

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB331**

**(Question Serial No. 4860)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please tabulate details of activities that promote anti-smoking messages to persons in custody, the prisons or correctional institutions involved and the expenditure incurred in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 2007)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to ensuring a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy custodial environment. For the health of persons in custody (PICs), CSD has proactively supported the Government's policy of tobacco control by setting up a Steering Committee on Smoking Control Measures in Correctional Facilities in 2010 to implement and monitor tobacco control measures. Educational talks and individual counselling are arranged for PICs to encourage and help them quit smoking. Through publicity work and education (such as inclusion of smoking cessation talks in the Induction Programme, as well as the display of publicity posters and organisation of poster design competitions), CSD actively promotes a smoke-free culture among PICs and enhances their awareness of the harmful effects of smoking.

In October 2011, CSD also implemented a smoking cessation counselling programme under which nicotine patches were provided to PICs who participated in smoking cessation courses. Besides, Tung Tau Correctional Institution and Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution were officially designated as "No Smoking Correctional Facility" in January 2013 and December 2014 respectively to accommodate only non-smoking PICs. CSD has also progressively set up "Smoke-free Prison Zone" in the designated areas of other institutions, and such arrangements are already in place in Stanley Prison and Lo Wu Correctional Institution. Smoking is not allowed in all institutions for young PICs.

CSD deploys existing resources to carry out anti-smoking publicity work. From 2013-14 to 2017-18, the total expenditure on purchasing nicotine patches for PICs who participated

in smoking cessation courses was about \$296,000. The revised estimated expenditure for 2018-19 was \$60,000.

In February 2017, CSD was awarded the Gold Award in the Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards 2016 organised by the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) together with the Occupational Safety and Health Council, as an encouragement to the Department to keep up its promotion of a smoke-free culture. To step up its work in anti-smoking promotion, CSD has installed the Quit Smoking Mobile App launched by the Tobacco Control Office under the Department of Health on tablets since 2018 for use by newly admitted adult PICs and those who participate in the smoking cessation counselling programme, so as to deepen PICs' understanding of the harmful effects of smoking. Moreover, CSD includes an Announcement in the Public Interest (API) on smoking cessation prepared by the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office under the Department of Health before showing TV programmes to PICs to encourage them to quit smoking. In October 2018, CSD joined the "Quit to Win" Smoke-free Community Campaign organised by COSH, the University of Hong Kong (HKU) School of Nursing and the HKU School of Public Health to encourage and help PICs quit smoking. The campaign's expenditure was mainly borne by COSH, the HKU School of Nursing and the HKU School of Public Health, while CSD deployed existing resources to help implement the campaign in the institutions. Of the 30 PICs who signed up, 24 have been verified by the organisers to have quit smoking successfully, representing a success rate of 80%.

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