

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB397

(Question Serial No. 4765)

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 subsidises 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: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 4061)

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, 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, LCSD has offered around 70 000 places on average every year. LCSD does not have a breakdown on the number of places offered to NGOs and individual PWDs. LCSD does not have record on the number of individuals rejected due to insufficient places.
2. Enrolment of LCSD's recreation and sports programmes can be made through several channels including internet, self-service kiosks and booking counters at LCSD's District Leisure Services Offices and leisure venues with Leisure Link Services. To facilitate the enrolment of programmes specially designed for PWDs, the partner organisations will also render assistance in the enrolment of PWDs at their centres. LCSD will continue to review and closely liaise with the organisations concerned on the arrangement.
3. To enhance the relevance of and participation in programmes for PWD, LCSD currently partners with disability organisations to organise community recreation and sports programmes. Members of these partner organisations are allowed up to 80% of the programme quota, while individual PWDs may subscribe to the remainder (i.e. at least 20%) on a first-come-first-served basis. LCSD monitors the enrolment regularly and makes adjustment for individual programmes when necessary. The arrangement has been working smoothly.
4. & 6. LCSD all along promotes Sport for All and organises a wide range of recreation and sports programmes for people of different age groups and levels of ability including PWDs. LCSD does not have separate 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 of doing regular exercises, LCSD offers PWDs concessionary rate and their minders for hiring LCSD's recreation and sports facilities or enrolment in its fee-charging programmes.

Besides, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) commissioned a consultancy study on the promotion of sports participation by PWDs in 2015. Following the completion of the consultancy study and related public consultation, HAB developed in collaboration with stakeholders a detailed work plan to take forward the recommendations of the consultancy. Some of the key measures which have been

implemented by LCSD in the past 2 years include –

- a dedicated webpage was developed on LCSD's website to provide a one-stop relevant information source for PWDs to know more about the activities suitable for PWDs and ancillary facilities available at various venues, thereby increasing their interest in sports participation;
- cross-district registration arrangements for PWDs were introduced to facilitate their enrollment in recreation and sports activities; and
- a pilot scheme on priority booking was launched to enable relevant organisations to enjoy priority in booking specified LCSD sports venues for non-peak-hour sessions for organising sports activities for PWDs.

5. LCSD provides on-the-job training for its staff to enhance their understanding of PWDs in organising related sports activities. LCSD also employs qualified instructors for training courses designed for PWDs. To ensure that consistent services are provided, LCSD has issued guidelines on the organisation of recreation and sports activities for PWDs. The guidelines set out in detail on the planning, implementation and arrangement of the activities jointly organised with disabled organisations, and serve as a reference for staff involved in the implementation of activities. Barrier-free access and suitable ancillary facilities for PWDs are provided at LCSD leisure venues. All LCSD leisure venues built after 2008 are in compliance with the requirements of the prevailing design manual. As for leisure venues built before 2008, LCSD has arranged improvement works in the form of renovation or alterations insofar as the geographical environment, architectural conditions and technologies permit.

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