

## *Social Service for the Elderly – 2007 Liberalization Measures*

### **1. What is the liberalization measure for the elderly service sector under the Supplement IV to CEPA?**

Under the Supplement IV to CEPA, Hong Kong Service Suppliers (HKSSs) are allowed to operate elderly service agencies in the form of wholly-owned private non-enterprise units to provide elderly services in Guangdong Province.

### **2. How can HKSSs benefit from the new liberalization measures?**

Before the Supplement IV to CEPA, HKSSs could only register as private companies if they wanted to operate on a wholly-owned basis in the Mainland. Under the Supplement IV to CEPA, HKSSs can operate elderly service agencies that provide residential or community services in Guangdong as private non-enterprise units. Such HKSS-run elderly service agencies will be entitled to the same prevailing preferential treatments granted by the Guangdong Province authorities to other social welfare agencies.

### **3. What entities can benefit from the new liberalization measure?**

The new liberalization measure will benefit entities that are holders of valid licences of residential care home for the elderly issued by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap 459), holders of valid certificates of registration of nursing home issued by the Department of Health under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance (Cap 165), and non-government organizations that provide elderly services subsidized by SWD. They must meet the definition of HKSSs under CEPA and have engaged in substantive elderly services in Hong Kong for no less than three years.

### **4. What is a “private non-enterprise unit”?**

Under the Provisional Regulation Concerning the Registration and Administration of Private Non-enterprise Units promulgated by

the State Council, a private non-enterprise unit is a community organization established by enterprises, public service units, social organizations and other community forces and individual citizens with non-state assets to engage in non-profit service activities.

**5. To which Mainland authorities should HKSSs submit their applications under CEPA?**

The Department of Civil Affairs of Guangdong Province is the managing agency for this liberalization measure. It has published a guideline on applications by Hong Kong agencies to provide elderly services in Guangdong Province under CEPA. For details, please refer to its website (in Chinese only):  
[http://www.gdmz.gov.cn/wsbg/bszn/shfl/200802/t20080227\\_13859.htm](http://www.gdmz.gov.cn/wsbg/bszn/shfl/200802/t20080227_13859.htm)

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