

## .Calendar.

**XXXIX<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Advisory Council on AIDS  
(ACA)**

2:30pm 22 March 2002

**VIII<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AIDS  
Prevention and Care  
Committee (APCC)**

6pm 24 January 2002 (to be confirmed)

**XXIV<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Scientific Committee on  
AIDS (SCA)**

2:30pm 17 January 2002

**VII<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Committee on Promoting  
Acceptance of People  
Living with HIV/AIDS (CPA)**

2:30pm 7 February 2002

## Highlights of this issue:

- \* Strategy development on page 4
- \* Mainland visitors on page 2
- \* The 38th Meeting on page 2

## The New Year

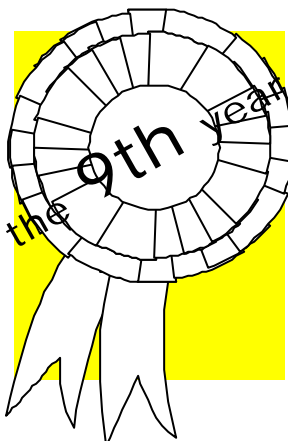
IN the first issue of *ACA Newsfile* published in January 1994, the editor expressed that there was an "urgent need of streamlining the operations and coordinating all personnel and participating so as to achieve the best effectiveness in the implementation of its activities". It was tentatively decided that the newsletter should "appear monthly or bimonthly for circulation to members of the Advisory Council on AIDS and its committees, and working groups"

As an *amateur* publisher (the same term used in the first issue), we could proudly say today that we have been able to produce the same newsletter for eight long years without interruption. The four-page (well, occasionally we printed more) newsletter is now a regular production of the Council's Secretariat, released through the assistance of the Red Ribbon Centre, which regularly produces a good range of other periodicals for different target audience. It can also be viewed from the Council's webpage [www.aca-hk.com](http://www.aca-hk.com).


Do we have any improvement plan? Once we were asked to turn *ACA Newsfile* into a bilingual newsletter. Unfortunately, the editor had to humbly decline (unless the readers want a less frequent periodical) because of the tiny size and limited capacity of the Secretariat. We have also chosen to continue with the cheapest means of production, and certainly, the most humble quality when compared with newsletters produced by any other organisations in the same field. In return we commit to serve the role as a regular link both within Advisory Council on AIDS, and between the Council and others interested in or working on AIDS in Hong Kong (and elsewhere!). With that commitment, we present the 97th issue of the *ACA Newsfile*.

Birthday greetings to *ACA Newsfile*! And wishing everyone another successful year.

- the editor



## Methadone Review on CD

THE Ribbon Centre has, (with permission) produced a CD version of the *Report on Review of Methadone Treatment Programme* (commissioned by the Narcotics Division of Security Bureau). This is a more convenient resource than the very thick hard copy. If you want a copy, please let Red Ribbon Centre know. 

Advisory Council on AIDS website  
[www.aca-hk.com](http://www.aca-hk.com)





## 38th Meeting

THE 38th Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS was held on 14 December. There were three main agenda items - (a) ACA responses to the prioritisation developed by the Community Planning Committee (CPC); (b) proposed strategies for HIV Prevention, Care and Control, 2002-2006; and (c) two conference reports.

The ACA responded to the prioritisation developed by the CPC in its seven-point resolutions which had been published in the October 2001 issue of *ACA Newsfile* (vol 8 page 48). The Council revisited the paper and formally confirmed the contents. There was discussion about the prioritised activities, and some members inquired if these might need to be ranked in order. The Council considered that the prioritised activities had reflected the views of the community after a long process of deliberation based on established criteria. It was resolved therefore that revision should not be proposed by the Council, or any party. If, in the event that projects are submitted for funding consideration, it was felt necessary that the funding agency should take reference from the prioritisation of the CPC. The support (or otherwise) of each project should then be judged on its design, management system, costing, and other factors that might affect the effectiveness of the activity.

The Council then examined a draft document on the recommended strategies for HIV prevention, care and control in Hong Kong for the next five years. Members noted that this was a continuous process that had followed from the implementation of the last strategy published in 1999. The document was prepared after a series of meetings of the Council chairman and committee chairs. Its summary is printed on page 4 of this issue of *ACA Newsfile*. There was active discussion about the specific goal of the strategies, the feasibility of having quantitative targets, the practicability of holding regional conference as a means of networking the Mainland. It was resolved that the strategies would be revised after receiving comments from the committees and NGOs. [An open forum is tentatively scheduled for 22 January].

Two conference reports were presented at the Meeting. Professor YL Lau gave a report of his participation in the last Melbourne Conference. The meeting noted the following recommendations, after taking reference from the lessons in Australia and the Asia Pacific Region: (a) the urgency of introducing harm reduction in preventing HIV infection, (b) the need for a research agenda, and (c) the importance of poverty and gender issues as the perspectives in strategy development. The incorporation of these lessons in the new strategies under preparation is being explored.

For the third agenda item, the chairman and the secretary briefed members on the China National Conference (see last issue of *ACA Newsfile*) held in Beijing in November 2001. The meeting discussed about the pressing need and possible means of working closely with the Mainland in the coming years. The idea has also been incorporated in the draft recommended strategies.

Members noted that the fourth term of office of the Advisory Council on AIDS would be coming to an end in July 2002. There would be another two (or three if necessary) Council meetings, the focus of which would be the recommended strategies for year 2002 to 2006. The Committees would also be examining their progress with the activities that were proposed at the beginning of the term in 1999. ⌘

### Fujian Visitors

A Fujian delegation from the Provincial Health Bureau was in Hong Kong between 15 and 18 December 2001. The delegation was taking reference from Hong Kong's experience in the prevention, care and control of HIV/AIDS.

The delegation had lunch with Red Ribbon Centre staff and Rev Chu Yiu Ming, and ACA member, on 15 December. In the afternoon, Dr Homer Tso, ACA Chairman, introduced the process of HIV policy development in Hong Kong, and had discussions on subjects of common interest, including fighting discrimination, prevention, and surveillance.

The delegation visited Integrated Treatment Centre, Yaumatei AIDS Counselling and Hotline Services, Red Ribbon Centre, Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service, Methadone Clinic, and Social Hygiene Service during their short stay in Hong Kong. ⌘

### I Care, do you?

WHERE were you on World AIDS Day?

The Chairman and Council members participated in numerous activities to show that there're people who care!! They were at the AIDS Foundation's "Beautiful Life" performance featuring people living with HIV/AIDS, the launching of 27802211.com in Tseung Kwan O, and the publicity on AIDS Concern's video for truck drivers...among other events. Where were you? ⌘

## International AIDS Conference 2002

The XIV<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference would be held in Barcelona from 7 to 12 July 2002. For those who are planning to go, please note the following important dates:

- DEADLINE for abstract submission on diskette - 14 January 2002
- DEADLINE for abstract submission on-line - 21 January 2002
- DEADLINE for scholarship application - 1 February 2002
- DEADLINE for advance registration - 1 February 2002

And, in case you want more information, please visit the Conference's website:  
[www.aids2002.com](http://www.aids2002.com) ☞

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collaboration on professional level, and the building of capacity that would benefit programmes in any province, city, region or zone in Greater China.

A list of 11 targets have been proposed in the draft strategies for the purpose of monitoring Hong Kong's progress in AIDS programme development in the coming years. These indicators are: (1) establish programme indicators, (2) implement the second cycle of community planning, (3) develop technical review mechanism to support funding of effective activities, (4) adopt harm reduction strategy, (5) develop sex education framework to integrate HIV prevention, (6) enhance the involvement of mainstream service organisations, (7) provide technical

assistance to support agencies working on HIV/AIDS, (8) establish research agenda on AIDS, (9) integrate HIV in clinical and public health medicine, (10) widen access to HIV testing, and (11) organise regional conference to bring Hong Kong and the Mainland together.

A total of seven questions have been raised to facilitate the process of collecting views from individuals and agencies. Respondents may choose to answer these questions, or provide input on any areas of the draft. The three committees of the Council would also be discussing about the document in their coming meetings. The responses should reach the Council Secretariat on or before 10 February 2002. ☞

### **Reported HIV/AIDS Statistics updated 30 September 2001**

		HIV		AIDS	
		total / last quarter		total / last quarter	
<b>Gender</b>	male	1386	39	476	16
	female	307	18	68	4
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	1167	36	422	18
	non-Chinese	526	21	122	2
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	966	33	358	18
	homosexual	326	11	94	0
	bisexual	80	1	28	1
	injecting drug use	43	3	9	0
	blood/b products	68	0	19	0
	perinatal	14	1	6	0
	undetermined	196	8	30	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1693</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>20</b>

**NOTE:**

The "total" refers to the cumulative total number reported since 1984, under the voluntary HIV/AIDS Reporting System. "Last quarter" refers to the period July to September 2001. The "AIDS" number is a subset of the "HIV numbers" and the two should not be added.

**SOURCE:**

Special Preventive Programmes, Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR Government

# Strategies for 2002 to 2006

Following the 38th meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS held on 14 December, a draft document has been released to promote discussion and collect views on a new set of recommended strategies on HIV prevention, care and control in Hong Kong, for the years 2002 to 2006. The draft document is distributed to all members of the Council, the three committees, and the task forces, plus NGOs working on HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. The following is a summary of what the draft document is about, in the eyes of the Secretariat. In case of queries, the original document (Draft for discussion - Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2002 to 2006) should be referred.

- the editor

In preparing the recommended strategies for 2002 to 2006, the Advisory Council has proposed a simple framework which encompasses a goal, a set of guiding principles, four objectives, and a list of targets for monitoring the progress. The draft document is composed of five chapters, beginning with a review of the process of programme development, the HIV situation in Hong Kong and globally, and then the strategies for the coming years.

First of all, what should be the goal of the new strategies? In the draft paper, it was proposed that the goal was to develop an effective programme in response to HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. Other options have been considered, for example, to maintain a low HIV prevalence in the territory.

The guiding principles have followed from previous strategies, while taking reference from new principles established internationally.

These principles, proposed in the draft, are: (a) a prevention-and-care continuum, (b) addressing vulnerability and risk, (c) promoting acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS, (d) focus on professional standard, (e) emphasis on effectiveness, (g) observance of solidarity.

In drafting the strategy objectives, the Council proposes to work on existing strengths of the programmes in Hong Kong, and to aim for an effective and sustained response in the future. These are important as HIV/AIDS is going to be with us for a long time. Development of a longer term plan rather than an immediate response would be sensible. Hong Kong's experience in the last decade is certainly the best treasure to help us face future challenge. The four objectives are: (a) targeted intervention, (b) evidence-based programme development, (c) integrative approach, and (d) interfacing the Mainland.

Targeted intervention is the strategy for an effective response in low prevalence populations. The following measures would be important - intervention targeting people practising risk behaviours, prevention activities for people living with HIV/AIDS, wider access to HIV testing, and treatment services for people living with the infection. The strategy should not be interpreted to imply that general awareness is becoming unimportant, as the latter certainly serves the functions of creating a supportive environment, agenda-setting, and promoting a sustained response in the community.

Evidence-based programme development could be achieved through an emphasis on science, and the translation of research

results into interventions. It's proposed to develop processes of technical review to guide the assessment of project plans. A proactive approach should be adopted to invite the development of proposals based on results of quality research. Finally funding of strategic research would be a new area to be pursued in Hong Kong.

An integrative approach in AIDS programme development would be the key to sustainability. At policy level, this would mean the adoption of harm reduction as a strategy in Hong Kong, and the development of sexual health strategy for integration of activities in related fields. The involvement of mainstream NGOs, medical and public health agencies would also need to be enhanced.

The interface with Mainland is knowingly one important strategy to be pursued in the coming years. HIV/AIDS knows no geographical nor political barriers. The intensive human mobility within the country is a matter of concern. There would need to be commitment and innovation to ensure that an effective interface with Mainland could be developed. A simplistic way of viewing the interface has focused on just the worry about HIV spreading to Hong Kong. In the future there would certainly more to gain by emphasising on the

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