

# ACA NEWSFILE

(Publication of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Hong Kong)

**Editor:** Dr S S Lee, ACA Secretary

Vol 5, no.2-- February 1998 (issue no.50)

## .Calendar.

**XXVth Meeting of the  
Advisory Council on  
AIDS (ACA)**  
2:30pm 20 April 1998

**XXVIIIth Meeting of  
the Committee on  
Education and Publicity  
on AIDS (CEPAIDS)**  
6:30pm 9 February 1998

**XVth Meeting of AIDS  
Services Development  
Committee (ASDC)**  
date to be confirmed

**XIIIrd Scientific  
Committee on AIDS  
(SCA)** date to be confirmed

## REVIEW TO PROCEED

ON 6 January, the Advisory Council on AIDS endorsed its final plan on the review of the HIV/AIDS situation and programmes in Hong Kong.

The review is conducted in two phases. In the first phase the Secretariat will compile a six-part internal assessment report covering all major areas of the situation/programme. The first phase will take about three months to complete, from January to March 1998. This will be followed by phase two in April/May composing of a series of consultancies to examine the internal assessment reports. In June/July a final report will be prepared for submission to the Advisory Council on AIDS.

The Secretariat has already started its process of data collection. A questionnaire survey will be conducted in February. There will be consultations in the course of the review. It is hoped that the review can assist each one of us to develop the best strategy on AIDS prevention, care and control in the years to come. If you have any views you want to share, please kindly let any Secretariat staff know. The review belongs to us all. ✿  
[More about review on page 4]

## Indicators needed

THE ACA had endorsed the principle of establishing AIDS programme indicators to better monitor the work in Hong Kong. Members had discussed at the last meeting on the aspects and possible methodology, and concluded that such development should tie in with future recommendations arising from the review currently in progress. ✿



**AIDSHOTLINE 27802211**

**Advisory Council on AIDS Secretariat**

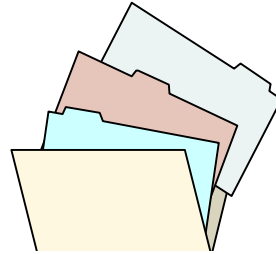
1/F Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic, 200 Junction Road East, Kowloon, Hong Kong.  
Tel: (852) 2304 6100; Fax: (852) 2337 0897

## Council News / Activities

### Youth Action on AIDS

THE Youth Action on AIDS Funding Scheme 1997 will conclude at an Award Ceremony on 28 February at the Red Ribbon Centre. Three best project awards will be presented.

Since 1991, the Task Force on Youth (previously Youth Working Group) of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS has been organising the programmes to support youth groups in their development of AIDS education activities for young people. So far 105 groups have received funding and technical support under the Scheme. In 1997, 21 groups were supported. The Task Force on Youth welcomes submission from youth groups. Enquiries: Red Ribbon Centre 23046268. ☼



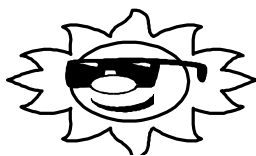
### 1st Meeting

The ACA-appointed Steering Committee met for the first time on 22 January to discuss on the approach and format in conducting the HIV/AIDS Situation and Programmes Review. The meeting had resolved to hold consultations during the review process to collect views from AIDS organisations, service-providers and the community. (see page 4 for composition of the Committee) ☼

### New Plan for AIDS Hotline

THE AIDS Hotline 27802211 offers a one-stop professional service through the provision of computerised recorded messages/fax, counselling, HIV testing and clinical care. AIDS Unit is revising its messages to bring them in line with the new strategies of facilitating HIV testing, and to update clients on all aspects of HIV prevention and care. Rounds of promotional exhibitions on the Hotline are underway.

The AIDS Hotline now receives on average 7000 - 8000 calls per month. ☼



### BYOL

THE next BYOL Seminar will be presented by Ms Elijah Fung at the Red Ribbon Centre on 6 February (1-2pm). The presentation is titled *The role of the christian church in the AIDS epidemic - knowledge and attitudes of Hong Kong christians concerning HIV/AIDS*

BYOL (bring-your-own-lunch) is an update continuing education series run on a monthly basis for those working in the field of HIV/AIDS. ☼

# Activities

**The Deadline for submitting Abstracts to the coming World AIDS Congress 1998 is 2 February**

## YEAR-END

ON 24 January, the Department of Health released its updated reported statistics on HIV/AIDS. In 1997, 181 cases of HIV infection were reported, bringing the cumulative total to 957. In the same year, 64 AIDS cases were diagnosed. The cumulative total of AIDS patients now stands at 309. The male-to-female ratio of the reported cases in 1997 was 4:1. Heterosexual contact has remained the commonest mode of transmission.

**Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 31 December 1998**

		total	(AIDS)
<b>Gender</b>	male	829	(278)
	female	128	(31)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	656	(230)
	non-Chinese	301	(79)
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	506	(171)
	homosexual	228	(77)
	bisexual	56	(23)
	Injecting drug use	16	(5)
	blood/bl products	67	(15)
	perinatal	4	(2)
	undetermined	80	(16)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>957</b>	<b>(309)</b>

*Department of Health, Hong Kong*

The number of AIDS cases reported in the last two years was high, accounting for 43% of the total number since the surveillance system was set up in the mid-eighties. Detailed analysis of the pattern in the last quarter of 1997 will be given in the coming issue of *Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update* - a quarterly publication of AIDS Unit and Social Hygiene Service of the Department of Health. ❁

**DrSexHotline**  
**23372121**

**Visit the New Hong Kong Virtual AIDS Office of Advisory Council on AIDS and DH AIDS Unit <http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>**

## Internal Assessment

THE Internal Assessment part of the review will be undertaken by the Secretariat. The final product will be a six-part report covering major areas of AIDS prevention, care and control in Hong Kong. The six areas are, in a nutshell: (1) situation and surveillance, (2) service for people with HIV/AIDS, (3) health promotion and education, (4) programme structure, (5) policy and (6) financial assessment. ❁

### Objectives of the review:

1. To undertake a thorough assessment of Hong Kong's HIV/AIDS situation, policies and the programmes developed for its prevention, care and control;
2. To identify indicators for systematic evaluation of the local AIDS programme;
3. To recommend on the future direction of strategy, programme development and the operating structures at the government level and the community. ❁



## Consultancies

THREE or four overseas consultants will be asked to be in Hong Kong in April/May to examine the internal assessment reports, conduct interviews and make further investigations as necessary. The consultants will be critically examining the situation and programmes in Hong Kong, with a view of recommending on the future directions of the local programmes. Each consultant will be from a different institution. The Secretariat and the Steering Committee will work out the logistics of the consultancies shortly. ❁

## Review

### Steering Committee

How is the review monitored? A steering Committee has been appointed by the Advisory Council to monitor the internal assessment and supervise the running of the consultancies. Members of the Steering Committee are: Dr Conrad Lam *JP* (chairman), Dr Homer Tso *JP*, Professor MH Ng, Ms Carlye Tsui *JP* and Professor YL Lau. Dr Patrick Li is a technical adviser whereas two non-ACA members serve as advisers - Dr CH Leong and Professor SH Lee. ❁