

"Treasure Children, Take Value of Life"

This issue covers the activities from the period of July to September and presents forecast of events from October to December 2006.

The period started with the Annual Service Users Gathering and the Press Conference on Treasure Children, Take Value of Life. Volunteers and service users were able to meet and share with each other how they got to know this agency which has inspired them to do a little more with their life for themselves, their children and families and others. This opportunity is also a revealing one to enable us to better plan and render our future services according to community's precise needs and preferences.

While our services continued to be active and dynamic covering both preventive and remedial nature and engaging adults and children, tragic Hong Kong stories with child deaths, homicides/suicides and child suicides continued to hit the press. This agency in addition to receiving many dozens of phone and studio interviews from the mass media organized a well received Press Conference with the focus on Treasure Children, Take Value of Life.

A proactive and more decisive approach from the government is required and a fundamental change of policy, infrastructure and a child and family perspective. As an advocate this agency one more time urges for the set up of a Child Commission and the appointment of a Child Commissioner to represent children and obtain child impact assessment in policies and matters directly or indirectly impacting children.

The need of a fatal/serious child abuse cases review mechanism is long overdue and we await such independent and multidisciplinary mechanism to be put in place to prevent child abuse and domestic violence and to help narrowing gaps and inadequacies in our child and family protection system. The importance to allocate adequate manpower and resources to implement prevention and remedial services must also be actualized more thoroughly with the government taking a more effective lead, the specialized roles and experience accumulated through the years by the NGOs must be properly acknowledged and allowed to grow.

Other phenomena worth mentioning is that on the past year, according to the Hospital Authority Partnership in Health, there were almost 100 children under the age of five accidentally poisoned. Home safety continued to deserve education.

Proactively this agency in the past quarter rendered Child Safe Projects such as Child Safe Prevention of Tragedy sponsored by the Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charities Fund, Parental IT Programs to convey such important message via the internet and teaching parents/children of its risks and operation. The ACA Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin sponsored by the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund is another more systematic mentoring type of service which will be reported in this issue.

Our special tribute to Dr Raymond Wu, Chairperson of the CIIF, who passed away on 3 October 2006. Our team met with Dr Wu and his staff for a number of occasions in the past and he was always appreciative of specialized child protection role of this agency. Dr Wu also encouraged this agency to further develop into a centre of excellence so that good practices and experience consolidated could be maximized. We shall be working hard to actualize the wishes of Dr Wu in this respect.

Another piece of important news worth sharing with you is the persistent and well coordinated Children empowerment program orchestrated by the tripartite efforts of Against Child Abuse, the Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights and the UNICEF (HK) has matured into a child led mechanism in the name of Kids' Dream. The Kids' Dream Launching Ceremony, planned and managed by the children, was graced with the presence of Mr. Wong Yan Lung, the Secretary of Justice, the Hong Kong Story, whose contribution served a boost of morale to the children and the hope that their dream of children's rights being respected may really come true.



This Newsletter will also take the opportunity to bring to your attention our considerable efforts working as a partner with our neighboring community in particular, Macau with a centre provided by the Macau Government in Taipa, opened on 17 June, 2006, and a team of social workers employed with their own funds, and that of the International Society of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN). With such efforts this agency's director Mrs. Priscilla Lui was granted the Outstanding Service Award by ISPCAN which was presented in the ISPCAN 2006 Congress at the University of York, UK during the 16th ISPCAN Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect co-hosted by ISPCAN and BASPCAN. This is the result of the collaborative efforts of all members, staff and volunteers of ACA.

The ISPCAN 17th Congress will be co-organized by this agency and ISPCAN **from 7-10 September 2008** in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, and **the theme is Towards a Caring and Non-Violent Community: A Child's Perspective**. The first announcement has been issued. A special vote of thanks to the Hong Kong Tourist Board for all the advice and help they give us to make this congress known. Yet all efforts would have been futile without your contribution and keen participation. In the meantime we have obtained endorsements

including the Health and Welfare and Food Bureau and the Social Welfare Department, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Baptist University and the Chinese Universities. We are awaiting more replies and we appeal to your support in cash and in kind as we would need a large number of papers presentation, a large number of volunteers and a large sum of money to make this program a success in bringing to the world what children of Hong Kong need and what Hong Kong has achieved in child protection and children's rights and naturally to learn from them.

With the dedication and enthusiastic contributions of board and staff, this issue will cover the summary of another joyful and fruitful Annual Staff Retreat, with one session in Hong Kong and one in Macau, the Child Protection Centre, Macau Against Child Abuse. Let me invite you, if you have not already done so; become a member of this agency and a Friend of ACA. Refer to www.aca.org.hk Come to our **Next Annual General Meeting on 20 November 2006**, from 6:30pm. at the YMCA, Salisury Road, Kowloon, which will be **officiated by Ms Elsie Leung Oi Sei**. We have also invited **Mr Peter Newell, expert in campaigning against Corporal Punishment**, to share with us his 30 years of determination in this important endeavor. Do come to join us and share with us your views.

Summary of Major Activities for July to September 2006

Month	Project/Title	Activity
July	Service Users' Gathering 2006	Meeting and Barbecue at Whitehead Club on 8 July
	Press Conference on "Treasure Children, Take Value of Life"	The press conference held on 12 July in ACA head office
July to August	Children's Therapeutic Group - Knowing Me, Knowing You	6 group sessions from 18 July to 4 August
	Summer Programmes: Parent-Child Art & Craft Workshop	To enhance Parent-child understanding through art and craft emotional mask producing on 24, 31 July and 7 August
July to September	Child Safe: Prevention of Tragedy	Sponsored by Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charities Fund with the aim to prevent family tragedy by promoting child safety and non-violent discipline. Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games Day on Child Safety on 29 July • Children's Therapeutic Group: Knowing Me, Knowing You during 18 July and 4 August • Parent-Child Interactive Workshop on Non-violent Discipline on 2 September
	Project Teens: Violence Prevention	This project was sponsored by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education with the aims of preventing violence among teenagers and their parents by promoting non-violent conflict resolution. Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenagers Training Programme in August • Explorative Survey in September to November • Parent-Teenager Interactive Workshops in September to December
	ACA Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Programs for children and families • July to August : Volunteer recruitment • September : Volunteer Training

Month	Project/Title	Activity
July to September	Children's Council 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening of applications for Child Councillor 2006 in early July Briefing Session on 15 July Training programme between 20 July and 29 August
August	Parent-Child Museum Tour	To enhance general education through visit museum on 4 August
	14th International Baby / Children Products Expo	Held in HKCEC during 5 - 7 August, ACA has a booth for promotion
	Summer Programmes: Parent-Child Harmonious Tour	To enhance Parent-child communication through visit & handicraft making on 13 August
	Cottage life Experiential Day Camp	To experience the cottage life through the visit on 19 August
	Children empowerment work: Kid's Dream	Kids' Dream Launching Ceremony on 26 August
	Summer Programmes: Parent - Child Adventure Day Carry	To enhance Parent-child communication through adventure training on 26 August
August to September	Staff Retreat	<p>The staff retreat serves the purpose of reviewing and planning services and strengthening team spirit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Evaluation Meeting on 30 August Macau Tour on 23 September
August to October	Computer Recycling Scheme	ACA has joined the scheme as a follow-up agency. ACA has arranged training sessions for parents. To understand the computer usage and any other upcoming problem, home visits to the recipient families will be conducted and emotional support will be provided for them.
	Parental IT Programme	"Parental IT Programmes" were held for schools from 4 July to 26 August. Through presentation, video, discussion and case sharing, this programme aimed at enhances parents' knowledge on Information Technology, which helps their children for internet safety.
September	XVIIth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect hosted by BASPCAN	Theme of the Congress is "Children in a Changing World: Getting it Right" held in University of York, United Kingdom 3 - 6 September
September to October	Batterers Intervention Therapeutic Group	First two stages in 9 sessions (26/May - 7/July) and the third stage with 5 sessions (8/9 - 6/10). The purpose is to help those abusive parents with difficulties in child management.

Forthcoming Events for October to December 2006

Month	Project/Title	Activity
October	Financial World Expo 2006	A group of Elite Mentorship Program (EMP) students of Chinese University: BBA faculty organized a charity programme at the HKCEC by selling books from 6 - 8 October
	Press Conference on "Ban Corporal Punishment!"	Jointly held by ACA, Dr Edward Chan of The University of Hong Kong and Dr Hon Fernando Cheung, Legislative Councilor on 18 October calling to ban corporal punishment of children to actualize zero tolerance of violence.
	Flag Day	28 October, ACA approved to sell flag in N.T. District
October to December	Children's Council 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehearsal of Children's Council Meeting on 29 October Appointment Ceremony of Child Councillors 2006 on 4 November Children's Council Meeting cum Award Presentation Ceremony on 25 November
	Computer Recycling Scheme	As one of the follow-up agencies. ACA will arrange training sessions for parents. The training content includes basic computer operation, skills in handling conflicts about computer usage, Internet security and cyber ethics. To understand the computer usage and any other upcoming problem, home visits to the recipient families will be conducted and emotional support will be provided for them.

Month	Project/Title	Activity
October to December	Parental IT Programme	ACA will continue this programme, which aims at enhancing parents' understanding of and knowledge in child protection, ethical and legal issues involved in using IT.
	Junior Volunteer Group	"Junior Volunteer Group" is now recruiting new volunteers. Activities includes group trainings, services and X'mas party. Teenagers aged 9 - 16 are welcomed to join.
	Project Teens: Violence Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a Explorative Survey on 'Teens' conflicts and handling" • Organize three Parent-Teenager Interactive Workshops
	ACA Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Training • Mentor Review Meeting • Families Review Meeting • Publicity talk to schools • Mid-Autumn Festival hosted by K.F.C. Restaurant • Parent Education Training Program • Parent-child Workshop • Christmas Party • Visit Ocean Park
	Zero Tolerance of Violence against Children - Moving Beyond Physical and Humiliating Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing Forum on Banning Corporal Punishment on 21 November • November to December: Talks for parents and students
November	Norma Talk on "How to handle children with learning difficulties"	To provide opportunity for parents to learn some effective parenting knowledge and skills on 5 November
	27th Annual Press Conference	27th Annual Press Conference to be held at 4/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building on 18 November
	27th Annual General Meeting	27th Annual General Meeting cum Annual Dinner to be held at The Salisbury Road - YMCA in Tsim Sha Tsui on 20 November
November to December	Good Mother Sharing Time	The parent education training program was conducted by the Family Corner Volunteer Group of Tuen Mun Centre. To strengthen mothers in effective parenting and build up the mutual support network from 9 November to 14 December
December	Parent-child Christmas Party	To promote harmonious family through games and activities on 17 December
	Certificate Course on Child Sexual Abuse	3-session training course on child sexual abuse for professionals
	Visit Ocean Park	To enhance family communication of our service users through visiting Ocean Park on 27 and 29 December.

Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin (3 Years Project)

Sponsored by the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF)

With funding support from the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, Against Child Abuse (ACA) launches this three-year project "Safe and Child Friendly Community Project in Wong Tai Sin". This Project aims at developing a mutual help network and a safe and child friendly community in Wong Tai Sin District.

Competent volunteers will be identified and trained to be "Child Friendly Mentors". "Child Friendly Mentors" will support the children and families in need to build up

confidence to reach out and get to know the community and to utilize community resources. Besides, the mentors will encourage and empower them to expand their social network and increase their sense of belonging to the district.

The project will invite governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the commercial sector to form a core network group, to involve in the building of a safe and child friendly community collaboratively.

Research Findings

We worked with the research team of Dr Dennis Wong from City University of Hong Kong, Applied Social Studies to conduct an evaluation program for the project. In the first report, it evaluated that the project was in progress and satisfactory with positive feedback from participants including mentors, families, collaborators and local leaders. We were inspired in particular by the feedback from volunteer training that there were positive change on community involvement, knowledge and attitude.

Family Activities

Thanks to the Markant Trading Company (Far East) Limited for their sponsorship that the following programmes had been conducted in July and August : English Activity Classes (6 sessions), Parent-child Handicraft Class, Parent-child Paper Cement Class, Parent-child Sushi Class, Parent-child Computer Workshop and visit to City University, Badminton Activity. Besides, the volunteer team of Jebson & Co. had organized the trip to Welland. A total number of 294 attendances were recorded for the above programmes. Before the Mid-Autumn Festival, the volunteer team of Kentucky Fried Chicken hosted a party for the children and families on 5 October at their APM store. All these events showed the concern and support from the society to the families. We observed that children and parents had enjoyed the activities and these activities strengthened the understanding within the family and enriched the relationship among participated families.

Mentoring Programme (July to September 2006)

Since March 2006, mentors started to match children and families. These "person to person" contacts enabled the mentors to provide support and concern to families in need. Though it was a very initial stage of this supporting programme, we observed that trust and understanding had been built up. Mentors began to help children and families to explore more on their personal potentials and to expand their social network and resource.

Mentors besides showing genuine concern to families, provided practical support liked tuition to children and

provision of information of community resource. This helped to release the parent's tension in child management.

Volunteer Training Programme (September to December 2006)

The seven-session volunteer training programme had started from 30 September 2006. The training sessions included the following topics : understanding of child protection, developmental needs of children, children's right and participation, concept and safe and child friendly community, knowing community resources, non-violent conflict resolution tactics, mentoring programme and programme planning skills. A total number of 55 volunteers had been registered for the training programme.

Liaison with schools and children centres

Publicity materials were sent to primary schools and social service centres in the Wong Tai Sin for publicity and recruitment. The project team members paid visits to the followings for publicity, recruitment and parenting talk on non violent child management : SKH Kei Tak Primary School, TWS St. Bonaventure Catholic Primary School, Baptist Rainbow Primary School and Po Yan Primary School. We aim to arouse the concern of the related parties for a safe and child friendly community in Wong Tai Sin.

We are now recruiting families in needs and inviting corporates to join the project.

For enquiry and recruitment, please contact the project officers, Ms Lee Yee Ming or Ms Anthea Lam at 2351 6060 or visit our website : <http://www.aca.org.hk>.



CHILD SAFE: PREVENTION OF TRAGEDY

Sponsored by Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charities Fund

With the support from the Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charities Fund, we initiated the project to prevent family tragedy. The target districts were Wong Tai Sin and Yuen Long areas which had relatively higher report rate of child abuse. By implementing this project, we hope:

1. to involve children and youth participation in speaking out the importance of child safety

2. to promote non-violent child discipline in particular the parents/caretakers
3. to ensure a non-violent environment for children's growth and development
4. to provide therapeutic sessions for the at risk families and victims of violence



Games Day on Child Safety (29 Jul 2006 at Tin Shui Wai)

It was an educational mass programme with game booths, exhibition and mini-workshop which aims to ensure a non-violent environment for children's growth and development target for general family. Although it was a rainy day, the programme still reached over 700 people by receiving our publicity materials and joining our activities. Altogether 30 volunteers participated in the programme to deliver child safe information.

Children Therapeutic Group: Knowing Me, Knowing You (18 Jul to 4 Aug at Wong Tai Sin)

It was a treatment group based on an active learning approach, with an emphasis on skills development through group work and a variety of exercises and activities. This group intended to increase self-esteem, to explore attitudes and values on self and relationship and to build up trust among children so that they can support and share with each other in their learning.

There were 4 boys and 4 girls joining this group. The children were from age 7 to 9. They were mainly from the families receiving our counseling service. They attended 5 group sessions and 1 outing with their family members. The session topics included: the uniqueness of me, building self confidence, my family and I, feelings and emotions derived from abuse and conflict resolution. In the process, it was observed that children learned to respect, express and communicate. They could share their stories, ideas and feelings in the group. They learnt friendship in this group. On the last day of the group, children and their family members went for a day camp at the Lei Yue Mun Park & Holiday Village.

Parent-Child Interactive Workshop on Non-Violent Discipline (2 Sept 2006 at Tin Shui Wai)

This interactive workshop aimed at provides an opportunity for parent to understand the impact on children being disciplined with corporal punishment. Altogether, 50 children and parents (20 families) participated in the workshop. Communication games were arranged for them. While the parents were listening the alternative of effective parenting, a group of children were enjoying the empowerment activities on non-violent discipline. Through the feedback form filled out by the participants, it was evaluated most of them satisfied with the workshop in the areas of knowledge enhanced, attitude changed and skills learned.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charities Fund for their unfailing support to us on promoting child safety.

PROJECT TEENS: VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The project comprised three important components:

1. Teenagers Training Programme (August 2006)

More than 25 teenagers had completed a six 2-hour training sessions from 19 - 31 August 2006 (every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday). They had equipped with the knowledge of (i) teenagers' needs and development, (ii) teenagers' conflicts with parents and siblings, (iii) teenager's conflict with peers, (iv) effective and non-violent conflict resolutions, (v) skills of programme planning and (vi) ways and knowledge of conducting survey. With the knowledge gained, they were prepared to help out with the survey and parent-teenager interaction workshops.

Sponsored by The Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education



2. Explorative Survey (October - November 2006)

This survey aims to identify the prevalence of teenagers and children who experienced conflict with parents, sibling and peers and also their handling. The expected no. of respondents is 1,500.

3. Parent-teenager Interactive Workshops (October - December 2006)

The trained teenagers will organize parent-teenagers interactive workshops for targeted families to enhance their knowledge in (i) teenagers' conflicts with parents and siblings, (ii) teenagers' conflict with peers, and (iii) effective and non-violent conflict resolution.

Child Participation and Children Empowerment

Since the year 2000, Against Child Abuse, Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF and Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights have joined hands to promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and children's rights in Hong Kong by organizing child participation projects with the support and sponsorship of Home Affairs Bureau.

Children's Council 2006 Project

Sponsored by Home Affairs Bureau

The new batch of Child Councilors of the fourth Children's Council received a series of training activities between 20 July and 29 August after the briefing session held on 15 July 2006. The training programme aimed to enhance the Child Councilors' understanding of the UNCRC and children's rights, concepts of child participation as well as methods of collecting views from children. A children's forum, one of the training activities, was held on 19 August 2006 where Child Councilors collected ideas from younger children on what issues they were most concerned. 67 children from 7 organizations participated in the forum and one-third of them were ethnic minority children.

The Child Councilors have divided into four groups to work on four child-related subject topics that were formulated during the training for motion presentation and debate in the Children's Council Meeting this year. The topics were: the problem of childhood overweight in Hong Kong, smoking ban to protect children from the harms of second-hand smoke,



the negative influence of irresponsible media on children, and the need to improve parent-child relationships.

The Appointment Ceremony of Child Councilors 2006 was held on 4 November 2006. We were honoured to have Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs as the Guest of Honor to appoint the Child Councilors. The Children's Council Meeting cum Closing Ceremony will take place in the Council Chamber of The University of Hong Kong on 25 November 2006.

Summer Programmes of Tuen Mun

To build up the community network in Tuen Mun district, ACA Tuen Mun centre conducted parent-child activity in Summer Holiday. Five summer programmes were organized in July & August 2006, it included one teenager activity and four parent-child activities. Among five summer programmes, a teenager activity named "Cottage Life Experiential Day Camp" was evaluated that it was an innovative programme to attract teenager to participate, the programme was organized to visit cottage in Sheung Shui, the resident of cottage shared their experience in farm work with teenagers, it was an good opportunity for teenager to understand the cottage life. The participants of summer programmes were appreciated the programme design and volunteers contribution.



Service Users' Gathering 2006 cum Dinner

Sponsored by Protection of Angels Fund

This annual gathering was conducted on 8 July 2006 at the Whitehead Club for service users to share their experiences and expectations towards our services; to acknowledge service user contribution.

There were 89 service users including 57 adults and 32 children to join the event. In the event, a total number of 44 appreciation awards were presented to service users who had actively rendered volunteer service and positively changed the family relationship. In the gathering, volunteers and families receiving counselling service could exchange among each other on the service of ACA. They also had given promotion strategies of our service and children had a good time to play in the Club.



In the evening, service users shared barbecue. They appreciated the arrangement to share their experiences and know each other. Also, through the activity, participants could build up a stronger identification with ACA.

ACA Staff Retreat 2006



The Staff Retreat of this year was divided into two days. The Staff Evaluation Meeting had been held on 30 August, the aim is to review the service of the past year and plan that of the coming year of ACA. The Macau Retreat Tour was held on 23 September. In this tour, executive committee members and staff visited the newly established ACA Macau Centre, and shared with executive committee members and colleagues in Macau on our work and strengthened the team morale.

XVIth ISPCAN International Congress 2006 on Child Abuse and Neglect

Dr Patricia Ip, chairperson and Ms. Jessica Ho, agency supervisor had attended the XVIth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect held in York, United Kingdom from 3rd to 6th September 2006. The theme was 'Children in a Changing World: Getting it Right'. Around 800 delegates from all over the world participated in the Congress. A wide range of topics on policy, research, knowledge, and skills were addressed.

The keynote speakers were well known leaders, scholars, researchers and practitioners in the field. Dr Jaap Doek, chairperson of the United Nation Committee on the Children's Rights Convention addressed professionals' responsibility to protect children's rights. Professor Harendra De Silva shared child protection issues during natural disaster such as tsunami. Dr Howard Dubowitz addressed the concepts and challenges of confronting child neglect. Dr David Wolfe shared the innovative prevention programme for teenage and the role of schools and

communities to prevent child abuse and neglect. They were all inspiring and stimulating.

Mrs Priscilla Lui, director was awarded the ISPCAN Distinguished Services Award and it was presented in the Congress. It was an international recognition of Mrs Lui's effort to protect children from maltreatment.



The Congress was ended with the first announcement of the XVIIth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect 2008 which will be held in Hong Kong. A video was shown to introduce ACA, the co-organizer with ISPCAN and the venue, the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. We hope the coming Congress 2008 will be a success and we welcome all disciplines to join us in this meaningful event.

Zero Tolerance of Violence against Children

Moving Beyond Physical and Humiliating Punishment

Sponsored by Save the Children Sweden

The Project, launched from March 2006 to February 2007, to campaign proactively for the holistic growth and development of children in a caring non-violent environment. It appeals to the community to stop violence towards children, particularly against the use of physical and humiliating punishment as an acceptable means of discipline.



Talks

We will be conducting free talks for parents and parallel talks for children and their parents in primary schools and organizations between November 2006 and February 2007. The objectives are to appeal to stop corporal punishment towards children, to enhance the parents' understanding of positive child discipline and to teach children their rights and responsibilities. Interested individuals or schools / organizations who would like to invite us to conduct the talks, please feel free to contact Ms Kelly Leung or Ms Iris Lo at 2351 6060.

Training Workshop

We are going to organize a training workshop for professionals in the beginning of next year to raise frontline workers awareness and understanding of the issue of corporal punishment. Training kit will be provided to participants to facilitate their implementation of parent training programmes on positive and non-corporal punishment child discipline in a systematic way.

Press Conference on "Ban Corporal Punishment"

Against Child Abuse, Dr Edward Chan, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration of The University of Hong Kong and Dr Hon Fernando Cheung, Legislative Councilor jointly held the press conference on 18 October 2006 calling a ban on corporal punishment of children to actualize zero tolerance of violence. Dr Patricia Ip, Chairperson of ACA was the moderator in the press conference.

Responding to the death of a 10-year-old boy being punished by locking in a hard-shell suitcase for two hours, the three speakers including Mrs Priscilla Lui, Director of ACA, Dr Edward Chan and Dr Hon Fernando Cheung urged the prohibition of all corporal punishment of children in the community including at home. There are regulations prohibiting corporal punishment on children in child-care institution, school and the penal system, the same standard should apply when children are at home. However, there is no clear boundary between abuse and corporal punishment and also no law to stop people from

using corporal punishment against children in the home. It is easy to be trapped into committing a criminal offence without awareness. **It is necessary to clarify beyond all doubt that corporal punishment is illegal irrespective of where it occurs.** The press conference received good media coverage and aroused numerous discussions of the issue in the community.

