

**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 2009-10, the Administration will oversee the provision of more places for day training, vocational rehabilitation, pre-school and residential services for persons with disabilities. What are the staffing arrangement, estimated expenditure and expected number of beneficiaries for each type of service?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : Additional provisions for rehabilitation services in 2009-10 are as follows:

Types of Service	Number of Places/ Beneficiaries	Estimated Expenditure (Full Year) (\$ million)
<b><i>Day Training Services:</i></b>		
Day Activity Centre	140	11.2
<b><i>Vocational Rehabilitation Services:</i></b>		
Sheltered Workshop	20	0.7
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre	320	10.1
<b><i>Pre-school Rehabilitation Services:</i></b>		
Early Education and Training Centre	210	9.8
Special Child Care Centre	144	16.6
<b><i>Residential Services:</i></b>		
Long Stay Care Home	100	12.0
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons	155	10.7
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons	155	21.9
Care and Attention Home for the Severely Disabled	50	9.1
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons	45	6.6
Supported Hostel	150	11.7
Small Group Home (Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children)	16	2.5

While the Social Welfare Department provides recurrent subvention for the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide these rehabilitation services, under the Lump Sum Grant subvention system, NGOs have the flexibility in deploying the allocated provision to arrange suitable staffing to ensure service quality and meet service needs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2009

**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 2009-10 that the Government will continue to enhance the community support services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their carers. Would the Government please provide information on the estimated expenditure involved, the details of the plan and the anticipated outcome by each District Council district?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has set up the following 16 District Support Centres throughout the territory:

District	Number of centre
Eastern & Wanchai	1
Central, Western, Southern & Islands	1
Kwun Tong	2
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	2
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	1
Sham Shui Po	1
Shatin	1
Tai Po & North	2
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	2
Tuen Mun	1
Yuen Long	2

With an additional annual provision of about \$35 million, SWD set up these centres in January 2009 through re-engineering the existing home-based training and support service to provide one-stop centre-based community support services to PWDs and their families/carers, thus enabling PWDs to continue to live independently at homes, while strengthening their families/carers' caring capacity and relieving their stress. These centres aim to provide PWDs and their families/carers with a wide range of community support services in one location in the vicinity of their homes.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2009

**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 Financial Secretary stated in the Budget Speech that funding will be provided for ten additional medical social workers (MSWs) to allow more timely services to be provided to patients and their families. Please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the organisations that the ten MSWs will work for, their service targets and work locations; and
- (b) the considerations taken into account when determining the number of additional MSWs.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

- Reply :
- (a) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has secured additional resources to create ten MSW posts at SWD's medical social service units in various hospitals and clinics of the Hospital Authority (HA). This will enable provision of more timely welfare services for patients and their families/carers.
  - (b) The ten MSWs are to meet new service demands arising from the enhanced psychiatric outpatient, rehabilitation and oncology services put in place by HA over the years.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2009

**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 : Would the Administration please list out the number of places for residential services provided in each District Council district in 2008-09 as well as the number of application for such services, and the average waiting time?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : Distribution of existing/planned provision of residential rehabilitation services by the 11 districts of the Social Welfare Department (SWD)\* in 2008-09 is as follows:

Type of Service District	RSCCC <sup>1</sup>	LSCH <sup>2</sup>	HW <sup>3</sup>	HMMH <sup>4</sup>	HSMH <sup>5</sup>	C&A/ SD <sup>6</sup>	HSPH <sup>7</sup>	C&A /AB <sup>8</sup>	SHOS <sup>9</sup>	SGH (MMHC) <sup>10</sup>
Central & Western/ Southern/ Island	44	170	168	333	547	200	100	375	7	0
Eastern/ Wanchai	0	0	119	85	173	100	58	0	40	8
Kwun Tong	0	0	84	308	230	0	65	0	61	3
Wong Tai Sin/ Sai Kung	12	0	237	184	359	88	100	0	76	17
Kowloon City/ Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	220	55	0	0	52	10	0
Sham Shui Po	0	200	169	60	104	0	0	78	30	0
Sha Tin	0	0	206	186	470	102	88	0	0	1
Tai Po/North	24	0	80	80	104	100	0	0	90	32
Yuen Long	0	0	104	169	106	100	50	80	46	0
Tsuen Wan/ Kwai Tsing	30	425	162	189	479	100	0	0	20	3

Tuen Mun	0	612	180	364	431	67	67	240	20	0
Total	110	1407	1509	2178	3058	857	528	825	400	64

\*SWD does not have the breakdown according to each District Council district

- 1 Residential Special Child Care Centre
- 2 Long Stay Care Home
- 3 Halfway House
- 4 Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons
- 5 Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons
- 6 Care and Attention Home for the Severely Disabled
- 7 Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons
- 8 Care and Attention Home for the Aged Blind
- 9 Supported Hostel
- 10 Small Group Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children/Integrated Small Group Home

SWD operates a computerised central referral system for waitlisting of various types of residential services on a territory-wide basis. Since the applicants may indicate more than one preference of centre covering more than one district, SWD could not capture information on the number of application and waiting time by district. The territory-wide waiting lists and waiting time for the various residential services are as follows:

Type of Service	Waiting List (as at December 2008)	Average Waiting Time in 2007-08 (months)
RSCCC	57	7.9
LSCH	726	34.0
HW	633	4.6
HMMH	1 351	48.0
HSMH	1 892	78.0
C&A/SD	377	38.4
HSPH	414	89.6
C&A/AB	47	6.2
SHOS	784	20.4
SGH(MMHC)	85	14.3

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**LWB(WW)225**

Question Serial No.

0862

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 “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10” that more places for day training, vocational rehabilitation, pre-school and residential services for persons with disabilities will be provided. Would the Government please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the number of places provided under each of the above services from 2006-07 to 2008-09;
- (b) the estimated expenditure for each of the above services; and
- (c) the number of applicants waitlisting for each of the above services and the average waiting time?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : (a) Provisions/planned provisions for new places for 2006-07 to 2008-09 are as follows:

Type of Service	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
<i>Day Training Service</i>			
Day Activity Centre	0	51	120
<i>Vocational Rehabilitation Services</i>			
Sheltered Workshop <sup>Note 1</sup>	30	-160 <sup>Note 1</sup>	0
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre	35	218 <sup>Note 1</sup>	276
Supported Employment <sup>Note 1</sup>	0	0	0
<i>Pre-school Rehabilitation Services</i>			
Early Education and Training Centre	88	97	44
Special Child Care Centre	105	45	50
Integrated Programme in Kindergarten cum Child Care Centre <sup>Note 2</sup>	0	0	0
<i>Residential Services</i>			
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons	10	0	124
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons	0	51	118

Care and Attention Home for the Severely Disabled	60	0	92
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons	0	0	67
Supported Hostel	2	61	30
Small Group Home (Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children)	0	0	8
Residential Special Child Care Centre	8	0	0
Long Stay Care Home <sup>Note 3</sup>	0	0	0
Halfway House <sup>Note 3</sup>	0	0	0
Care-and-Attention Home for the Aged Blind <sup>Note 4</sup>	0	0	0

Note 1: A centre with 160 sheltered workshop places was converted into an integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre in 2007-08. Additional provisions for supported employment and sheltered workshop have been provided under the integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre.

Note 2: Service demand for Integrated Programme in Kindergarten cum Child Care Centre was by and large met in the past few years.

Note 3: A total of 427 places of Long Stay Care Home and 160 places of Halfway House were provided in 2004-05 and 2005-06. An additional 100 places of Long Stay Care Home will also be provided in 2009-10.

Note 4: The service demand for Care-and-Attention Home for the Aged Blind is by and large being met.

(b) & (c) Estimated financial provisions for the above services in 2009-10, their waiting lists as at December 2008 and average waiting time in 2007-08 are as follows:

Type of Service	2009-10 Estimated Provision (\$ million)	Waiting List (as at December 2008)	Average Waiting Time 2007-08 (months)
<i>Day Training Service</i>			
Day Activity Centre	340.5	913	21.6
<i>Vocational Rehabilitation Services</i>			
Sheltered Workshop	233.0	2 402	15.6
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre	127.7	- Note 5	-
Supported Employment	43.3	159	2.4
<i>Pre-school Rehabilitation Services</i>			
Early Education and Training Centre	127.1	1 232	8.5
Special Child Care Centre	214.2	668	11.9
Integrated Programme in Kindergarten cum Child Care Centre	88.1	922	8.3

<i>Residential Services</i>			
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons	146.8	1 351	48.0
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons	416.9	1 892	78.0
Care and Attention Home for the Severely Disabled	139.9	377	38.4
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons	80.4	414	89.6
Supported Hostel	29.6	784	20.4
Small Group Home (Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children)	5.0	85	14.3
Residential Special Child Care Centre	19.7	57	7.9
Long Stay Care Home	167.4	726	34
Halfway House	153.1	633	4.6
Care and Attention Home for the Aged Blind	96.7	47	6.2

Note 5: Waiting lists for sheltered workshop and supported employment are applicable to integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre which does not have a separate waiting list.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2009

**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 of medical social services in the government sector, the number of cases served by medical social workers (MSWs) employed by the Government in 2008-09 was 173 774 according to the Revised Estimate. Since the total number of MSWs employed by the Government in 2008-09 was 381, the annual caseload per worker should be 456. Please inform this Committee why the Social Welfare Department (SWD) states that the caseload per worker was 72.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : The figure of 173 774 is the total number of cases served by the 381 MSWs of SWD in the year of 2008-09, whereas the average caseload of 72 per worker is the average number of active cases in hand per MSW at the end of each month during the same period.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO**  
**INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**LWB(WW)080**

Question Serial No.

**0879**

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 day services, pre-school services and employment services for persons with disabilities, the Government will provide 140 additional day activity centre places, 210 additional early education and training centre places, 144 additional special child care centre places, 320 additional integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre places in 2009-10. Concerning the proposed increase as mentioned above, please list out by service types, the locations of the service units, numbers of places and when they will be provided as well as the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : The requested information is provided below:

Service	Location	Capacity	Target Implementation Date	Estimated Provision (Full Year) (\$ million)
Day Activity Centre	1. Kwai Chung	50	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009-10	4.0
	2. Kowloon City	80	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009-10	6.4
	3. Fanling	10	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009-10	0.8
Early Education & Training Centre	1. Shatin	60	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009-10	2.8
	2. Wong Tai Sin	60	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009-10	2.8
	3. a site in Wong Tai Sin, pending completion of the necessary preparation work	60	To be confirmed	2.8
	4. a site in Tin Shui Wai, pending completion of the necessary preparation work	30	To be confirmed	1.4

Special Child Care Centre	1. Shatin	24	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009-10	2.8
	2. Wong Tai Sin	48	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009-10	5.5
	3. a site in Wong Tai Sin, pending completion of the necessary preparation work.	48	To be confirmed	5.5
	4. a site in Tin Shui Wai, pending completion of the necessary preparation work.	24	To be confirmed	2.8
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre	1. Kwai Chung	160	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009-10	5.1
	2. Kowloon City	160	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009-10	5.1

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Stephen Fisher

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Director of Social Welfare

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19 March 2009

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**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 : Concerning employment services for persons with disabilities, the number of sheltered workshop places provided by the subvented sector is expected to increase by 20 in 2009-10 with the cost per place per month to increase by \$31, while the cost per place per month of the sheltered workshops run by the government sector will increase by \$108. Would the Administration please explain why there is a cost difference between the subvented sector and the government sector?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

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	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2009

**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 paragraph 121 of the 2009-10 Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary that an integrated community centre for mental wellness (ICCMW) in Tin Shui Wai would be set up next month. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the provision for the centre and when will it review the plan? Would the Administration consider setting up similar centres in other districts?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : The expenditure of the ICCMW in Tin Shui Wai is estimated to be \$3.9 million in 2009-10. Subject to the effectiveness of this new service delivery mode, the Social Welfare Department will consider adopting such mode in other districts through revamping the existing community mental health support services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2009

**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 his Speech moving the Appropriation Bill (paragraph 121), the Financial Secretary said, “To support the enhanced psychiatric outpatient, rehabilitation and oncology services given by the Hospital Authority in recent years, I will provide funding for ten additional medical social workers (MSWs). This will allow more timely services to be provided to patients and their families. The first integrated community centre for mental wellness in Tin Shui Wai will be set up next month. It will provide one-stop community support and rehabilitation services to local residents.” Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the allocation of the increased funding and manpower for the above services by hospital clusters in 2009-10? Is there any plan to provide one-stop community support and rehabilitation services in other districts?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : An additional recurrent provision of \$4.5 million is allocated for the creation of ten MSW posts in 2009-10. These MSWs will support the medical social services units in various hospitals and clinics with enhanced psychiatric outpatient, rehabilitation and oncology services.

The annual expenditure of the Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness in Tin Shui Wai is estimated to be \$3.9 million. If this new service delivery mode proves effective, the Social Welfare Department will consider adopting such mode in other districts through revamping the existing community mental health support services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

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Stephen Fisher

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Director of Social Welfare

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16 March 2009

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**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 2009-10, the Government will provide additional recurrent funding of about \$19 million to enhance the care for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and provide the necessary training. With 6 200 PWDs waitlisting for residential services, 3 200 for day training or vocational rehabilitation service and 3 000 for pre-school rehabilitation service, has the Government drawn up any policy objective and long-term plan to meet the service demand?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : On residential care services, the Administration will continue to closely monitor the service demand and, as recommended in the Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan, adopt a three-pronged approach to implement the following measures, viz:

- (a) to regulate the residential care homes for PWDs so as to ensure their service quality on the one hand while helping the market to develop residential care homes of different types and operational modes on the other;
- (b) to support non-governmental organisations to develop self-financing homes; and
- (c) to continue to steadily increase the number of subsidised residential care home places.

In tandem, the Administration has been actively developing day care and community support services, so as to provide the PWDs with the necessary training and support to facilitate their continuous living at home and full integration into the community.

Moreover, the Administration will continue to identify premises and resources to steadily increase the provision of vocational rehabilitation and pre-school rehabilitation services to meet service demand.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2009

**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 2009-10 Estimate that about 150 additional special child care places will be provided. Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the details of the estimated expenditure and the anticipated outcome;
- (b) of the details of the places to be provided, including their geographical distribution; and
- (c) whether it will increase the number of special child care centres? If yes, please give the details. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : (a) The Administration has secured resources to provide 144 additional special child care centre places at an estimated expenditure of \$16.6 million in 2009-10 to meet special child care centre service demand. As a result, there will be a total of 1 688 places at an estimated expenditure of \$214.2 million in 2009-10.

(b) The distribution of these places by districts is provided below :

District	Places
1. Shatin	24
2. Wong Tai Sin	48
3. a site in Wong Tai Sin, pending completion of the necessary preparation work	48
4. a site in Tin Shui Wai, pending completion of necessary preparation work	24

(c) The Administration will continue to identify suitable premises and resources to increase the provision of pre-school rehabilitation service.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2009

**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 Financial Secretary stated in paragraph 121 of the Budget Speech that the first integrated community centre for mental wellness (ICCMW) in Tin Shui Wai will be set up next month. Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the details of the estimated expenditure, staffing establishment and anticipated service outcome of this centre?
- (b) whether it will set up more ICCMWs in other districts? If yes, please give the details; If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) of the factors to be taken into account when choosing the locations of ICCMW?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

- Reply :
- (a) The annual expenditure of the ICCMW in Tin Shui Wai is estimated to be \$3.9 million in 2009-10. Under the Lump Sum Grant subvention system, the NGO operator has the flexibility to deploy the allocated subvention provision to arrange suitable staffing to ensure service quality and meet service needs. The ICCMW operator has committed to providing adequate social workers, occupational therapists and other supporting staff for the centre. The ICCMW will serve around 450 discharged mental patients/persons with suspected mental health problems and 1 200 family members/carers per year.
  - (b) & (c) Subject to the effectiveness of this new service delivery mode, SWD will consider adopting such mode in other districts through revamping the existing community mental health support services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**LWB(WW)267**

Question Serial No.

1680

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 number of places in long stay care homes, hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons and hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons will be increased in 2009-10, but the number of places in care-and-attention (C&A) homes for the aged blind will be maintained at 825. Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the reasons for not increasing the number of places in C&A homes for the aged blind?
- (b) whether additional resources will be allocated to C&A homes for the aged blind? If yes, please give the details. If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) whether there is any support for persons with visual, hearing and speech impairment. If yes, what are the details and what is the estimated expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

- Reply :
- (a) - (b) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a total of 825 places of C&A homes for the aged blind, with an utilisation rate of 97%. In 2007-08, the waiting time for C&A homes for the aged blind was 6.2 months and as at December 2008, there were 47 applicants waiting for the service with the majority having preferences in specific locations and centres. Since by and large the demand for C&A homes for the aged blind is being met, SWD has no immediate plan to increase the provision of C&A homes for the aged blind service at this stage.
  - (c) The community support and vocational rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, including persons with visual, hearing and/or speech impairment, and the estimated provision in 2009-10, are as follows:

Types of Service	Number of Places/ Centres	Estimated Provision (Full Year 2009-10) (\$ million)
<i>Vocational Rehabilitation Services:</i>		
Sheltered Workshop	5 133	233.0
Supported Employment	1 655	43.3
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre	3 995	127.7
Integrated Vocational Training Centre	453	21.3
On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities	432	7.4
Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities	311	9.5
<i>Community Support Services:</i>		
Social and Recreational Centre for the Disabled	16 centres	25.4
Rehabilitation & Training Centre for the Visually Impaired	2 centres	9.1
Multi-services Centre for the Hearing Impaired	2 centres	7.0
District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities	16 centres	111.0
Other community support projects (including parents/relatives resource centre, community-based support projects and self-help organisations)	--	17.4

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

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Stephen Fisher

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Director of Social Welfare

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19 March 2009

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**LWB(WW)268**

Question Serial No.

1681

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10 that the Administration will continue to monitor the Visiting Medical Practitioner Scheme (VMPS). Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the details of the scheme and the expenditure involved in 2009-10?
- (b) of the anticipated outcome and the details of the beneficiaries in 2009-10?
- (c) of the geographical distribution of residential rehabilitation homes participating in the scheme in 2009-10?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

- Reply :
- (a) The annual expenditure of the VMPS is about \$8 million. The VMPS was launched in July 2007 to enable subvented residential homes for the disabled (RCHDs) to establish a network with private general medical practitioners to provide primary medical care and support to persons with disabilities living therein with a view to improving their health condition and promoting preventive care.
  - (b) A total of 175 subvented RCHDs, involving 9 342 residents, have participated in the VMPS. On top of achieving the above objective, the VMPS also leads to reduced demand for providing escort and transport services to RCHD residents for medical consultation.
  - (c) The VMPS is provided through the subvented RCHDs located throughout the territory.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**LWB(WW)097**

Question Serial No.

1884

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 : Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the distribution of the ten additional medical social workers (MSWs) in 2009-10? Has the Administration assessed if the planned manpower of 391 social workers are sufficient to support the psychiatric outpatient service newly introduced by the Hospital Authority (HA)?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has secured additional resources to create ten MSW posts at SWD's medical social service units in various hospitals and clinics of the HA for strengthening social work support to patients and their families/carers. These MSWs are to meet new service demands arising from the enhanced psychiatric outpatient, rehabilitation and oncology services put in place by the HA over the years. SWD will continue to liaise closely with the HA to ensure that appropriate psychiatric medical social work services can be provided to dovetail with the service demand.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**LWB(WW)098**

Question Serial No.

1885

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 utilisation rate of sheltered workshops (SW) exceeds 100% in both 2007-08 and 2008-09. It is expected that the situation will not be improved as reflected in the 2009-10 Estimate. Would the Administration please inform this Committee if it has any measures to resolve this situation?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : Noting that the daily attendance rate of SW stood at around 90% for a considerable period of time, the Social Welfare Department has implemented an over-enrolment arrangement in SWs since 2003-04 with a view to enabling more persons with disabilities (PWDs) to benefit from the service. Despite this arrangement, the number of PWDs served at any one time has not exceeded the capacity of the SW.

To further enhance the service, there will be an additional provision of 320 Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre (IVRSC) places and 20 SW places in 2009-10. IVRSC, incorporating the elements of SW and Supported Employment, has been implemented since April 2004 to provide one-stop integrated vocational rehabilitation services. Applicants for SW can also be admitted to IVRSCs.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2009

**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 Security

Question : It is stated that two new counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers (CCPSAs) were set up in Shatin District and Yuen Long District respectively in 2008. Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the numbers of service users and the service outcomes?
- (b) of the expenditure of the two centres in detail?
- (c) whether more CCPSAs will be set up in other districts? If yes, please give the details. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : (a) & (b) Two new counselling centres for CCPSAs were set up in mid-December 2008, one in Sha Tin District and another in Yuen Long District. The service statistics are not yet available given the short period of operation. According to the annual service requirements, each of the two new CCPSAs have to, among other things, handle 260 cases; conduct 320 counselling group sessions and 60 professional training sessions; conduct 30 public education and publicity programmes and conduct school talks for 75% to 80% of the schools in the catchment areas. The total provision for these two new CCPSAs is \$8.6 million per annum in 2009-10.

- (c) Including the two new centres, there are currently a total of seven CCPSAs serving the whole territory on a cluster basis. We will closely monitor the changing service demands and the need for setting up new CCPSAs.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

17 March 2009

**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 that the Administration provided additional places in supported hostels (SHOS), hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMH), hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMH), hostels for severely physically handicapped persons (HSPH) and care and attention homes for severely disabled persons (C&A/SD) in 2008 so as to continue to improve social rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the respective average waiting time for admission to the above service units in the past five years (i.e. 2004-08)?
- (b) whether additional resources will be allocated to the above service units for providing more places and shortening the waiting time. If yes, please give the details. If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) of the breakdown of the estimated expenditure of the above service units in 2009-10?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : (a), (b) & (c) The average waiting time, additional provisions and estimated expenditure for 2009-10 for these services are:

Service	Average Waiting Time (months)				Additional provisions in 2009-10 (places)	Estimated expenditure 2009-10 (\$ million)
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08		
SHOS	14.4	22.8	31.2	20.4	150	29.6
HSMH	62.4	68.4	82.8	78.0	155	416.9
HMMH	45.6	49.2	45.6	48.0	155	146.8
HSPH	45.6	42.0	78.0	89.6	45	80.4
C&A/SD	24.0	36.0	40.0	38.4	50	139.9

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

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Stephen Fisher

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Director of Social Welfare

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19 March 2009

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

**SB216**

1991

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Question : It is stated that additional places were provided in drug treatment and rehabilitation centres (DTRCs) in 2008. Would the Administration please inform this Committee whether additional places will be provided in 2009-10? If yes, please give the details and the estimated expenditure involved. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : Additional resources were provided in 2008-09 to subvent 101 places in DTRCs. There is currently no plan to further increase the number of places in 2009-10 as many of the DTRCs are still operating under the certificate of exemption and are taking steps to comply with all the licensing requirements. It is difficult to provide additional places at these DTRCs for the time being. We will closely monitor the changing service demand and the capacity of DTRCs to take in additional places.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

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Stephen Fisher

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Director of Social Welfare

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16 March 2009

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**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, “Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise (3E’s Project)”, under Operating Account, what are the work plans and the estimated expenditure involved in 2009-10?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The 3E’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 support services 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 2009-10 to further encourage NGOs to set up more small businesses.

In addition, 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 2009-10, the MCO(R) will launch a series of promotional programmes for the brand building of SEPD, such as producing a theme song and organising promotional sales. It will also make use of the new Information and Exhibition Centre in Mongkok for displaying and promoting the products/services of PWDs, and those businesses funded under the 3E’s Project.

A total sum of \$50 million was granted for the operation of the 3E's Project and, as at February 2009, about \$29 million (i.e. 58%) of the fund has been allocated to NGOs for running 50 small businesses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2009

**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 Budget Speech of the Financial Secretary that for the rehabilitation services, ten additional medical social workers (MSWs) will be recruited to allow more timely services to be provided to patients and their families, and new measures will be provided to enhance mental health service. How many patients are expected to benefit from the enhanced services? What is the current number of people waiting for these services?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has secured additional resources to create ten MSW posts to meet new service demands arising from the enhanced psychiatric outpatient, rehabilitation and oncology services put in place by the Hospital Authority over the years. It is estimated that each MSW will be able to handle around 70 active cases per month. There is no waiting list for medical social services.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**LWB(WW)243**

Question Serial No.

2824

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 : Would the Government please inform this Committee whether legislation is required for implementing a licensing scheme for all residential care homes for persons with disabilities (PWDs)? If yes, when will the bill be submitted to the Legislative Council for deliberation; and whether it will be submitted in the 2009-10 legislative session? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply : As indicated in the 2008-09 Legislative Programme submitted to the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 22 October 2008, the Administration plans to introduce a Bill into the LegCo in the second half of the current legislative session (i.e. between March to July 2009) to implement a licensing scheme to regulate the operation of residential care homes for PWDs (RCHDs).

Given that the Bill will comprise a large number of provisions and entail consequential amendments to other ordinances necessitating deliberation of the related policy issues, a recent review of the work progress reveals that we would not be able to introduce the Bill within the current legislative session as originally scheduled. The Administration would continue to make active efforts to resolve the related policy issues and expedite the law drafting work, and aims to introduce the Bill into the LegCo within the 2009-10 legislative session.

In tandem, the Administration will closely monitor the operation of the RCHDs. We are also studying the feasibility of a host of complementary measures with a view to minimising the impact on service users of the RCHDs and providing more service options for PWDs while ensuring that a reasonable standard of service will be provided by the RCHDs.

The Social Welfare Department will also continue to reinforce its monitoring of the service quality of the private RCHDs, including conducting inspections, organising fire-safety talks cum evacuation drills, as well as training courses on drug management, physical restraints and infection control in order to provide support to these RCHDs in enhancing their service quality and enriching their knowledge and skills.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	19 March 2009

**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 : How many district support centres for persons with disabilities (PWDs) did the Social Welfare Department (SWD) set up in 2008? What is the total number of these centres? In which districts are these centres located? What are the numbers of PWDs served by the respective centres?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply : SWD has set up 16 District Support Centres for PWDs in the territory in January 2009. Details are as follows:

District	Number of centre(s)
Eastern & Wanchai	1
Central, Western, Southern & Islands	1
Kwun Tong	2
Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung	2
Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong	1
Sham Shui Po	1
Shatin	1
Tai Po & North	2
Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing	2
Tuen Mun	1
Yuen Long	2

These 16 District Support Centres provide one-stop community support services to PWDs and/or their families/carers through individual or group training/programmes and support service; allied health support service; respite service; social, recreational and personal development programmes; training programmes/educational courses/workshops and community education. These centres do not have a fixed capacity.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2009

**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 Security

Question : Regarding the counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers (CCPSAs), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) At present, how many centres have been set up in the territory? In which districts are these centres located?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure for each centre in 2009-10?
- (c) What is the number of people served by each centre in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. Wong Kwok-kin

- Reply :
- (a) At present, there are seven CCPSAs providing services for the whole territory on a cluster basis. They are located in their respective service clusters, namely (i) Hong Kong Island & Islands, (ii) West Kowloon, (iii) East Kowloon, (iv) Tai Po & North, (v) Sha Tin, (vi) Yuen Long, and (vii) Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing & Tuen Mun.
  - (b) The CCPSAs were set up in different times to address the changing service demand. To cater for the needs of various clusters, there are variations in their subvention allocation ranging from \$4.2 million to \$5.1 million for each centre. The total financial provision for the seven CCPSAs is \$31 million in the 2009-10 Estimate.
  - (c) Since two CCPSAs have just commenced operation in mid-December 2008, the service statistics are not yet available given the short period of operation. According to the service statistics available for the first three quarters of 2008-09, the other five CCPSAs have provided casework services to a total number of 1 427 psychotropic substance abusers, with variations ranging from 274 cases to 301 cases for an individual centre. This has not included services rendered through groups and mass programmes.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

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Stephen Fisher

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Director of Social Welfare

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17 March 2009

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**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 Security

Question : It is stated in the Brief Description of rehabilitation and medical social services provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) that various measures relating to counselling service for psychotropic substance abusers will be launched. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) It is stated in the Brief Description that new counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers would be set up in Shatin and Yuen Long. What is the expenditure for these two centres? Why Shatin instead of the North District is chosen as the location of the counselling centre?
- (b) What kind of equipment will be provided by these centres? What are the annual operating expenditure for these centres?
- (c) In the same paragraph of the Brief Description, SWD stated that additional places in drug treatment and rehabilitation centres would be provided. What is the cost per place for respective centres?
- (d) For treating abusers of different psychotropic substance such as ketamine or “white powder”, is the cost per place in drug treatment and rehabilitation centre different? Is the time for rehabilitation treatment the same?
- (e) In “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10”, the Administration stated that “on-site medical support” for psychotropic substance abusers would be provided at counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers. What kind of services will be included in the support services? What is the total cost? What is the estimated number of people served?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply : (a) & (b) Two new counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers (CCPSAs) were set up in mid-December 2008, one in Sha Tin District and another in Yuen Long District. The total provision for these two CCPSAs is \$8.6 million per annum in 2009-10. The setting up of the new CCPSA in Sha Tin District is to address the service demands of New Territories (East) and to share out the

workload of an existing CCPSA located in the North District. Each CCPSA is provided with a set of fitted-out and equipped centre premises suitable for conducting an array of functions such as case intake, individual counselling, group work, professional training, etc.

- (c) & (d) The additional places in the drug treatment and rehabilitation centres (DTRCs) is subvented at \$75,000 per place per annum. The 14 DTRCs subvented by SWD provide non-medical drug treatment and rehabilitation services to all drug abusers. Most of them are psychotropic substance abusers (with occasional report of heroin addiction). There is no differentiation in the subvention level per unit place for different drug abusers. The length of drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes varies amongst different SWD-subvented DTRCs and different drug abusers.
  
- (e) With the addition of one nursing staff member and the procurement of medical service for each of the seven CCPSAs, on-site medical support in the form of body checks, drug tests, motivational interviews and drug-related elementary medical consultations can be provided to psychotropic substance abusers at CCPSAs. The total provision for this new service initiative is about \$4.7 million in 2009-10. Subject to budgetary approval, SWD will further work with CCPSA operators and other related departments to hammer out implementation details such as the procurement of medical service and estimation of the number of beneficiaries.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	17 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY 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 : Would the Administration please provide the respective numbers of persons with disabilities (PWDs) waiting for admission to hostels for mentally handicapped persons, hostels for severely physically handicapped persons and care and attention homes for severely disabled persons? In the past five years, how many PWDs were put on the priority waiting list to these hostels/homes due to special circumstances? What was the average waiting time for these special cases?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : (a) The waiting lists for the residential services concerned as at December 2008 are as follows:

Type of Service	No. of PWDs on the Waiting List
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons (HMMH)	1 351
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons (HSMH)	1 892
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons (HSPH)	414
Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons (C&A/SD)	377
Supported Hostel (SHOS)	784

(b) The numbers of applications for priority waiting list for these residential services from 2004-05 to 2008-09 (up to February 2009) and their average waiting time are as follows:

Type of Service	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09 (up to February 2009)	
	Priority waiting list Note 1	Average waiting time (months) Note 2	Priority waiting list Note 1	Average waiting time (months) Note 2	Priority waiting list Note 1	Average waiting time (months) Note 2	Priority waiting list Note 1	Average waiting time (months) Note 2	Priority waiting list Note 1	Average waiting time (months) Note 2
HMMH	19	6.4	35	5.3	17	4.7	27	3.4	30	4.0
HSMH	59	7.9	47	5.0	32	6.2	41	6.6	57	7.6
HSPH	6	7.0	2	27.0	8	Note 3	3	3.0	9	24.5
C&A/SD	19	6.8	14	5.9	17	5.9	15	3.3	12	3.2
SHOS	9	5.6	11	2.8	9	5.3	11	4.5	11	3.1

Note 1 Application for priority waiting list approved in the year.

Note 2 Average waiting time for priority waiting list cases admitted in the year.

Note 3 No admission in 2006-07 due to the lack of vacancies (turn-over and new provision) in the year.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

30 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY 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 reply numbered LWB(WW)084 that the expenditure incurred by the Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) in Tin Shui Wai is \$3.9 million. When will the Administration evaluate the effectiveness of the centre?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : The Social Welfare Department will evaluate the effectiveness of the new service delivery mode with the non-governmental organisation operator of the ICCMW one year after the commencement of service in March 2009.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	30 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY 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 reply numbered LWB(WW)225 that the number of places in sheltered workshops (SWs) was reduced by 160 in 2007-08 and remained unchanged in 2008-09, while the number of eligible persons with disabilities waitlisting for admission to sheltered workshops was 2 402 in 2008-09. Why does the Administration not increase the service capacity?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has since April 2004 started to set up Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres (IVRSCs), which is an enhanced vocational rehabilitation service mode incorporating the elements of both SW and supported employment. The “reduction” of 160 SW places in 2007-08 quoted in the question was in fact reprovisioned to a new IVRSC in the same year. In 2009-10, SWD plans to provide 320 new IVRSC places and 20 additional SW places through in-situ expansion.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

31 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY 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 reply numbered LWB(WW)225 that as at December 2008, the waiting time for admission to hostels for severely and moderately mentally handicapped persons, care and attention homes for severely disabled persons, hostels for severely physically handicapped persons, supported hostels and long stay care homes ranged from 20.4 months to 89.6 months. Given the high service demand and the long waiting time, why does the Administration not increase the service capacity?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The Administration is mindful of the service demand for residential care services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and will continue to make our best endeavours to increase the service capacity. In 2008-09 and 2009-10, we will increase the number of residential care places by 439 and 671 respectively. The numbers include a total of 552 additional places for hostels for severely and moderately mentally handicapped persons, 142 additional places for Care and Attention Home for the Severely Disabled, 112 additional places for Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons, 180 additional places for Supported Hostel, 100 additional places for Long Stay Home and 24 additional places for Small Group Home for Mildly Mentally Handicapped Persons.

The Administration will continue to closely monitor the service demand and as recommended in the Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan, adopts a three-pronged approach to increase the provision, viz:

- (a) To regulate the residential care homes for PWDs so as to ensure their service quality on the one hand while helping the market to develop residential care homes of different types and operational modes on the other;
- (b) To support non-governmental organisations to develop self-financing homes; and
- (c) To continue to steadily increase the number of subsidised residential care homes.

In tandem, we will continue to actively develop day care and community support services so as to provide PWDs with the necessary support and training to facilitate their continuous living at home and full integration into the community.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	31 March 2009