

1 March, 2010

The Hon. Mr. John C. Tsang
The Financial Secretary

Dear Mr. Tsang,

Re: Responding to The 2010- 11 Budget

The Against Child Abuse has always been concerned with the holistic growth and development of children. We have urged for a proactive policy and an annual Government budget to ensure a child perspective. Responding to the 2010/11 Budget the Against Child Abuse would like to take this opportunity to reflect our following concerns:

1. A budget comparable with that of the Women's Commission to sustain a Child Perspective in Hong Kong.

We urge that the government should acquire a stronger, a proactive and more preventive child perspective in Budget and in Policy. The 2010-11 Budget did not reflect this emphasis.

We urge the government to establish a Child Commission and appoint a Child Commissioner with a designated annual budget comparable to that of the Women's Commission.

2. An annual budget for Home Visitation of Families with New Born

2.1 While you put forward the strategies in developing the economy to promote the development of the four traditional pillar industries and the six industries, one must take note that Children are our societies most important pillars and in order to ensure such pillars healthy and strong, a special budget must be devoted to support parents (working parents in particular) and carers in terms of positive parenting, safe and responsible child management.

2.2 Efforts and budget to ensure such areas accomplished must start early and a preventive/developmental approach is better than cure. In order to develop human capital the Budget should cover **early start family support programs to ensure families with new**



珍愛兒童三十載，茁壯成長顯光采！



Against Child Abuse Ltd.

防止虐待兒童會有限公司

Patron : Mrs. Selina Tsang
贊助人 : 曾鮑笑薇女士
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主席 : 張志雄醫生
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born babies being home visited and capacity strengthened to ensure a child safe and non violent growing environment.

- 2.3 We understand that the Comprehensive Child Development Scheme (CCDS) attempting to identify and bridge up four types of at risk groups (Substance Abuse Parent with new born, Teenage Pregnancy with new born, Domestic Violence with new born and with Mental illness and new born) with available social services, such as Integrated family service centers, and yet did not receive the necessary financial support to put such effective program into full strength in all districts in Hong Kong.
- 2.4 This agency has been offering volunteer home visitation services to families with new born in the Tuen Mun region since 1997, first sponsored by the Community Chest and currently sustained by the Hong Kong Jockey Club. We have also started a Good Parenting Project in the Kwun Tong region with funding from a Swiss Anonymous Foundation on home visitation and support to Cross Border Families with new born being Hong Kong citizens. We urge the government to designate a budget to ensure such programs sustained in Hong Kong for more children and families.
- 2.5 We also urge that mental health of (a) the divorcees and their children under their custody and care and (b) parents and children in reconstituted families should warrant closer attention and development of preventive and remedial programmes to help them, i.e. early detection; out-reaching intervention; increase number of clinical psychologists, child psychologists and play therapists.
- 3 A budget to ensure a Safe and Child Friendly Hong Kong**
- Under the section on Building Community and ensuring Building Maintenance etc., our pillars of tomorrow should receive adequate health care, quality education, and we urge that a special budget be devoted to ensure the society safe and child friendly.
- 4 A budget to ensure a child perspective in terms of promoting play, arts, culture and sports for every child**

We also urge the government to ensure a child perspective in terms of promoting play, arts, culture and sports for every child, particularly the children in difficult circumstances such as



the disabled, ethnic minority and those in poverty. We wish to see resources being allocated to bring about a child museum and art gallery and a budget being allocated to ensure affordability of the needy.

5 A budget to ensure Child Safe Tourism

While Tourism is such an important industry for Hong Kong, we are of particular concern that any child under the age of eighteen will not be abused or exploited in such course. We also urge for a budget to be designated to ensure children protected from any child sex tourism locally, across the border and overseas.

For questions or clarifications, kindly contact the undersigned at tel. 2351 1177 or email us at priscilla@aca.org.hk.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to a strong child perspective in our society in the near future.

Yours truly,



Patrick Cheung (Dr)
Chairperson



Priscilla Lui (Mrs.), B.B.S.
Director