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## Adoption of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011

ACA at its 58<sup>th</sup> meeting endorsed the adoption of the new strategies which have been uploaded to the website: [www.info.gov.hk/aids](http://www.info.gov.hk/aids) for public viewing since 27 April 2007. The document is intended to serve as a blueprint for guiding, improving and better coordinating the HIV programme in Hong Kong for the next few years. In this connection, Hong Kong’s HIV programme refers to the collective efforts of all agencies on HIV prevention, care and control.

In preparing the strategies, ACA has taken reference from previous strategy documents, an estimation and projection of HIV/AIDS situation in Hong Kong, a community assessment and evaluation exercise and extensive consultations

with Government bureaux and departments, AIDS NGOs, stakeholders and members of the public.

The publication of the new strategies is underway. The distribution of the new book will be arranged in due course.



### **AIDS Trust Fund Special Project Fund**

15 Projects were supported in the first round of AIDS Trust Fund (ATF) Special Project Fund.

Nature of successful applications was diversified into different pre-defined areas. The second round of ATF Special Project Fund will be open for application on 1 June 2007.

*For more information, please visit:*  
[www.info.gov.hk/atf](http://www.info.gov.hk/atf)



## 58<sup>th</sup> ACA meeting

The 58<sup>th</sup> ACA meeting was held on 13 April 2007. There were four major items on the agenda. A summary of the discussion at the meeting is shown below.

### **Report on the Assessment of Recently Acquired HIV Infection in Men Having Sex with Men (MSM) in Hong Kong**

Members were aware that the Stanley Ho Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases was commissioned in last August by the Department of Health to conduct a study to assess the situation, explore the underlying risk factors and suggest evidence-based recommendations in relation to MSM and HIV infection in response to the rising trend of HIV prevalence and infections among MSM as reported by the Centre for Health Protection.

Prof SS LEE presented the major findings of the study. It was noted that the changing partnership patterns and therefore the evolving configuration of MSM network had constituted the major driving force behind the observed increase of HIV infections in MSM in Hong Kong. The factors explaining the global epidemic included the following:

- (i) An increasing number of sex partners and the practice of unprotected anal intercourse have been reported;
- (ii) MSM who are online tend to have multiple casual partners and unprotected sex;
- (iii) Party and party drugs are popular in the MSM community. They are associated with unprotected anal sex and HIV infection; and
- (iv) Other contributing factors include lower risk perception associated with improved treatment of HIV, international travel and commercial sex.

Members noted the six recommendations made in the local setting:

- (a) strategically promote safer sex targeting

- young MSM at different time period from identity formation to exposure to HIV risk;
- (b) design specific interventions to reach MSM on line, who are prone to have unprotected sex at home;
- (c) develop HIV prevention that incorporates sexual health instead of HIV *per se*, so as to circumvent the indifference of some MSM to HIV;
- (d) systematize clinic-based HIV prevention;
- (e) develop pilot projects and/or studies that integrate programmes on soft drug abuse and HIV prevention, and cross country interventions; and
- (f) introduce case investigation that characterize partnership for supporting the control of HIV spread.

### **Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers (2004-2006)**

Members noted the paper which provided an update on the latest development of the Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers in Hong Kong. The terms of reference of the Panel are:

- (a) To assess and advise on job modification of HIV-infected health care worker on a referral basis;
- (b) To relay case recommendations to the referring doctor, the respective professional body and the Director of Health;
- (c) To advise the Director of Health on the need of conducting lookback and other public health intervention for cases assessed; and
- (d) To keep under review international development on the management of HIV infection in health care workers, and to update professional bodies of the development as appropriate.

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Members were aware that a total of four cases had been referred to the last Panel during the 3-year term from 2004 to 2006 – 2 in 2004, 1 in 2005 and 1 in 2006. The Panel held meetings to assess the referred cases within the 2-week pledge. Together with 9 cases assessed by the previous Panels between 1994 and 2003, a total of 13 HIV infected health care workers cases had been referred as of 2006. A new term (2007-2009) of the Expert Panel for the period from 2007 to 2009 was appointed by the Director of Health early the year. No case referrals were received in the current term so far.

### **The First Ever Clinical Teaching Module of HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong**

Members examined the paper in which the medical faculty of the Chinese University of Hong Kong collaborated with the Integrated Treatment Centre (ITC) to provide a session on HIV/AIDS in the Infectious Disease Module of the final year medical curriculum. Members were delighted to note the conclusions of the paper that the teaching programme had set a precedent of systematic clinical HIV/AIDS teaching in the undergraduate syllabus and raised the issue of sustaining and developing such clinical teaching.

### **Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011**

After further deliberations at the meeting, members endorsed the final draft of the strategy document. It was agreed to upload the document to the website: [www.info.gov.hk](http://www.info.gov.hk) for public viewing pending the publication of the strategies.

Under the framework for strategies for 2007-2011, there are four strategy objectives:

- (i) Maintaining low HIV prevalence;
- (ii) Reducing HIV spread;
- (iii) Achieving early HIV diagnosis, treatment and care; and

- (iv) Optimising health of HIV/AIDS patients.

and there are eight guiding principles:

- (i) Adopting evidence-based approach;
- (ii) Encouraging community partnership and support;
- (iii) Building supportive and enabling environment;
- (iv) Prioritizing funding;
- (v) Integrating monitoring and evaluation;
- (vi) Cultivating expertise;
- (vii) Addressing vulnerability and risk behaviours with intensive coverage; and
- (viii) Enhancing communication and education

The eight targets of the strategies are set out below:

One	Increase condom use of MSM, sex workers and clients to $\geq 80\%$
Two	Incorporate rapid HIV testing for late presenting mothers to close gap of MTCT
Three	Develop one or more resource allocation plan to guide programme funding
Four	Review ATF funding mechanism to improve effective funding of community-based response
Five	Regularize community surveillance of risk populations at 1-2 year intervals
Six	Improve HIV testing coverage among risk populations
Seven	Sustain quality HIV care of international standards to people living with HIV/AIDS
Eight	Enhance collaboration with Mainland China through regular or ad-hoc programmes/projects



**The Next ACA meeting will be held on 6 July 2007.**

## CFA's visit to AIDS NGOs

Following the success of the first round of visit in March, a second round of visit to AIDS NGOs to enhance communication between CFA, ATF and NGOs was continued in April. As arranged by CFA Secretariat, Dr Susan Fan led the visiting party and met the key figures of St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre and Caritas Ngau Tau Kok Community Centre on April 16 and the Society for Aid and Rehabilitation of

Drug Abusers (SARDA) on 19 April. CFA members, Prof Diana Mak, Mr Ko Chun-wah and Mr Brian Wong attended the visits. Miss Ophelia Chan of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund also joined the visit to SADRA.

The visiting party was briefed on the major work of the NGOs visited and learned the problems faced by them during the dialogue. The visit will temporarily come to a halt and be resumed when opportunity arises.



*St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre*

*Caritas Ngau Tau Kok Community Centre*



*The Society for Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers(SARDA)*