

Social Service for Persons with Disabilities – 2008 Liberalization Measures

1. What is the liberalization measure for the social service sector under the Supplement V to CEPA?

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

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

Before the Supplement V to CEPA, HKSSs could only register as private companies if they wanted to operate on a wholly-owned basis to provide rehabilitation services in the Mainland. Under the Supplement V to CEPA, HKSSs can operate rehabilitation service agencies that provide residential or community services in Guangdong as private non-enterprise units. Such HKSS-run rehabilitation 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 rehabilitation service operators meeting the definition of HKSSs under CEPA and have engaged in substantive rehabilitation services in Hong Kong for no less than three years. Further details will be announced.

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.