

2017 Policy Address - Poverty Alleviation Agenda

Elderly Care and Support for the Disadvantaged

- Invite the Community Care Fund to consider implementing two pilot schemes to support elderly persons discharged from public hospitals and elderly persons with mild or moderate impairment.
- Provide an additional 2 000 vouchers under the Pilot Scheme on the Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to support ageing in place for elderly persons with moderate or severe impairment; and provide 3 000 vouchers under the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly from 2017 to 2019.
- Extend the Pilot Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong for three years, and introduce the Fujian Scheme.
- Inject \$300 million into the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund to build mutual help networks in the community.

Retirement Protection and Population Policy

- Propose to progressively abolish the “offsetting” of severance payments or long service payments with Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) contributions.
- Launch the Default Investment Strategy of the MPF Schemes Authority in April 2017 to address the concerns of “high fees” and “difficulty in making investment choices”.
- Enhance Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) through relaxing the asset limits for the existing allowance and adding a higher tier of assistance, benefiting around 500 000 persons; and extend the fee waiver for public hospital and clinic services to cover older OALA recipients with more financial needs, benefiting 140 000 persons.
- Propose to lower the eligibility age for the Elderly Health Care Vouchers from 70 to 65, benefiting some 400 000 persons.
- Strive to map out within the current Government term a working hours policy direction that suits Hong Kong’s socio-economic situation.
- Inject an additional \$1.5 billion into the Continuing Education Fund to encourage continuing education.

Let's pray for the Government policy and the budget can help the people in need!

May the Lord reign in our society!