

## Social Welfare

*The scope and extent of Hong Kong's welfare services have steadily evolved over the years, with total recurrent government expenditure on social welfare increasing by over 40 per cent in the past decade, underlining the Government's commitment to assisting those in need.*

The Labour and Welfare Bureau is responsible for formulating social welfare policies and overseeing their implementation by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). The Social Welfare Advisory Committee, the Elderly Commission, the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, and the Women's Commission advise the Government on welfare policies.

In 2012, the total recurrent expenditure of the SWD was \$41.7 billion, of which \$28.2 billion (67.7 per cent) was for financial assistance payments, \$9.9 billion (23.7 per cent) for recurrent subventions to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), \$1 billion (2.4 per cent) for hire of services, and the remaining \$2.6 billion (6.2 per cent) for departmental expenditure.

### Major Social Welfare Initiatives

#### **Relief Measures**

To help ease the pressure of the economic downturn, in July 2012 the SWD provided recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) with one additional month's payment of the standard rate of CSSA and one additional month's allowance for recipients of Old Age Allowance (OAA) and Disability Allowance (DA).

#### **Old Age Living Allowance**

In December 2012, the Legislative Council Finance Committee approved the proposed Old Age Living Allowance, which aims to supplement the living expenses of Hong Kong people aged 65 or above who need financial support. It is estimated that the \$2,200 monthly allowance will benefit over 400,000 elderly people. The SWD plans to introduce this new allowance in April 2013.

***Residential Care Supplement under the CSSA Scheme***

With effect from 1 June 2012, a residential care supplement is provided to CSSA recipients aged 60 or above, and recipients with disabilities or in ill-health of any age who occupy non-subsidised residential care places.

***Improvement Programme of Elderly Centres***

In 2012, the SWD was allocated \$900 million from the Lotteries Fund to implement a six-year programme to enhance the physical setting and facilities of 237 elderly centres across the territory.

***Mentor Scheme for Employees with Disabilities***

The SWD launched a mentor scheme for employees with disabilities in December 2012, which provides financial incentives to encourage mentors to provide workplace assistance for these employees.

***The Licensing Scheme for Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities***

The SWD has been processing the applications for licences and certificates of exemption following the commencement of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance. Under the pilot Bought Place Scheme (BPS), 185 additional places in six private residential care homes were brought into operation in 2012 to increase the supply of subsidised residential care services and help the market develop more services for persons with disabilities.

***Lump Sum Grant Subvention System***

The Government, in concert with the welfare sector, has been working closely with the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Steering Committee to implement the recommendations made by the LSG Independent Review Committee, including the launch of Phase 2 of the Social Welfare Development Fund, production of the Best Practice Manual and provision of the second round pilot actuarial study for NGOs.

***Services for At-risk Youths***

To reach out to more youths at risk and better tackle the growing problems of juvenile gangs, the SWD secured additional funding in 2012 to set up three new Youth Outreaching Teams, one each in Tseung Kwan O, Ma On Shan and Tung Chung. The new teams will commence service in January 2013.

***Integrated Community-based Services for Offenders***

To provide one-stop statutory services to offenders, the 11 Probation Offices, the Community Service Orders (CSO) Office and the Community Support Service Centres were re-organised into seven Probation and Community Service Orders Offices (PCSOs) in July 2012, each serving its respective Magistrates' Court. The Co-ordinating Office of Community Service Orders was also set up to support the PCSOs in arranging community work for persons placed under a CSO by the court.

## **Social Welfare Programmes**

### ***Family and Child Welfare***

A variety of family and child welfare services is provided by the SWD and NGOs.

#### ***Family Services***

The SWD provides services to families in need through a multi-layered approach. At the primary level, attempts are made through early detection, public education, publicity and empowerment to prevent family problems. The SWD launches publicity campaigns and operates a departmental hotline to provide service information, counselling and other forms of assistance.

At the secondary level, 65 Integrated Family Service Centres across all districts in Hong Kong and two integrated services centres in Tung Chung provide support services, ranging from developmental programmes to intensive counselling.

At the tertiary level, specialised services, including crisis intervention, are provided in cases of domestic or sexual violence, family crisis or custody dispute.

#### ***Services for Children***

The SWD provides 3,661 residential places and a wide range of welfare services to children and young people who need care or protection owing to serious family, behavioural or emotional problems. The SWD also arranges adoption for children abandoned by their parents or whose parents are unable to support them. Three NGOs are accredited under the Adoption Ordinance to make arrangements for local and inter-country adoptions of Hong Kong children.

The SWD also provides day child care services to support parents who cannot take care of their children temporarily because of work or other reasons. The SWD and the Education Bureau subsidise some standalone child care centres and some kindergarten-cum-child care centres to provide regular and full-day services. The SWD also funds 383 occasional child care service places and 1,230 extended hours service places at these centres. The Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project provides at least 720 subsidised places, comprising flexible home-based and centre-based child care services to families in need throughout the territory.

### ***Social Security***

The CSSA and Social Security Allowance (SSA) schemes form the mainstay of Hong Kong's social security system, supplemented by three accident compensation schemes: the Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation (CLEIC) Scheme, the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance (TAVA) Scheme and Emergency Relief. These schemes are administered by 39 Social Security Field Units and two centralised offices.

#### ***The CSSA Scheme***

The CSSA Scheme is non-contributory but means-tested. It provides cash assistance to people suffering from financial hardship to enable them to meet basic needs. Applicants must satisfy the stipulated residence requirement. At year-end, there were 269,239 CSSA cases involving

418,768 beneficiaries. The scheme's total expenditure in 2012 amounted to \$19.63 billion, representing an increase of 3 per cent over the previous year.

Elderly people who have received CSSA continuously for at least one year are allowed under the Portable CSSA Scheme to continue receiving assistance in Guangdong or Fujian Province if they choose to retire there.

### *Employment Assistance Programmes*

Various SWD programmes provide personalised employment assistance to help able-bodied unemployed CSSA recipients, single parents and child carers on CSSA find employment and become self-reliant. These programmes include:

Integrated Employment Assistance Scheme (IEAS) – provides ordinary and intensive employment assistance services to help unemployed able-bodied CSSA recipients aged between 15 and 59 secure full-time employment and become self-reliant. At year-end, 121,507 CSSA recipients had participated in the IEAS.

Special Training and Enhancement Programme (My STEP) – provides motivational and disciplinary training to help unemployed able-bodied CSSA youth aged between 15 and 29 return to the workforce. At year-end, 1,960 CSSA recipients had participated in My STEP.

New Dawn (ND) Project – helps single parents and child carers on CSSA, whose youngest child is aged between 12 and 14, move towards self-reliance through employment. At year-end, 26,162 CSSA recipients had participated in the ND Project.

### *The SSA Scheme*

The non-contributory SSA Scheme provides elderly people and persons with severe disabilities with cash allowances to meet their special needs. It currently comprises Normal OAA, Higher OAA, Normal DA and Higher DA. At year-end, 668,161 people were receiving SSA and the total expenditure in 2012 was \$10.35 billion, representing an increase of 8.6 per cent over the previous year.

### *Accident Compensation Schemes*

The CLEIC Scheme offers financial assistance on a non-means-tested basis to those injured (or to their dependants in the case of death) as a result of a crime of violence, or by a law enforcement officer using a weapon in the execution of his duty. In 2012, \$4.86 million was paid out under the scheme. The TAVA Scheme, which paid out \$188.5 million in 2012, provides financial assistance on a non-means-tested basis to people injured (or to their dependants in the case of death) in road traffic accidents regardless of who is responsible for the accident.

### *Emergency Relief*

Emergency relief in the form of meals or cash-in-lieu of meals and other necessities is given to victims of natural or other disasters. Grants from the Emergency Relief Fund are paid to eligible victims or in the case of death to their dependants. Emergency relief was given to 503 victims of 14 disasters in 2012.

### ***Social Security Appeal Board***

The Social Security Appeal Board considers appeals against the SWD's decisions on CSSA, SSA and TAVA and ruled on 367 appeals in 2012.

### ***Prevention of Fraud and Abuse***

To preserve the integrity of the social security system and ensure the proper use of public funds, the SWD's Special Investigation Section prevents and combats fraud and abuse of social security assistance. The public can make reports via a special hotline. At year-end, 264 abusers had been jailed, bound over, ordered to perform community service, fined, or given warnings.

### ***Services for the Elderly***

The Government encourages and assists elderly people to lead active and healthy lives. The SWD provides various community care and support services for them to continue living in their homes or familiar surroundings. For elderly persons who have long-term care needs but cannot be adequately taken care of at home, the SWD provides subsidised residential care services.

The SWD continues to subsidise the Opportunities for the Elderly Project run by community organisations to make life more meaningful for elderly people. During the year, 239 programmes were subsidised by government grants amounting to \$3 million.

SWD has issued almost 1.4 million Senior Citizen Cards to elderly persons in Hong Kong over the years, allowing them to enjoy concessions, discounts and priority service provided by various companies, organisations and government departments.

### ***Community Care and Support Services***

At year-end, the SWD was supporting 126 service teams (including integrated home care services teams, enhanced home and community care services teams, support teams for the elderly and a home help team) and 64 day care centres or units for the elderly to provide support services to those living at home. Other SWD programmes supporting the elderly and their carers include the Home Environment Improvement Scheme for the Elderly and a Pilot Scheme on Home Care Services for Frail Elders. The SWD also supports 210 elderly centres (including District Elderly Community Centres, Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and Social Centres for the Elderly) and a holiday centre for the elderly.

### ***Residential Care Services***

At year-end, there were 26,277 subsidised residential care places in Hong Kong, including 1,551 self-care hostel places and home-for-the-aged places, 21,769 care-and-attention (C&A) places (of which 7,337 were purchased from private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHes)), and 2,957 nursing home places (of which 161 were purchased from self-financing nursing homes).

RCHes are licensed under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance. The SWD helps RCHes to improve their capability, ensuring that elderly residents will receive proper care. To improve drug management in residential homes, the Government launched a three-year pilot scheme in June 2010 to provide RCHes with visiting pharmacist services. The objectives are to strengthen the knowledge and capability of RCHes and their staff in drug management,

and to enhance the quality of elderly care. It is estimated that about 70 RCHEs will benefit from the scheme. Ongoing monitoring and training has been conducted to ensure drug safety in RCHEs.

### ***Rehabilitation Services***

With the aim of integrating persons with disabilities into society and helping them develop their capabilities fully, government departments and NGOs provide a variety of rehabilitation services to meet their different needs. These services are co-ordinated by the Commissioner for Rehabilitation on the advice of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee.

#### ***Services for Children with Disabilities***

At year-end, there were 1,860 integrated programme places in kindergarten-cum-child care centres, 1,757 places in special child care centres (including 110 residential places), and 2,613 places in early education and training centres for children with disabilities. In addition, 64 places in small group homes were provided for mildly mentally handicapped children who could not be adequately cared for by their families.

#### ***Services for Adults with Disabilities***

To develop the potential of persons with disabilities, 1,633 supported employment places were made available for them to work in open settings with support and assistance, 432 places were created under the 'On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities' and 311 places were made available for young persons with disabilities or early signs of mental illness under the 'Sunnyway – On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities'. There were 5,051 places provided in sheltered workshops for those not yet ready to compete for open employment. There were also 453 places in integrated vocational training centres and 4,257 places in integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres.

To improve employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, over \$54 million was allocated to 23 NGOs to enable them to set up 76 small businesses providing over 580 job opportunities for persons with disabilities under the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities Through Small Enterprise Project. In tandem, the Marketing Consultancy Office (Rehabilitation) assisted vocational rehabilitation services units in developing their marketing and business strategies and employment-aided services.

Day activity centres provided 4,637 places where persons with intellectual disabilities were trained to live independently. There were 7,715 places in hostels and care homes providing residential care services for persons with disabilities who were unable to live independently in the community, or whose families could not care for them adequately, and 245 residential places were provided under the pilot BPS for private residential care homes for persons with disabilities. Elderly blind persons were provided with 825 places in care homes. For discharged mental patients, 1,509 places were provided in halfway houses and 1,507 in long-stay care homes.

### ***Professional Back-up and Support Services***

Support services provided by clinical psychologists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists are available to persons with disabilities in rehabilitation day centres and hostels. Speech therapists are available to children attending pre-school rehabilitation centres.

A range of community support services is available for persons with disabilities and their families/carers including ex-mentally ill persons, living in the community. These include district support centres for persons with disabilities, community rehabilitation day centres, integrated community centres for mental wellness, day care services for persons with severe disabilities, specialised home-based training and support services; community-based support projects and rehabilitation services for persons with visceral disability or chronic illnesses.

Residential respite services for persons with disabilities, occasional child care service for pre-schoolers with disabilities and parents/relatives resource centres are also available. In addition, there are social and recreational centres for persons with disabilities to encourage them to participate in community leisure activities.

### ***Financial Assistance for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Patients***

At year-end, 890 applications were approved for eligible individuals and/or their families, bringing the cumulative payments from the SARS trust fund since its establishment in 2003 to about \$204 million.

### ***Medical Social Services***

Medical social workers are stationed in public hospitals and some specialist clinics to provide assistance and services for patients and/or their families with welfare needs, helping them recover and reintegrate into society. Medical social workers dealt with about 173,340 cases in 2012.

### ***Services for Offenders***

The SWD performs a number of statutory functions and provides community-based and residential services to help people who have committed crimes reintegrate into the community and become law-abiding citizens.

The probation service helped 5,290 offenders during the year and arrangements were made for 2,539 people placed on CSOs to perform unpaid community work under supervision. Probation officers assess and report to the courts on an offender's suitability for a probation order and/or a CSO, and supervise those under the orders. The officers also prepare reports on long-term prisoners and petitioners being considered for early release.

A pilot project begun in 2009 at two probation offices to provide more focused, structured and intensive treatment programmes for convicted young drug offenders aged below 21 was found on evaluation in May 2012 to be more effective in bringing about successful withdrawal from prohibited drugs post-probation and those on probation were less prone to reconviction, in particular for drug-related offences within the probation period.

The Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home, with 388 places, provides educational, pre-vocational and character training to juvenile offenders as well as children and young people with behavioural and/or family problems.

The Young Offender Assessment Panel, run jointly by the Correctional Services Department (CSD) and the SWD, provides the courts with professional views on sentencing options for offenders aged 14 to below 25. The Post-Release Supervision of Prisoners Scheme, another joint service of the SWD and CSD, assisted 775 discharged prisoners rehabilitate and reintegrate into the community in 2012. The SWD provides funding to an NGO to offer hostel and supportive services to ex-offenders.

### ***Services for Young People***

The objective of welfare services for young people is to help those aged between six and 24 become mature, responsible and contributing members of society. NGOs provide a range of preventive, supportive and remedial services to achieve this goal.

#### ***Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres***

At year-end, there were 138 Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs), providing centre-based services, outreach services and school social work services to address young people's developmental needs.

#### ***Outreaching Services***

The 16 district youth outreaching social work teams provide services to high-risk youths and deal with juvenile gang issues. Eighteen designated ICYSCs provide outreaching services at night to help youths who loiter at neighbourhood black-spots get back on the right track.

#### ***Services for Juvenile Delinquents***

Five Community Support Service Scheme teams operated by NGOs assist young people who are subject to the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme (PSDS). The Family Conference Scheme, run jointly by the SWD and the Hong Kong Police Force, assists juveniles cautioned under the PSDS for the second time or who are in need of the services of three or more parties. Social workers, police officers, teachers and parents of these young people work together to decide what is best for them.

#### ***Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services***

At year-end, the SWD was subventing 14 residential drug treatment and rehabilitation centres and halfway houses, 11 counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers and two centres for drug counselling. In 2012, 22 licences and 18 certificates of exemption for drug treatment and rehabilitation centres were issued or renewed under the Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Ordinance.

#### ***School Social Work Service***

At year-end, a total of 568 school social workers were provided to 471 secondary schools to help students with academic, social and emotional problems and to maximise their educational opportunities.

### ***PATHS to Adulthood: A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme***

The Positive Adolescent Training through Holistic Social Programmes (PATHS) to Adulthood project, funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, ended in 2012 but the trust has approved funding for a three-year 'Youth Enhancement Programme' from January 2013, aiming to promote the holistic development of junior secondary students into responsible young adults.

### ***District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development***

The SWD receives \$15 million annually to provide direct cash assistance and implement projects through NGOs under the District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development, a scheme launched to address the developmental needs of disadvantaged children and young people, which cannot be met by their families or the mainstream education system.

### ***Child Development Fund***

The \$300-million Child Development Fund (CDF) provides children from disadvantaged backgrounds with more personal development opportunities to help reduce inter-generational poverty. Through the CDF projects, participants draw up and implement their own development plans and develop a habit of accumulating both financial and non-financial assets (such as acquiring a positive attitude and a proper mindset, personal resilience and capacities and social networks) so as to enhance their resource management and future planning abilities, thus preparing them for long-term development. So far, 40 projects have been rolled out, benefiting more than 4,400 children aged between 10 and 16.

## **Clinical Psychological Services**

Within the SWD and NGOs, 73 clinical psychologists provide a range of services to welfare units handling family casework, rehabilitation and correctional matters. 3,789 clients were treated, and 3,073 psychological assessments and 17,989 treatment sessions were conducted.

## **Voluntary Work**

The Steering Committee on Promotion of Volunteer Service continues to promote sustained volunteering under the theme 'Volunteering – New Attitude to Life' and encourages volunteers to integrate the core values and spirit of voluntary work into their daily lives. By year-end, around 2,400 organisations and more than one million individuals had registered for voluntary service at the SWD's 'Volunteer Movement' website.

## **Subventions and Service Monitoring**

Recurrent subventions and capital grants were given to 171 NGOs to provide social welfare services in accordance with government policies. Capital grants from the Lotteries Fund were allocated to NGOs on the advice of the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee. The Service Performance Monitoring System keeps track of the output, outcome and service quality of subvented units, according to 16 well-defined service quality standards and specific funding

and service agreements, through regular self-assessment reports submitted by NGOs and review/surprise visits conducted by the SWD.

The Lump Sum Grant Independent Complaints Handling Committee handles complaints related to the use of subventions and service quality that cannot be satisfactorily addressed at the NGO level.

### **Social Welfare Development Fund**

A \$1 billion Social Welfare Development Fund was launched in January 2010 for implementation in three three-year phases from 2010-11 to 2018-19 to support all subvented NGOs in carrying out training and professional development programmes, business system upgrading projects and service delivery enhancement studies. Under Phase 1 (2010-11 to 2012-13), about \$263 million was approved for 150 NGO applications.

### **Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged**

The SWD-administered Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged was set up in 2005 to promote tripartite partnership among the welfare sector, the business community and the Government in helping the disadvantaged. Donations in money and in kind from the business sector are matched dollar-for-dollar by the Government to enable NGOs to carry out social welfare projects. By year-end, 141 NGOs had obtained matching grants totalling over \$247 million to implement 573 welfare projects, benefiting over 800,000 disadvantaged persons.

### **Community Investment and Inclusion Fund**

The Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) was established in 2002 to implement diversified social capital development projects in the community, promote trust and reciprocity between the public and different sectors, and build a cross-sectoral collaborative platform and mutual help network. By year-end, the CIIF had allocated funds of around \$260 million to 250 approved projects, involving over 6,800 collaboration partners and around 750,000 people in Hong Kong.

A series of promotion and development programmes were launched in 2012, including the 'Social Capital Builders Award' which was awarded to 121 organisations/corporate bodies.

The second evaluation study of the CIIF's effectiveness was completed in 2012 and reaffirmed that the CIIF had achieved its goals and was successful in fostering mutual trust in the community and enhancing the community's social capital.

### **Elderly Commission**

The Elderly Commission (EC) was set up in 1997 to advise the Government on policy and services for the elderly. Recently, emphasis has been placed on promoting 'active ageing' and advising on the means to enhance further long-term care services for the elderly.

The Elder Academy Scheme, jointly launched by the EC and the Government, has established 110 academies, 103 operating in schools and the rest in tertiary education institutions.

At the community level, the Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project encourages care and love for elderly persons and reaches out to elderly people who do not readily know the existing network of community support. Sixty-nine district projects, commenced in 2012 aim at fostering harmonious family relations and enhancing neighbourhood support networks.

### **Women's Commission**

The Women's Commission (WoC) promotes the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong. It advises the Government on policies related to women so as to ensure that women's perspectives are taken into account in the formulation of government policies.

The WoC comprises 24 members including the chairperson who is a non-official member. Through the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women, and public education, the WoC aims 'to enable women in Hong Kong to fully realise their due status, rights and opportunities in all aspects of life'.

On the advice of the WoC, the Government has gradually introduced gender mainstreaming in different policy areas to provide an enabling environment. A Gender Mainstreaming Checklist was drawn up to help civil servants take a systematic approach in assessing the needs and perspectives of both men and women when formulating government policies. Gender-related training has also been provided to over 6,300 civil servants of different grades and ranks since 2001. All bureaux and departments have their own Gender Focal Points through which matters concerning gender mainstreaming can be channelled.

With regard to the empowerment of women, the WoC has implemented various initiatives to help women realise their potential, including the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP), which aims at enhancing women's self-confidence, learning abilities and life skills.

The CBMP is carried out in collaboration with the Open University of Hong Kong, a radio station and nearly 70 women's groups and NGOs. By the end of 2012, the enrolments for the CBMP had exceeded 61,000, in addition to the large audience reached through relevant radio programmes. In April, the Government turned CBMP into a recurrent project. Part of the recurrent funding was used to develop face-to-face courses taught in English and Putonghua to encourage applications from ethnic minority women and newly arrived women.

In December, the WoC organised the 'Bringing Together Women's Wisdom for a Better Future' conference to review Hong Kong's implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to provide a platform for participants to discuss and exchange views on issues related to the development and well-being of women. The Funding Scheme for Women's Development, launched in 2012, funds women's groups and NGOs providing women's services to organise relevant programmes and activities.

## **Rehabilitation Advisory Committee**

The Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC) serves as the principal advisory body to the Government on matters pertaining to the well-being of persons with disabilities and the development and implementation of rehabilitation policies and services in Hong Kong. RAC sub-committees look into specific areas of concern, such as access, employment and public education.

The RAC and its sub-committees are chaired by non-officials, and all their members are appointed in their personal capacities by the Chief Executive. To ensure that the interests of persons with disabilities are represented, the membership of the RAC includes persons with different disabilities, parents of persons with disabilities, representatives of self-help organisations for persons with disabilities and NGOs providing rehabilitation services, as well as academics, community and business leaders, professionals and other persons who have an interest in the well-being of persons with disabilities. Representatives of relevant government bureaux and departments also serve as ex-officio members to provide the necessary support to the RAC and follow up on issues it raises.

Through its sub-committee on public education, the RAC co-ordinates the implementation of various public education programmes on rehabilitation. In 2012, 26 public education programmes were organised by the Government and NGOs to promote the spirit of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and cross-sectoral collaboration in building an equal and inclusive society. Territory-wide publicity activities were also launched to support World Mental Health Day and the International Day of Disabled Persons.

The RAC collaborates with different sectors, including the District Councils and the business and welfare sectors, to promote the working capabilities of persons with disabilities and the employment support services provided by Government departments and rehabilitation organisations for persons with disabilities. The RAC also assists the Government in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Hong Kong.

## **Community Care Fund**

The Community Care Fund (CCF) assists people facing economic difficulties, especially those who fall outside the social safety net or who are within the safety net but have special circumstances that are not covered. Since its establishment in 2011, the CCF has benefited over 100,000 persons through its 18 assistance programmes. It also implemented a programme to provide a one-off allowance of \$6,000 to new arrivals from low-income families. In addition, the CCF introduces measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those suitable for incorporation into the Government's regular assistance and service programmes. One of these was a subsidy for needy patients of the Hospital Authority for the use of Samaritan Fund subsidised drugs which was incorporated into the regular assistance programme in September 2012.

Taking into account actual experience gained and views collected from the public and stakeholders, the CCF will continue to draw up new programmes to provide assistance to the underprivileged and low-income families.

**Websites**

Labour and Welfare Bureau: [www.lwb.gov.hk](http://www.lwb.gov.hk)

Social Welfare Department: [www.swd.gov.hk](http://www.swd.gov.hk)

Community Investment and Inclusion Fund: [www.ciif.gov.hk](http://www.ciif.gov.hk)

Elderly Commission: [www.elderlycommission.gov.hk](http://www.elderlycommission.gov.hk)

Women's Commission: [www.women.gov.hk](http://www.women.gov.hk)

Child Development Fund: [www.cdf.gov.hk](http://www.cdf.gov.hk)

Volunteer Movement: [www.volunteering-hk.org](http://www.volunteering-hk.org)

Community Care Fund: [www.communitycarefund.hk](http://www.communitycarefund.hk)