

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2168)

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:

The success rates of drug addiction treatment centres of the Correctional Services Department have often remained low in recent years. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Has the Government reviewed the reasons for the low success rates? If yes, what are the reasons? If no, what are the reasons?
2. What initiatives will the Government adopt to enhance the success rates?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis (Member Question No. 77)

Reply:

According to the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres (DATC) Ordinance (Cap 244), the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has to provide 2 to 12 months' drug addiction treatment for persons in custody (PICs) in DATC. After leaving the institution, they will be subject to 12 months' post-release supervision. During the supervision period, supervising officers will provide assistance to supervisees regarding their adaptation to society, family relationship and employment issues after leaving DATC. They also supervise and urge them to comply with requirements of supervision orders, help them re-integrate into society, and stay away from drugs and crimes.

A DATC case is considered successful if the supervisee is able to meet the requirements of "not relapsing to drug abuse" and "not having committed any offence against the laws of Hong Kong" during the statutory one-year supervision period after release. The success rates of DATC programmes are affected by a number of personal and social factors, which include the criminal conviction and drug abuse history of supervisees (such as the duration of drug abuse history and the nature of their offences, etc.), the motivation and determination of supervisees to stay away from drugs, the support of the community and their family members, as well as peer group influences, etc.

In recent years, CSD has proactively implemented various measures such as enhancing the Pre-release Re-integration Orientation Course and strengthening counselling services for PICs, organising enhanced anti-drug groups for recalled supervisees at DATC to reinforce their determination to stay away from drugs. Moreover, CSD also stepped up the checking and surveillance of drug testing procedures of supervisees. In September 2016, CSD commissioned a local university to conduct a two-year “Consultancy on Review and Development of Rehabilitation Programmes provided for Drug Addiction Treatment Centres Programme” to review the rehabilitation programmes implemented by DATC under CSD, with a view to enhancing the contents of the programmes.

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