

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB727

(Question Serial No. 5735)

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 expenditures incurred in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 562)

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 on tobacco control by setting up the Steering Committee on Smoking Control Measures in Correctional Facilities in 2010 to implement and monitor tobacco control measures. Educational talks and individual counselling are conducted to encourage and assist PICs to quit smoking. Through publicity and education (such as inclusion of a smoking cessation talk in the Induction Programme, as well as the display of 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 to provide nicotine patches for use by PICs 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 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 2014-15

to 2018-19, the total expenditure on purchasing nicotine patches for use by PICs participated in smoking cessation courses was about \$278,000. The revised estimated expenditure for 2019-20 was \$30,000.

In February 2017, CSD was awarded the Gold Award in the Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards 2016 co-organised by the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Council, as an encouragement to the Department for keeping up its efforts in promoting a smoke-free culture. To step up the publicity of anti-smoking, CSD has installed on tablets the Quit Smoking Mobile App launched by the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of the Department of Health (DH) since 2018 for use by newly admitted adult PICs and those participated in the smoking cessation counselling programme, so as to deepen PICs' understanding of the harmful effects of smoking. Moreover, an Announcement in the Public Interest on smoking cessation prepared by the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of DH is broadcast before TV programmes to encourage PICs to quit smoking. In October 2018, CSD joined the "Quit to Win" Smoke-free Community Campaign co-organised by COSH, the University of Hong Kong (HKU) School of Nursing and the HKU School of Public Health to encourage and assist PICs to 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. To further promote a smoke-free culture, CSD incorporates family elements into the campaign by inviting PICs' family members to attend the relevant activities to witness the efforts of PICs in the journey to quitting smoking. In the past 2 years, a total of 84 PICs from 4 institutions participated in the campaign, 57 of them were verified to be successful in quitting smoking by the organiser, representing a success rate of nearly 70%. CSD is actively considering extending the campaign to other correctional institutions in the coming year.

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