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## Advocacy

### Support the establishment of "Commission on Children"

The Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address announced the government's plan to establish a "Commission on Children" by mid-2018 to amalgamate the efforts made by relevant bureaux/departments and child concern groups, and focus on addressing children's issues as they grow. Chih Ai Parents' Association has always paid attention to the policy development and rights of infants and children with special needs. On 12 December, 2017, Chairperson Ms Ho Wing Sheung, and Executive Committee member of the Board, Ms Tang Siu Chi, attended the "Establishment of Commission on Children - Public Engagement Forum for the general public". At the forum, Ms Ho Wing Sheung expressed her views and concerns as a caregiver for children with special needs. Meanwhile, Ms Ho, on behalf of Chih Ai Parents' Association, also expressed her views on the role and work expected of the Commission.

The views of Chih Ai Parents' Association on the "Establishment of Commission on Children" are as follows:

1. In response to the physiological and psychological care of children with special needs and the operation of the current schooling system, we recommend that the Commission on Children, in keeping with the definition of child's age in the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child, set the primary target group as children under 18 years of age.
2. We expect the Commission on Children to discuss with policy bureaux and formulate relevant policies as soon as possible on the issue of "special education legislation" so that children with special needs can receive appropriate support and enjoy the same learning opportunities as ordinary children, to develop their potential.
3. In view of the rather insufficient resources in the implementation of support services for integrated education and the varying quality of support services provided by schools, we hope that the Commission can strengthen cooperation with Education Bureau to enhance the transparency and monitoring of integrated education in schools.
4. We recommend the Commission to proactively consider stepping up its support measures for parents in the community, in particular parents of children with special needs, so as to enhance their parenting skills and alleviate the pressure of care.
5. We expect the Commission to be equipped with legal authority and to take the protection of the rights and interests of children as a priority in order to conduct investigations and follow-up on issues relating to children's affairs.
6. In the formation of the Commission on Children, we expect the Commission to provide more platforms for children's participation, collect children's views and let them express their views to the Commission so as to ensure that children's voices are taken seriously.
7. Finally, we hope that the Commission can maintain close cooperation and communication with the bureaux/departments in the future to jointly formulate and implement policies and measures on children's affairs.

Note:

Chih Ai Parents' Association is a parents' mutual help organisation founded in 1982 by a group of parents engaged in the "Infant Stimulation and Parent Effectiveness Training Service" of the Hong Kong Christian Service and is now affiliated with the Hong Kong Christian Service.



Chairperson, Ms Ho Wing Sheung expresses her opinions as a carer for children with special needs and the concerns of the Association



Chairperson, Ms Ho Wing Sheung (left) and Ms Tang Siu Chi, Executive Committee member, attend the "Establishment of Commission on Children - Public Engagement Forum for the general public"