

(Translation)

Council meeting of 2 June 2021

**Hon LEUNG Che-cheung's motion on
"Enhancing support for carers"**

Wording of the Motion

That persons with physical or intellectual disabilities and some elderly people are lacking in self-care abilities and their living and dietary needs have to be taken care of by their family members; but due to the lack of professional care knowledge and the need to sacrifice their job opportunities to take long-term care of their family members, most carers are subject to heavy financial burden and mental pressure; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to comprehensively step up its support for carers, and the relevant proposals include:

- (1) enhancing the various existing carer allowance schemes under the Community Care Fund, including lowering the application thresholds of the allowance schemes, increasing the allowance amounts, and introducing a flat-rate and reimbursement-based transport subsidy, so as to reduce carers' financial pressure;
- (2) setting up a comprehensive carer support system in the long run with the formulation of care service agreements based on carers' needs by the three parties of the Government, professional service organizations and carers, so as to enable carers to receive support from the professional organizations and monthly subsidies as well as enjoy rest days, etc., as a social recognition of their devotion and contribution;
- (3) setting up carer support service centres in various districts to provide carers with appropriate training and services such as emotional relief;
- (4) increasing the number of emergency places and streamlining the relevant application procedure to enable needy persons to receive respite arrangements within a short time, so that carers may temporarily put aside their caring responsibilities to attend to other urgent matters and provide them with an opportunity to adjust themselves and relieve their pressure;

- (5) expediting the construction of various types of residential care homes for persons with disabilities and setting a waiting time target for residential care homes for persons with disabilities and special needs, so as to shorten the waiting time concerned and in turn better reduce the caring pressure on carers;
- (6) expanding the quota and scope of the Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Elderly Care to enhance the provision of professional skill training for foreign domestic helpers in taking care of persons with physical or intellectual disabilities and elderly people, so that they can be equipped with the relevant skills, with a view to reducing the caring pressure on carers;
- (7) setting up a carer database for the regular collection of carer-related information and data, so as to facilitate the formulation of an appropriate carer policy and long-term service planning for persons with physical or intellectual disabilities in Hong Kong;
- (8) actively promoting flexible work arrangements among private enterprises, especially promoting family-friendly employment measures, to assist carers in making flexible arrangements for their working hours and those to take care of their families; and
- (9) expediting the completion of the carer support study undertaken by the multi-disciplinary consultancy team of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University commissioned by the Labour and Welfare Bureau, so as to expeditiously implement various recommendations and enable carers to receive timely support.