 2007-08, with an error rate doubling from 6.7% in 2006-07 to 12.7% in 2007-08. Instead of the originally expected 19.5% decrease in caseload as a result of manpower increase, the caseload of the workers remained unchanged. SWD estimates that the caseload of domestic violence will only be increased by 2% in 2008-09, and states in the estimate that special focus will be put on risk assessment, prevention, as well as post-trauma treatment in violence cases. Please provide information on the following:

- (1) how many domestic violence cases involving children have been recorded in the past five years? Have the children involved received psychological assessment? If yes, under what situations would assessment be conducted?
- (2) did any of the abused children need to be treated by psychologists/psychiatrists, or to receive other services? If yes, please provide a breakdown of the cases in the past five years.
- (3) a breakdown of the expenditure involved in the above items.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply : (1) According to the statistics of SWD's Child Protection Registry, among the first reported child abuse cases in 2003-2007, there were 327, 435, 514, 578 and 447 (from January to September 2007) involving abusers who were parents, step-parents or family members of the abused children. SWD, however, has not kept statistics on the total number of children involved in spouse battering cases who are not victims of child abuse. Regarding the number of children receiving psychological assessment service, please refer to part (2) below. Children may require psychological assessment when they are victims

of different forms of abuse or are witnesses of domestic violence, particularly incidents involving serious physical injury or death.

- (2) The number of child abuse victims who have received clinical psychological service from 2003-04 to 2007-08 (up to February 2008) is as follows :

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (up to February 2008)
139	232	197	208	252

SWD has not kept information on the number of child abuse victims in need of psychiatric service.

- (3) There is no breakdown of funding specifically allocated for children in need of psychological/psychiatric service.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)294

Question Serial No.

2654

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, there will be an increased provision of \$15.3 million due to capital expenditure on procurement of rehabuses and additional provision for operating the new rehabuses. Will the department introduce new scheduled routes to be served by the additional eight rehabuses? If yes, what are the details and how much resources will be allocated to operate the new routes?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

Six of the eight additional rehabuses will be used to introduce six new scheduled routes at an estimated capital expenditure of \$4.14 million. Rebus operation is a mixed mode comprising scheduled route service and dial-a-ride service. As such, there is no apportioned operating cost for each of the service types. For estimate purpose, a sum of about \$0.3 million is budgeted as annual operating cost for each of the vehicle on the rebus fleet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ALAN WONG _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 25 March 2008 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)295

Question Serial No.

2657

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide the number of rebus dial-a-ride (DAR) services order declined in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

A total of 9 101 orders for DAR services were declined in 2007 representing about 9.5% of total orders received.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **25 March 2008** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

LWB(WW)296

Question Serial No.

2658

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Transport Services for Persons with Disabilities

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : What is the estimated level of reduction in orders declined after adding rehabuses for the dial-a-ride (DAR) services in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

Two additional rehabuses will be specifically deployed for DAR services. Assuming that the demand for DAR services remains at the current level, we estimate that these two additional rehabuses can help reduce the number of declined orders by about 20%. The Transport Department will review annually the fleet size of rehabuses, having regard to the demand for the service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **20 March 2008**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 141 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Programme : (2) Social Welfare

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2008-09, the Administration will further extend the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) in phases. Please advise on the concrete details of the plan, the expenditures involved and the expected outcome.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Through our joint efforts with the Department of Health (DH), Hospital Authority (HA), Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Education Bureau, the Labour and Welfare Bureau has implemented the CCDS in phases since 2005.

Using the Maternal and Child Health Centres of the DH and other service units as the screening platform, the CCDS aims to identify at an early stage at-risk pregnant women, mothers with postnatal depression, families with psychosocial needs, as well as pre-primary children with health, developmental and behavioural problems. Children and their families in need are referred to appropriate health and welfare service units for follow-up.

A total of \$30 million has been allocated to launch, improve and extend the CCDS. We completed a review of the pilot implementation of the CCDS in 2007. The review showed that the CCDS had strengthened cross-sectoral collaboration and enhanced access to health and social services. It affirmed that the CCDS model was worth pursuing.

The CCDS now covers Sham Shui Po, Tseung Kwan O, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long (including Tin Shui Wai), Tung Chung and Kwun Tong. To support more young children and families in need, we will further extend the CCDS to Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing in 2008-09. Starting from 2008-09, additional recurrent funding of \$12.7 million will also be allocated to the DH, HA and SWD to strengthen their manpower support for the CCDS. Separately, one-off funding of \$1.8 million will be allocated to the DH in 2008-09 to further improve service facilities, etc. We will continue to monitor the implementation of the CCDS and fine-tune its model as appropriate.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Paul TANG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Date	25 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (1) Family and Child Welfare

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Please provide the number of teachers (including centre heads, officers-in-charge and child care workers) and students of the child care centres in Hong Kong in the 2007/08 school year.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply : As far as the Social Welfare Department is aware, there were 19 child care centre supervisors and 119 child care workers working in standalone child care centres to take care of 836 children as at September 2007.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	26 March 2008