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### Submission by the Against Child Abuse (ACA) on The 2026–27 Budget

Against Child Abuse (ACA) was established in 1979 as the charitable organization specialized in child protection. We strive to eliminate all forms of child abuse and promote a caring and non-violent environment for the optimal growth and development of children. ACA welcomes the Government's continued commitment to strengthening the child protection system following the implementation of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance. We believe that to ensure the Ordinance is effectively implemented at the frontline, adequate resources and long-term support are essential. We therefore recommend that the Government allocate funding in the 2026–2027 Budget to strengthen the following areas:

- **Inter-disciplinary Professional Training and Support:** Inject resources for continuous and practice-oriented training and support for professionals in education, healthcare, and social welfare sectors, focusing on cross-sectoral inter-disciplinary training programs to deepen mutual understanding of roles and intervention processes. Through simulation exercises, strengthen collaboration—particularly in participating in multi-disciplinary case conferences (MDCC) and welfare planning—addressing the current gaps where training is mainly delivered via individual online modality with limited cross-sectoral interaction and practical drills. This ensures that professionals are well-equipped with the necessary knowledge and support when reporting and intervening in suspected child abuse cases;
- **Expansion and Strengthening of Child Protection Support Services (ChildPRO):** Expand and strengthen ChildPRO services to more districts. In addition to serving families struggling with child discipline or unable to provide child-safe care, and children and families at risk of harm or abuse, early intervention services should be provided timely, to enhance individual and family capacity, and reduce the risk of child abuse. Additional funding should be injected for NGOs to deliver these services to strengthen community-based child protection and early intervention efforts;

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- **Parent Education Framework:** Inject resources to establish a systematic parent education framework by fostering collaboration between kindergartens, schools and child protection-focused social service organizations. Long-term, progressive parent education programs should replace the current reliance on one-off talks or activities. This will better equip parents to negotiate different stages of child's growth and parenting challenges, providing comprehensive protection for children;
- **Comprehensive Sexuality Education:** Inject resources to implement comprehensive sexuality education and relevant life skills programs for children and adolescents, in response to the recent rise in online grooming, child sexual abuse and exploitation cases. These programs will strengthen children's and youth's awareness of self-protection and respect for others, thereby fostering a healthy, safe, and positive environment for growth.

We hope the Government will incorporate the above recommendations into the forthcoming Budget, and continue to foster stronger interdisciplinary collaboration and building a truly child-safe and nurturing Hong Kong.

Against Child Abuse