

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB318

(Question Serial No. 5671)

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 (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

1. Please provide the figures on the participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in general recreation and sports activities in the past 5 years, and give information on the modes of assistance offered by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (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?
2. In addition to barrier-free access, has the LCSD acquired sports equipment, auxiliary aids or adaptive tools for different types of PWDs so that they can as well participate in general recreation and sports activities organised by the LCSD? If so, please list the types of equipment acquired. If not, what are the reasons?
3. How does the LCSD deal with cases in which PWDs are prevented from participating in general recreation and sports activities organised by the LCSD due to the lack of proper sports equipment, auxiliary aids or adaptive tools?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 924)

Reply:

1. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is committed to promoting "Sport for All" and organising diversified recreation and sports programmes for people of all ages and different abilities including persons with disabilities (PWDs). As the programmes are open to the public, PWDs may choose to participate according to their respective interest, level of ability and the programme requirements. The LCSD does not have separate record on the number of PWDs participating in general recreation and sports programmes. To encourage the participation of PWDs in sports and help them develop the habit of regular exercise, the LCSD offers concessionary rates to PWDs and their minders for hiring LCSD recreation and sports facilities or enrolment in its fee-charging programmes. Since 2018, apart from introducing cross-district and online enrolment arrangements to facilitate programme enrolment for PWDs, the LCSD has also developed a dedicated webpage as a one-stop platform to provide

PWDs with information about the activities and facilities suitable for them. Besides, various sports training programmes targeted at PWDs with different types of disabilities have been launched on a pilot basis since 2018-19, offering PWDs with more opportunities to participate in sports programmes. The LCSD has also launched a pilot scheme for priority booking of facilities at designated venues by organisations of PWDs to give relevant organisations booking priority at 6 designated LCSD sports centres during non-peak slots. These designated venues, namely Chai Wan Sports Centre, Shun Lee Tsuen Sports Centre, Yuen Chau Kok Sports Centre, Yuen Long Sports Centre, Ap Lei Chau Sports Centre and Tsing Yi Southwest Sports Centre, are equipped with ancillary facilities suitable for PWDs.

2. In order to cater for the needs of people with different types of disability, the LCSD has provided suitable ancillary facilities and equipment for use by PWDs when they participate in the LCSD's general recreation and sports activities organised at the LCSD leisure venues. For instance, facilities including pool lifts/ramps designed to facilitate access to swimming pools are provided at some public swimming pools and swimming aids specifically for use in swimming training are available for use by swimmers with disabilities. Ramps are provided at bowling greens to facilitate access by wheelchair users. Fitness equipment suitable for shared use by PWDs is also provided in some sports centres.
3. The LCSD organises activities designed for all walks of life and care is exercised to cater for the needs of participants. The Department has no record on any cases that PWDs are prevented from participating in general recreation and sports activities organised by the LCSD.

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