

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB492

(Question Serial No. 5661)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (YAU Chi-chiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Will the Correctional Services Department extend correctional education service (including vocational training) from young persons in custody to all adult persons in custody?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 346)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) encourages adult persons in custody to pursue further studies on a voluntary basis and take public examinations or enrol in university distance learning courses under the users-pay principle. The Department has set up a number of education funds for persons in custody to apply for financial assistance to assist them if they want to pursue further studies but have difficulties in paying for public examination fees, the examination and tuition fees for university distance learning courses or purchasing reference books. These funds are contributed by donations from charitable organisations and members of the public.

Since 2009, CSD has extended vocational training to eligible adult persons in custody and encouraged their voluntary participation so as to enhance their employability after release. In 2015-16, having regard to the situation of the local employment market, CSD worked with various training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council to provide eligible adult persons in custody with remaining sentences from 3 to 24 months with more than 1 400 training places of 38 full-time and part-time vocational training courses for enrolment on a voluntary basis after assessment of the security risk. These courses covered the construction, business, food and beverage, retail, tourism, beauty care and logistics sectors, etc. Arrangements were made to facilitate the enrolled persons in custody to sit for the relevant examinations so as to obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and facilitating their smooth re-integration into society after discharge. In 2015-16, there were new courses on Pet Groomer and Shop Assistant Training, Elementary Dim Sum Making, Presentation Software Application and Computer Drawing and Drawings Management Training, etc.

In 2016-17, having regard to the needs of the local employment market and to cater for industries with labour shortage problems, CSD will continue to offer diversified vocational training courses such as courses on Florist and Floriculture Assistant Training, Coffee House Operations and Decorative Waterproof Worker Training for Renovation, etc.

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