

## Comment on Consultation Document on Healthcare Reform

12 June, 2008.

Dear Secretary Chow,

In view of the challenges presented by our ageing population, it is inevitable that our healthcare system should undergo an appropriate degree of reform. As you stated in your message in the *Consultation Document*, we have indeed built a healthcare system that provides high quality services with outstanding results, whilst our healthcare professions have maintained high professional and ethical standards.

Given the distinguished achievement of our existing healthcare system, I believe that we should try our best to improve the system with minimal disturbance and additional operation cost. The introduction of any insurance-related scheme will unavoidably incur much additional handling and operation cost, whilst the disadvantaged people in society (e.g. the disabled, the elderly, the poor, low-wage earners, sufferers of chronic diseases, the unemployed, etc.) will have great difficulties in obtaining appropriate insurance coverage.

In order to devise a system that can both look after the disadvantaged and avoid heaping too much burden upon the shoulders of the middle class, I propose that every citizen in society should be required to contribute the same amount of money to the Government. As for the disadvantaged people, the Government can easily cover their medical expenses by means of the support from the Social Welfare Department. The main principle underlining this scheme is fairness to all. By making full use of the existing government machinery, the incursion of additional costs can also be minimised.

I hope the Government will seriously consider the merit of this suggestion, so as to establish a caring and healthy future for Hong Kong.

Bernard Hui