

## **Report of the Ad Hoc Group on the Elderly in Poverty to CoP**

The Ad Hoc Group on the Elderly in Poverty held its first meeting on 19 September. The Ad Hoc Group is chaired by Mr TIK Chi-yuen. The Vice-chairman of the Elderly Commission, Professor Alfred CHAN Cheung Ming, is also a member of the Ad Hoc Group.

The meeting agreed to focus on four key needs of the elderly in poverty, viz. in health, financial assistance, daily living and social network.

**In the short-term**, the Ad Hoc Group would explore the following improvement measures --

- Improve the medical fee waiver mechanism in order to facilitate the elderly poor not on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) to access medical services (e.g. simplify procedures for elderly given their financial status would unlikely change), and strengthen preventive measures (e.g. primary health care).
- Explore raising the current CSSA assets limit for the elderly poor (noting the current limits, e.g. \$34,000 for singleton, are too low and have not taken into account their special needs (e.g. no future income, money saved for future burial expenses)).
- Strengthen support to the “hidden elderly” through enhancing the role of the Support Teams for the Elderly (STEs) in the 41 District Elderly Community Centres (e.g. increase staffing of the STEs to identify “hidden elderly” and to organise local resources to help them where appropriate).
- Collaborate with the Elderly Commission on initiatives to reinforce the social support and network of the elderly in the community (e.g. continued learning).

The Ad Hoc Group would also study other **long-term issues**, including retirement protection and long-term care for the elderly, and consider making long-term policy proposals.

The Ad Hoc Group will continue its work in cooperation and collaboration with the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, Social Welfare Department, Hospital Authority and the Elderly Commission.