



## COLLEGE OF NURSING, HONG KONG 香港護理學院

Jan. 6, 2020.

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Professor Sophia CHAN, JP  
Secretary for Food and Health  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
18/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices,  
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong.

*By email and postage*

Dear Prof. Chan,

### **Re: Responses to Public Consultation on the Budget 2020-2021 HKSAR**

It is vital for the government to spend wisely to invest on the human capital for competitiveness and cutting-edge capacity of Hong Kong to enhance the earning power of both individuals and Hong Kong as a whole. Investing in health is an effective means to strengthen the human capital in the long run. With the projected disease burden due to ageing, building up and maintaining healthy to and beyond older adults will be the key and pre-requisite for active ageing. Capitalized in emerging technologies related to health and healthcare would be essential in the coming years.

#### **1) Healthcare Services:**

Budget allocate to ensure health care services at public hospital and health services with defined deliverable and be responsible to tax payers.

Funding allocates for health professional, at all levels, for professional exchange would be beneficial in sharing public health agendas, especially in the developing greater bay areas which are connected with the cross-boundary transportation networks and cross boundary facilities. Sharing of expertise on prevention of communicable diseases and public health helps to build a healthy living environment.

#### **2) Healthcare manpower:**

##### Regulatory System:

Allocating appropriate resources and funding Nursing Council Hong Kong to update and upgrade its functions in regulating all grades and levels of nursing practice. The Nursing Council plays a mandatory roles in facilitation in regulating and monitoring the pre-registration requirements and nursing training, general nursing practice and advanced/specialized nursing practice are crucial for the sustainability of the profession and benefits of our service recipients. Nursing and nurse paly essential roles in the multidisciplinary health care team, its development must be fitting well with the community services contributing to the well-being of our citizen. To be adequately regulated and monitored is responsible for the citizens.



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### Maintaining Quality and Productive Workforce:

Conversion of Retirement Tsunami of baby boomers into productive workforce. Rehire the retired and fit into structured organization chart with good planning to match the competence with reasonable remuneration package to maximize human resource. An experienced nurses equipped with academic qualifications and years of practice experience, when rehire the retired, it is not simply an hourly paid workers. The competences and confidence built throughout their professional journey would be contributing to the sustainability of the service if properly shared within an operational system.

### **3) Funding allocate to Department of Health and related institutions, which pays influential role in public health and health promotion:**

#### Prevent and Control Non Communicable Diseases:

Support to promulgate and engaging the population in “Towards 2025 Strategy and Action Plan to prevent and control NCDs” which aiming at preventing Non Communicable Diseases which have significantly impact on health, social and economic aspects of our population and reduce health related cost on hospitalization and treatment in the long run.

#### Dental Services:

Oral Health is elementary for nutritional status. Financing oral health education, screening and primary health coverage from children to elderly is essential to maintain one of the basic health needs.

#### Ophthalmic Services:

Financing Eye Care programs, namely, health promotion, self monitoring techniques, screening and treatment, for young kids to elderly population will be another focus to ensure quality of life.

#### Child Assessment Service (CAS) and seamless support, intervention and treatment:

The mission of CAS is “... enable children to overcome developmental challenges through quality multidisciplinary assessment, interim support services and intervention prescriptions...” This service provide services to children from 0-12 years of age on assessing the various developmental issues, mental and behavioral problems. As stated in the “Hong Kong Reference Framework for Preventive Care for Children in Primary Care Setting” (revised 2019), the key areas of the new cases were language delay/disorders and borderline developmental delay. Although the figures quoted were in 2011, these remains the key concerns for some children and their families.



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Our stories are there are timely and good services for assessment, but with abnormal results, parents are lack of support to seek appropriate and timely treatment. Long waiting time at public service for follow up attention could be 3-4 years. When assessment identified developmental defects, what would be the impact for a child at the age of 2-6 to wait for 3-4 years for management or treatment? We advocate for appropriate funding and planning for seamless service integration to help the children and the families when they encounter developmental concerns. Examples are: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); Children with swallowing and speech problem etc..

#### **4) End-of-life care:**

##### Resources and Funding Support:

Funding support new model of seamless care from diagnose to hospital service and community support. The dying process is not only personal physical deterioration but physical, mental, personal and social events, which is physically, psychologically and socially exhausting. It required concerto efforts of new service model including legislation amendment and joint efforts of various government service and public education. Seamless service at various dimensions for the patient at different stages of the illness, respite care facilities for family members/domestic carers to conserve their will power in taking care of the elders and at the end of life clients.

#### **5) Resources and support for Smart Health Innovation:**

##### Support for smart health projects with service outcomes:

At this age of the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution, advanced technology based on information and communication would help to improve effectiveness and efficiency of healthcare service. We speak for funding and non-funding support for pilot projects of smart health initiative and creating an autonomous self-monitoring environment that contribute to better health service outcomes from accessing to health service when needed to support at community for rehabilitation and monitoring of chronic health problems.

College of Nursing Hong Kong is committed to advocate and taking action to promote health and well-being of the community.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen KU Wai Yin  
President