



COLLEGE OF NURSING, HONG KONG 香港護理學院

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19 February 2019

Mr Paul CHAN, GBM, GBS, MH, JP
The Financial Secretary
25/F, Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar, Hong Kong

By email and postage

Dear Mr Chan,

***Responses to Public Consultation
on the Budget 2019-2020 HKSAR***

The government should spend wisely to build up 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. Health promotion and health protection should begin early in the life journey.

1) Healthcare Manpower:

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

Facilitate new nurses graduating from universities or training institutions transit to work with confidence and competences:

A well-planned and monitor sustainable clinical education program on transition:

An official position of "clinical educator" as role model and coach should be established and on duty together for mentoring and support. This role is not only serve and support to the new graduates but also ensure quality of service



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and care to clients in need. At present, part-time or rehire retired nurses were employed for this role when resources is available, the role is not well defined and established. The resource invest in such a manner would not be properly monitor and evaluated. In other words, this investment is not rewarding.

A successful “clinical educator” should be well prepared with strategy and skill in mentoring and coaching. One also has to be knowledgeable and practical. This clinical educator should be able to demonstrate good role modelling for the benefit of clients. An appropriate investment on human resource benefit health services in the long run for both healthy professional development and retention of front line staff.

Review and proper financing the governing body, Nursing Council of Hong Kong to implement appropriate action in regulating nurses’ registration and qualification.

Funding allocate for Health Professional exchange that benefit sharing public health agenda in view of developing the greater bay areas with the well-developed cross-boundary transportation networks and cross boundary facilities.

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

Healthcare at early life journey:

Appropriate financing to support health education and interventions for improving sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health. Implement and expand those interventions, making them accessible to all who need them before and during pregnancy, childbirth and the early years of life. These are essential to ensure the quality of care with an end to preventing maternal, newborn, child and adolescent deaths and stillbirths.

Controlling Communicable Diseases:

Infectious diseases continue to impose a significant public health and economic burden on vulnerable populations.

(1) Financing the immunization program including chickenpox



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(2) The fight against infectious diseases will not be won without addressing antimicrobial resistance and it is critical to safeguard medicines for preventive and curative measures, and ensure in the pipeline and systematic misuse and overuse of these medicines in health care and food production continues. An approach that extends well beyond the health sector is needed, with changes not only in health policies but also in public policies in trade, agriculture, finance, food and pharmaceutical production. Bringing all these sectors together will require enhanced and integrated forms of collaboration.

Controlling Non-communicable Diseases and Promoting Mental Health:

Financing the action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases starting in schoolchildren:

- 1) Tobacco Control
- 2) Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health
- 3) Childhood Obesity
- 4) Reduce the harmful use of alcohol
- 5) Mental Health

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 program for elderly population (e.g. Cataract, poor vision diseases) will be another focus to ensure quality of life.

3) End-of-life care:

- 1) Amend the outdated Ordinance that deters peaceful death of people at the end of their life journeys.
- 2) Funding support for 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.



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- 3) Support the hospital-at-home concept of care by providing appropriate supporting service, equipment and altering facilities at home/residential sites to cater for the comfort and physical needs of the elders and at the end of life clients.
- 4) Train and recruit healthcare workforce to deliver care to elders or at the end of life clients at the places of resident.
- 5) Funding support to promote public education on end of life care for community health care team and the public.

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