

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB465**

**(Question Serial No. 3647)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

- (1) Regarding the recreation and sports activities organised for persons with disabilities (PWDs) by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in the past 5 years, please provide information on the number of places, the types of activities, the number of places offered to non-government organisations (NGOs) and individuals respectively, and the number of individuals rejected due to insufficient places.
- (2) According to some PWDs, enrolment for the activities is restricted to designated locations at specific hours that are inconvenient to them. For instance, the locations are not readily accessible by wheelchair users and the hours specified are too early in the day. Does the Government regularly listen to the views of PWDs and make improvements accordingly (such as by allowing online enrolment)?
- (3) Regarding the ratio set on places offered to NGOs and individuals in recreation and sports activities organised for PWDs, what are the Government's reasons for setting such a ratio and will it review the ratio as appropriate? With subsidies from the Social Welfare Department or other government departments, NGOs should be able to organise some of the activities with their own manpower and resources. If a large ratio of the places in LCSD activities goes to NGOs, will it lead to a duplication of resources and inhibit the participation of individual PWDs?
- (4) Please provide the figures on the participation of PWDs in general recreation and sports activities in the past 5 years, and give information on the modes of assistance offered by the LCSD and an overview in this regard. What strategy does the Government have for promoting and facilitating the participation of PWDs in general recreation and sports activities?
- (5) What are the LCSD's existing policies on staff training, staff and resource considerations, and provision of barrier-free facilities and ancillary equipment for facilitating PWDs' participation in recreation and sports activities?

- (6) The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognises the right of PWDs to take part in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport. What is the Government's overall policy for promoting community participation of PWDs on an equal basis with others?

Asked by: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Member Question No. 537)

Reply:

- (1) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) organises a wide range of recreation and sports programmes for people of all ages and different abilities. As the programmes are open to the public, persons with disabilities (PWDs) may choose to enrol in any of the programmes which they consider suitable according to their respective interest, level of ability and the programme requirements. Apart from these programmes, the LCSD also organises programmes specifically for PWDs. They include swimming, aerobic dance, fitness exercise, hydro-fitness, social dance, tai chi, badminton, table tennis, gateball, camping, excursions and outreaching activities. Regarding the programmes for PWDs in the past 5 years, the LCSD has offered around 70 000 places on average in a year. However, the LCSD does not have a breakdown of the number of places offered to NGOs and individual PWDs. And, the LCSD does not have record on the number of individuals rejected due to insufficient places.
- (2) The LCSD provides several channels to the public for enrollment of recreation and sports programmes. They include enrolment at booking counters at District Leisure Services Offices and various recreation and sports venues with Leisure Link Services, through telephone, internet and Self-service Kiosk. To facilitate the enrolment of programmes specially designed for PWDs, the related organisations in the districts will render assistance on the enrolment of PWDs at their centres while other PWDs can enrol directly at the LCSD's District Leisure Services Offices. The LCSD will continue to review and closely liaise with the organisations concerned on the arrangement.
- (3) To encourage active participation of PWDs, the LCSD accords the enrolment priority to the related organisations in the districts to allow them to enroll not more than 80% of the available places for PWDs. The remaining places, i.e. at least 20% of the places, will be opened for individual PWDs to subscribe on a first-come-first-served basis. The LCSD has not received complaints that the places for individual PWDs are insufficient. The LCSD will review the above arrangement regularly and will make adjustment when needed.
- (4) The LCSD all along promotes Sport for All and organises diversified recreation and sports programmes for the members of the public including PWDs. The LCSD does not have record on the number of PWDs participated in general recreation and sports programmes. To encourage the participation of PWDs and help them develop the habit for doing regular exercises, the LCSD offers PWDs concessionary rate for hiring the LCSD's recreation and sports facilities or enrolment in its fee-charging programmes. The recreation and sports programmes organised by the LCSD are publicized in the monthly Community R&S Programmes Booklet which is freely distributed at district offices and leisure venues in each month. Besides, PWDs can

also visit the LCSD website for these programmes.

- (5) The LCSD has provided on-the-job training for its staff on the planning and provision of recreation and sports activities for PWDs. The LCSD has also employed qualified instructors for training courses designed for PWDs. Barrier-free access and suitable ancillary facilities for PWDs are also provided at the LCSD leisure venues.
- (6) In order to encourage the public to cultivate a habit of regular exercise, the LCSD organises a wide range of recreation and sports programmes for people of different age groups and levels of ability including PWDs. In addition to the provision of barrier free access at major sports venues, the LCSD offers concessionary rates to PWDs and their minders for hiring of facilities and enrolment in recreation and sports programmes. In May 2015, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) commissioned a consultancy study on the promotion of sports for PWDs. The consultant has produced a draft report for comments by the major stakeholders and will revise the draft report in the light of the comments received. They will submit a final report to HAB later this year. Upon completion of the study, the HAB will work out the proposals on promotion of sports for PWDs.

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