**INTRODUCTION**
The mission of elderly services is to enable our elders to live in dignity and to provide necessary support for them to promote their sense of belonging, sense of security and sense of worthiness.

**OBJECTIVES**
Elderly services aim to promote the well-being of elders in all aspects of their life through the provision of a wide spectrum of services to enable them to remain living in the community for as long as possible; and to provide residential care that suits the varying needs of elders whenever necessary.

**COMMUNITY CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES**
Community care and support services assist elders to remain living in the community for as long as possible and give support to their carers. With increasing diversity of community care and support services, a more integrated approach is adopted to facilitate access to services. In brief, there are three types of community care and support services, namely, elderly centre services, community care services and other community support services.

**Elderly Centre Services**
District Elderly Community Centres (with Support Teams for the Elderly), Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and Social Centres for the Elderly provide multifarious community support services for elders and their carers at district and neighbourhood levels, such as case management, community and health education, carer support services, social and recreational activities, volunteer development and outreaching services, at centres in the vicinity of their homes.

**Community Care Services**
Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly, Enhanced Home and Community Care Services Teams, Integrated Home Care Services Teams and Home Help Team provide services, such as personal care, nursing care, rehabilitation training, social activities, day respite services and carer support services, for frail elders and/or elders in need of services in a familiar home and community environment.

**Other Community Support Services**
Other community support services, such as the Senior Citizen Card Scheme, the Opportunities for the Elderly Project and the Holiday Centre for the Elderly, enable elders to enjoy their life in the community, to develop their potentials and to continue with their contributing role in society.

**RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES**
Residential care services provide residential care and facilities for elders aged 65 or above who, for personal, social, health and/or other reasons, cannot adequately be taken care of at home. Persons aged between 60 and 64 may apply if there is a proven need. In brief, there are four types of residential care services, namely, Hostels for the Elderly, Homes for the Aged, Care and Attention Homes for the Elderly and Nursing Homes.

**Hostels for the Elderly**
Hostels for the Elderly provide communal living accommodation, programme activities and round the clock staff support for elders who are capable of self-care.

**Homes for the Aged**
Homes for the Aged provide residential care, meals and a limited degree of assistance in daily living activities for elders who are unable to live independently in the community yet are not dependent on assistance in personal or nursing care.

**Care and Attention Homes for the Elderly**
Care and Attention Homes for the Elderly provide residential care, meals, personal care and limited nursing care for elders who suffer from poor health or physical/mild mental disabilities with deficiency in daily living activities but are mentally suitable for communal living. Some care and attention places are provided by contract homes and private homes participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme.

**Nursing Homes**
Nursing Homes provide residential care, meals, personal care, regular basic medical and nursing care, and social support for elders who suffer from poor health or physical/mental disabilities with deficiency in daily living activities but are mentally suitable for communal living. Some nursing home places are provided by contract homes.

Note: The Social Welfare Department has ceased to accept new applications for placement in Hostels for the Elderly and Homes for the Aged since 1 January 2003. Starting from 2005-06, self-care hostel and home for the aged places will gradually be phased out and converted into care and attention places providing a continuum of care.