

rchan                      To "  
01/04/2008 16:28        cc  
                            Subj comments on the health care consultation  
                            ect document

I just want to contribute my views on the health care consultation document from a citizen's point of view.

I guess typical of a member of the middle class, I don't need the government to look after my health care plans. I have my own insurance plan and would like the government to leave me alone. And please allow me to opt out if the government decides to introduce mandatory health care plans. (Btw, I always want to opt out from MPF!)

More importantly, I think the government should accord a lot more priority to preventive health care. I have an impression that this is just secondary in the consultation document, with so much attention given to the financing plans. Personally, I do think the government should implement preventive health care across the territory before talking about escalating costs in maintaining the current system. If we have a HK-wide preventive health care system, I am sure this will change your numbers and the need for the various financing plans.

Not sure whether you went to the Public Sector Reform Conference last week. One of the terrific speakers, Charles Leadbeater, reminded us that we don't need more fire engines to reduce the incidence of fire. We live in an "I can" economy whereby the government should first and foremost think about the root of the problem and how citizens and their support network can be empowered to minimise the need for further investment into the public sector. This is very much HK's spirit before 1997 and unfortunately we have allowed a small quarter of the society to turn HK into a "I want (the government to do XXX) " economy.

To set a good example, I just wonder whether the government would be interested in setting up a preventive health care centre at the new government secretariat HQs. I visited Thomas Wong's centre at the PolyU and was really impressed by what they are doing there. Do think about this. I would be thrilled to have an opportunity to design such a clinic together with Thomas.

Best regards,  
Rachel Chan  
Founder and Chief Catalyst  
INNOFOCO