Controlling officer: the Director of Social Welfare will account for expenditure under this Head.	
Estimate 2025–26	\$125,168.6m
<b>Establishment ceiling 2025–26</b> (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 6 533 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by 40 posts to 6 493 posts as at 31 March 2026	\$3,806.9m
In addition, there will be an estimated 27 directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2026.	
Commitment balance	\$5,495.8m

# **Controlling Officer's Report**

# **Programmes**

Programme (1) Family and Child Welfare Programme (2) Social Security Programme (3) Services for The Elderly	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 14: Social Welfare (Secretary for Labour and Welfare).
Programme (4) Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services	This programme contributes to Policy Area 9: Internal Security (Secretary for Security) and Policy Area 14: Social Welfare (Secretary for Labour and Welfare).
Programme (5) Services for Offenders	This programme contributes to Policy Area 14: Social Welfare (Secretary for Labour and Welfare).
<b>Programme (6) Community Development</b>	This programme contributes to Policy Area 19: District and Community Relations (Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs).
Programme (7) Young People	This programme contributes to Policy Area 14: Social Welfare (Secretary for Labour and Welfare).

### **Detail**

- 2 Subsidised social welfare services are provided by the Government through subventions to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and subsidies to subvented/private operators in the form of contract service. The cost figures in this report for the government sector reflect the full cost of services rendered by the Social Welfare Department and include expenditure charged to other expenditure heads and non-cash expenditure. On the other hand, the cost figures for the subvented and private sectors are the net provision required after taking fee income into account. No direct comparison of costs should therefore be drawn.
- **3** In 2024–25, 179 NGOs are receiving government subventions for operating social welfare services in accordance with the Funding and Service Agreements that are specific to various service programmes.

## Programme (1): Family and Child Welfare

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)				
Government sector	1,381.4	1,440.9	1,422.4 (-1.3%)	<b>1,464.9</b> (+3.0%)
				(or +1.7% on 2024–25 Original)
Subvented/private sectors	3,456.3	4,373.6	3,994.4 (-8.7%)	<b>4,433.4</b> (+11.0%)
				(or +1.4% on 2024–25 Original)
Total	4,837.7	5,814.5	5,416.8 (-6.8%)	<b>5,898.3</b> (+8.9%)
				(or +1.4% on 2024–25 Original)

### Aim

4 The aim is to provide support services for families, including those in disadvantaged circumstances and lacking means to meet their needs.

# **Brief Description**

- 5 The Department provides family and child welfare services and programmes including:
- integrated family service;
- family and child protection service (including services for child protection, spouse/cohabitant battering and child custody dispute cases);
- family support networking teams;
- clinical psychological service;
- residential care service for children (including foster care, small group homes (SGHs) and other residential homes for children (RHCs));
- day child care service (including Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP));
- short-term food assistance service;
- · adoption service;
- · service for street sleepers; and
- outreaching service for ethnic minorities.
- 6 In 2024, the Department:
- continued to implement the environment improvement programme for SGHs;
- strengthened support for foster families and increased the level of incentive payment for them;
- completed the re-engineering of the Mutual Help Child Care Centres to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children;
- continued to provide additional places of aided child care centre (CCC) for children aged below three;
- increased the Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy to alleviate parents' financial burden;
- strengthened the home-based child care service of NSCCP and increased the level of incentive payment for home-based child carers and the number of service places;
- continued to implement the initiative on purchase of premises for the provision of welfare facilities; and
- continued to implement the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses.
- 7 The key performance measures in respect of family and child welfare services are:

# Target

	Target	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Revised Estimate)	2025–26 (Plan)
making first contact with the service user/related person within ten working days upon				
receiving request for family casework service (%)	95.0	98.6	97.8	95.0

# **Indicators**

	2023- (Actu		2024– (Revised E		2025- (Estim	
	Government sector	Subvented sector	Government sector	Subvented (sector	Government sector	Subvented sector
Foster care no. of places enrolment rate (%)	_	1 230 72	_	1 230 72	=	1 230 72
cost per place per month (\$)	_	22,776	_	32,703	_	35,022
sGHs no. of places enrolment rate (%) cost per place per	_	978 91	_	978 92	=	978 92
month (\$)	_	29,737	_	31,528	_	32,994
no. of places enrolment rate (%) cost per place per	_	1 832 79	_	1 898 81	=	1 946 81
month (\$)	_	25,598	_	27,325	_	28,230
standalone CCCs no. of places enrolment rate (%) cost per place per	_	1 188 94	_	1 376 85λ	=	1 536 85
month (\$)	_	4,742	_	6,015	_	6,037
Occasional child care (OCC) no. of units	_	221	_	222	_	223
Family and child protection supervision cases servedΩ	6 789	_	6 323	_	6 323	_
cost per case per month (\$)	3,413	_	3,810	_	3,779	_
Adoption children available for adoption placed into local homes within three months	43	_	33	_	33	_
Clinical psychological service assessment cases						
new treatment cases	2 146	_	2 478	_	2 478	
served  Integrated family service	915	_	1 126	_	1 126	_
centres no. of centres cases served	41 48 350	24 28 537	41 50 931	24 29 405	41 50 931	24 29 405
groups and programmes	6 395	3 766	6 559	3 880	6 559	3 880

	2023- (Actu		2024– (Revised E		2025- (Estin	
	Government sector	Subvented sector	Government sector	Subvented G sector	overnment sector	Subvented sector
Family support networking teams vulnerable households newly and successfully contacted through outreaching attempts vulnerable households newly and successfully referred to welfare or mainstream		4 139	_	4 139	_	4 200
services		3 370		3 370		3 400

- The decrease is attributed to the establishment of new CCCs, which required time to build up the enrolment rate in the initial year of operation.
- $\Omega$  The demand for the service under this programme hinges on the number of referrals received, and must always be met in full.

### Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

- 8 During 2025–26, the Department will:
- prepare for the commencement of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance, including the enhancement of training and promulgation of guidelines for practitioners in the relevant professions to facilitate early identification of child abuse cases and strengthen support for child abuse victims and their families;
- prepare for the setting up of four Community Parents and Children Centres on a pilot basis;
- continue to increase the service places of residential child care centres;
- continue to strengthen the support and training for foster families;
- continue to increase the places of aided CCC to strengthen day child care services; and
- continue to extend the After School Care Programme for Pre-primary Children in phases to cover all 18 districts.

### **Programme (2): Social Security**

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)				
Government sector	72,389.0	81,764.3	77,878.1 (–4.8%)	<b>85,633.8</b> (+10.0%)
				(or +4.7% on 2024–25 Original)
Subvented/private sectors	169.0	212.8	176.2 (–17.2%)	<b>141.7</b> (–19.6%)
				(or -33.4% on 2024–25 Original)
Total	72,558.0	81,977.1	78,054.3 (-4.8%)	<b>85,775.5</b> (+9.9%)
				(or +4.6% on 2024–25 Original)

### Aim

9 The aim is to provide a non-contributory social security system to meet the basic and essential needs of the financially vulnerable and the special needs of severely disabled and elderly persons.

# **Brief Description**

# 10 The Department:

- administers the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme;
- provides support for CSSA able-bodied adult recipients to become self-reliant;
- administers the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and Fujian (FJ) Scheme to provide Old Age Allowance and Old Age Living Allowance to eligible Hong Kong elderly persons who choose to reside in GD and FJ;
- combats fraud relating to the CSSA and SSA Schemes;
- operates the Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Scheme and the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme;
- provides material assistance in the form of food and other essential articles for victims of natural and other disasters; and
- provides financial assistance through the Emergency Relief Fund for victims of natural disasters or their dependants as appropriate.

### 11 In 2024, the Department:

- provided a one-off extra payment to eligible recipients of CSSA and SSA as announced in the 2024–25 Budget; and
- launched a three-year pilot scheme under the Community Care Fund (CCF) to provide an additional subsidy to employed disabled recipients of CSSA as a means of encouraging their employment.
- 12 The key performance measures in respect of social security are:

### Target

	Target	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Revised Estimate)	2025–26 (Plan)
effecting payment for successful new CSSA applications within seven working days after completion of investigation and authorisation (%)	95	99	99	95
Indicators				
		2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Revised Estimate)	2025–26 (Estimate)
CSSA Scheme cases served		240 904	236 000	234 000
average time for processing a new case by fie	eld			
units (working days)waiting time before a client is attended to in	 field	28	30	30
units (minutes)		10	10	10
average time for completing the screening an prioritising of reported fraud cases (working)		7	7	7
SSA Scheme				
cases servedaverage time for processing a new case by fig		1 344 733	1 415 000	1 503 000
units (working days)		27	30	30
waiting time before a client is attended to in tunits (minutes)		10	10	10
average time for completing the screening an prioritising of reported fraud cases (working)		7	7	7

### Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

- 13 During 2025–26, the Department will:
- continue to implement the Schemes and provide the services mentioned in paragraph 10 above, including launching the pilot Support Programme for the Unemployed under the CSSA Scheme;
- provide a one-off extra payment to eligible recipients of CSSA and SSA; and
- implement the three-year pilot scheme under CCF to subsidise elderly recipients of CSSA who opt to reside in designated residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in GD.

### **Programme (3): Services for The Elderly**

Financial provision (\$m)	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Government sector	1,097.1	1,056.0	794.3 (-24.8%)	<b>915.9</b> (+15.3%)
				(or -13.3% on 2024–25 Original)
Subvented/private sectors	13,679.7	15,374.2	14,677.1 (-4.5%)	<b>16,211.8</b> (+10.5%)
				(or +5.4% on 2024–25 Original)
Total	14,776.8	16,430.2	15,471.4 (-5.8%)	17,127.7 (+10.7%)
				(or +4.2% on 2024–25 Original)

### Aim

14 The aim is to promote the well-being of the elderly through the provision of services that will enable them to remain active members of the community for as long as possible and, where necessary, provide community or residential care to suit the varying long-term care (LTC) needs of frail elderly persons.

### **Brief Description**

- 15 The Department:
- provides subsidised community care and support services for the elderly, which include day care centres for the elderly (DEs), day care units for the elderly (DCUs), enhanced home and community care services (EHCCS), integrated home care services (IHCS) (frail cases), services under the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme), home support services (HSS), district elderly community centres (DECCs), neighbourhood elderly centres (NECs), support teams for the elderly, a holiday centre and the Senior Citizen Card Scheme;
- provides subsidised residential care services for elderly persons, which include subsidised residential care places in care-and-attention (C&A) homes, nursing homes (NHs), contract homes, self-financing NHs participating in the Nursing Home Place Purchase Scheme (NHPPS), private RCHEs participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) as well as the Residential Care Services Scheme (RCSS) in GD, and services under the Residential Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (RCSV Scheme);
- adopts a computerised central allocation system for subsidised LTC services which provides a single-entry point
  for elderly persons who have gone through standardised care need assessments for admission to subsidised
  community and residential care services;
- licenses RCHEs;
- provides visiting medical practitioner services as well as social and rehabilitation support for residents of RCHEs;
- implements active ageing initiatives.
- 16 In 2024, the Department:
- expanded the coverage of the RCSV Scheme to both C&A places and nursing home places, and provided additional 1 000 vouchers;

- provided additional 1 000 vouchers under the CCSV Scheme;
- continued to implement the Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families;
- continued to implement the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for Residential Care Homes;
- continued to enhance support for carers of elderly persons and carers of persons with disabilities such as implementing the Information Gateway for Carers, a territory-wide Care the Carers Campaign, a Designated Hotline for Carer Support and expanding the network of day respite services;
- continued to subsidise additional enrolled nurse training places;
- injected additional \$1 billion into the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care and will expand the Fund's scope to allow eligible service units to procure gerontechnology products suitable for household use by elderly persons, persons with disabilities and their carers;
- merged IHCS (Ordinary Cases) and Home Care and Support Services for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (HSMI) into HSS under a cost-neutral approach for service enhancement and better utilisation of resources;
- expanded RCSS in GD by increasing the number of participating RCHEs to provide more choices for elderly
  persons who opt to receive subsidised residential care service in RCHEs in GD;
- continued to provide additional subsidised day and residential care service places for the elderly;
- extended the scheme to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of RCHEs and residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) to enrol in Qualifications Framework-based training courses for three years;
- continued to implement the initiative on purchase of premises for the provision of welfare facilities;
- continued to implement the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses; and
- completed the Review of Manpower for Healthcare Services in Residential Care Homes.
- 17 The key performance measures in respect of services for elderly persons are:

### **Targets**

issuing Senior Citizen Card within	Target	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Revised Estimate)	2025–26 (Plan)
seven working days upon receiving the application and necessary documents (%)	95.0	96.9	95.0	95.0
within three working days (%)	95	100	95	95
Indicators				
			2024–25	
		2023-24	(Revised	2025–26
		(Actual)	Estimate)	(Estimate)
		Subvented/ private sectors	Subvented/ private sectors	Subvented/ private sectors
Community care and support services				70 1270 7 0 2270 127
Community care and support services DECCs no. of centres				70 1270 7 0 2270 127
DECCs		private sectors	private sectors	private sectors
DECCs no. of centres attendance per session per centre		private sectors 41	private sectors 41	private sectors 41
DECCs no. of centres attendance per session per centre NECs		private sectors  41 130	private sectors  41 130	private sectors  41 130
DECCs no. of centres attendance per session per centre NECs no. of centres attendance per session per centre		private sectors  41 130 173	private sectors  41  130  173	private sectors  41 130 174
DECCs no. of centres attendance per session per centre NECs no. of centres attendance per session per centre social centre for the elderly no. of centres attendance per session per centre		private sectors  41 130 173 60	private sectors  41  130  173  60	private sectors  41 130 174 60
DECCs no. of centres attendance per session per centre NECs no. of centres attendance per session per centre social centre for the elderly no. of centres		private sectors  41 130 173 60	private sectors  41 130 173 60	private sectors  41 130 174 60
DECCs no. of centres attendance per session per centre NECs no. of centres attendance per session per centre social centre for the elderly no. of centres attendance per session per centre HSSβ		private sectors  41 130 173 60	private sectors  41 130 173 60 1 50	private sectors  41 130 174 60 1 50

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Revised Estimate)	2025–26 (Estimate)
	Subvented/ private sectors	Subvented/ private sectors	Subvented/ private sectors
DEs/DCUs			
no. of places	4 122	4 183	4 442
enrolment rate (%)	105	105	105
cost per place per month (\$)	12,965	13,291	13,126
Home Care Services for Frail Elderly Persons (HCS)§			
cases served	18 104	17 632	17 632
no. of places	13 365	13 365	13 365
cost per place per month (\$)	10,154	10,391	10,211
Residential care services			
Home for the Aged (H/A)places	9	2μ	2
C&A homesplaces	71	68	68
C&A homes providing a continuum of care			
no. of places	15 343	15 670	16 148
enrolment rate (%)	95	95	95
cost per place per month (\$)	18,928	19,408	19,154
NHsΨ			
no. of places	1 867	1 902	1 951
enrolment rate (%)	95	95	95
cost per place per month (\$)	26,971	27,456	27,024
private homes participating in EBPS			
no. of places	11 463	11 614	11 802
enrolment rate (%)	92	97	97
cost per place per month (\$)	16,413	16,513	16,785
contract homes			
no. of places	4 285	4 527	4 797
enrolment rate (%)	96	97	97
cost per place per month (\$)	23,128	24,248	25,446
Multi-disciplinary Outreaching Support Teams for the			
Elderly			
no. of beneficiaries	51 210	49 762φ	
cost per beneficiary per month (\$)	420	454	431

β For service enhancement and better utilisation of resources, IHCS (Ordinary Cases) and HSMI have been merged into HSS with effect from 1 October 2024. The figure in 2024–25 indicates the number of cases served under HSS after the merge.

- The existing EHCCS and IHCS (Frail Cases) will be collectively renamed as HCS as from 2025–26.
- The decrease is due to the phasing out of H/A places.
- Ψ Including subsidised NH places purchased under NHPPS.
- φ The decrease is due to a more stable number of residents in RCHEs with a lower turnover rate.

## Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26

- 18 During 2025–26, the Department will:
- enhance RCSS in GD by increasing the number of participating RCHEs, sharing part of the elderly participants'
  medical expenses in GD on a two-year pilot basis, and engaging an organisation to provide care services for
  participating elderly persons;
- increase the number of RCSVs from 5 000 to 6 000;
- continue to implement the scheme to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of RCHEs to enrol in Qualifications Framework-based training courses;
- extend the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme
  to all 18 districts to help identify singleton and doubleton elderly, carers of elderly persons and carers of persons
  with disabilities with welfare needs, provide them with support and make referrals to welfare units as appropriate,
  and assist needy households to install emergency alarm systems;
- continue to provide additional subsidised day and residential care service places for the elderly; and
- continue to enhance support for carers, such as promoting the Information Gateway for Carers and the Designated Hotline for Carer Support, and implementing the Care the Carers Campaign.

Programme (4): Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services							
	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)			
Financial provision (\$m)							
Government sector	1,176.1	1,407.2	1,231.8 (-12.5%)	<b>1,434.5</b> (+16.5%)			
				(or +1.9% on 2024–25 Original)			
Subvented/private sectors	9,820.3	10,843.2	10,744.1 (-0.9%)	11,199.4 (+4.2%)			
				(or +3.3% on 2024–25 Original)			
Total	10,996.4	12,250.4	11,975.9 (-2.2%)	12,633.9 (+5.5%)			
				(or +3.1% on 2024–25 Original)			

### Aim

19 The aim is to acknowledge the equal rights of persons with disabilities to be full members of the community by supporting them to develop their physical, mental and social capabilities to the fullest possible extent and by promoting their integration into the community; to provide medical social services; and to provide preventive and rehabilitative services for drug abusers.

# **Brief Description**

- 20 The Department provides a network of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, medical social services in clinics and hospitals, assistance for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) patients and their families, as well as preventive and rehabilitative services for drug abusers, including:
  - pre-school services for children with disabilities through early education and training centres (EETCs), special
    child care centres (SCCCs), integrated programmes in ordinary kindergarten-cum-child care centres (IP), on-site
    pre-school rehabilitation services (OPRS) and OCC services;
  - training subsidy for eligible children on the waiting list of subvented pre-school rehabilitation services;
  - services for children with mild intellectual disability through SGHs for mildly mentally handicapped children and integrated SGHs;
  - training and vocational rehabilitation services for adults with disabilities through day activity centres (DACs), sheltered workshops (SWs), supported employment training for persons with disabilities (SET), integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres (IVRSCs), integrated vocational training centres (IVTCs), and Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project;
  - residential services for adults with disabilities through hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons (HSMHs), hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons (HMMHs), C&A homes for severely disabled persons (C&A/SDs), C&A homes for the aged blind (C&A/ABs), hostels for severely physically handicapped persons (HSPH), long stay care homes (LSCHs), halfway houses (HWHs) and supported hostels (SHOSs);
  - community support services such as integrated community centres for mental wellness (ICCMWs), home care service for persons with severe disabilities, integrated support service for persons with severe physical disabilities, parents/relatives resource centres (PRCs), district support centres for persons with disabilities (DSCs), support centres for persons with autism (SPAs), community rehabilitation day centres (CRDCs), transitional care and support centre for tetraplegic patients, social and recreational centres for persons with disabilities, community rehabilitation network, community-based support projects, respite service, place of refuge for children with disabilities and emergency placement service for adults with disabilities;
  - direct financial assistance for athletes with disabilities in their pursuit of sporting excellence through the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund;
  - compassionate financial assistance from the Trust Fund for SARS for families of deceased SARS patients, and recovered and suspected SARS patients;
  - the Arts Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities to foster arts development for persons with disabilities;

- the Special Subsidy Scheme for Persons with Permanent Stoma;
- special needs trust services for parents of children with special needs;
- · regional guardianship offices to handle guardianship cases;
- licensing schemes for RCHDs and drug treatment and rehabilitation centres (DTRCs);
- visiting medical practitioner services as well as social and rehabilitation support for residents of RCHDs;
- preventive and rehabilitative services for drug abusers through non-medical voluntary DTRCs, counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers (CCPSAs), centres for drug counselling (CDCs) and HWHs for dischargees from DTRCs; and
- professional outreaching teams for supporting residents of private RCHDs.
- 21 In 2024, the Department:
- provided additional places of EETC and SCCC services;
- achieved zero waiting time for OPRS;
- set up designated teams in 21 DSCs for supporting special school leavers and their carers;
- increased nursing staff in RCHDs for enhancing care for ageing residents;
- enhanced the services of ICCMWs including the peer support service and scaled up training for social workers in community mental health service units;
- provided additional places of HSMH, C&A/SD and DAC services;
- provided additional places under the Extended Care Programme in DACs and Work Extension Programme in SWs/IVRSCs;
- integrated supported employment (SE), On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities, Sunnyway On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities into SET;
- extended the scheme to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of RCHEs and RCHDs to enrol in Qualifications Framework-based training courses for three years;
- continued to implement a three-year pilot project to provide one-stop day training and residential care services for ageing service users in HSMHs and HMMHs;
- continued to implement a two-year pilot project on enhancing vocational rehabilitation service at SWs/IVRSCs;
- continued to implement a two-year pilot project on setting up two integrated community rehabilitation centres (ICRCs) for providing integrated day care and home care services for persons with severe disabilities living in the community;
- continued to implement the Pilot Project on Transitional Support Service for Persons in Mental Recovery;
- continued to implement the Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-Income Carers of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Care Subsidy Scheme for Persons with Severe Disabilities;
- continued to implement the training sponsorship scheme for students of designated programmes in occupational therapy or physiotherapy to respond to the manpower need for allied health professionals in the welfare sector;
- continued to implement the initiative on purchase of premises for the provision of welfare facilities;
- continued to implement the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses;
- strengthened medical and allied health support and aftercare services for drug abusers/rehabilitees in CCPSAs, CDCs, DTRCs and HWHs; and
- launched the Incentive Scheme to Encourage Provision of RCHDs in New Private Developments.
- 22 The key performance measures in respect of rehabilitation and medical social services are:

# **Targets**

	Target	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Revised Estimate)	2025–26 (Plan)
making first contact with the service user/related person within ten working days upon receiving request for medical social services (%)	95	99	95	95

		Target	2023 (Act		2024–25 (Revised Estimate)	2025–26 (Plan)
acknowledging receipt of applicat requesting for missing documes licence/renewal of licence for I within three working days (%)	nt for RCHD	95		100	95	95
Indicators						
	2023 (Acti		2024 (Revised I		2025 (Estin	
	Government sector	Subvented/ private sectors	Government sector	Subvented/ private sectors	Government sector	Subvented/ private sectors
Residential services ex-mentally ill						
persons HWHsplaces LSCHsplaces mentally	=	1 594 1 987	=	1 594 1 987	=	1 594 1 987
handicapped IVTCsplaces HMMHsplaces HSMHsplaces	_ _ _	170 2 926 4 523 790	_ _ _	170 2 926 4 573 790	_ _ _	170 2 937 4 623 790
C&A/SDsplaces C&A/ABsplaces SGHsplaces SHOSsplaces enrolment rate for	_ _ _	1 332 828 128 866	_ _ _	1 372 828 128 866	_ _ _	1 372 828 128 1 079
residential services (%) cost per residential	_	91	_	96	_	96
place per month (\$) private RCHDs participating in Bought Place	_	20,543	_	20,811	_	21,396
Scheme no. of places	_	1 266	_	1 505	_	1 840
enrolment rate (%) cost per place	_	95	_	95	_	95
per month (\$)	_	13,969	_	14,107		14,289
Day services DACs						
no. of places enrolment	_	6 276	_	6 351	_	6 416
rate (%) cost per place	_	90	_	95	_	95
per month (\$) community rehabilitation	_	12,994	_	12,382	_	12,007
network services centres PRCs		6 19 4 21 24 5		6 19 4 21 24 5	_ _ _ _	6 23 4 21 25 5
Pre-school services EETCsplaces IPplaces	_	4 413 1 980	=	4 677 1 974	_	4 767 1 974

	2023–24 (Actual)			2024–25 (Revised Estimate)		-26 nate)
	Government sector	Subvented/ private sectors	Government sector	Subvented/ private sectors		Subvented/ private sectors
OCCplaces	_	120	_	120		129
SCCCs places OPRS places	_	2 456 10 124	_	2 516 10 124		2 700 10 124
enrolment rate for	_	10 124	_	10 124		10 124
pre-school						
services (%)	_	98	_	98		98
cost per pre-school place per						
month (\$)	_	10,307	_	10,524	_	10,352
Vocational rehabilitation services						
SWs no. of places	_	5 399		5 429		5 429
enrolment		3 377		3 42)		3 42)
rate (%)	_	98	_	98		98
cost per place per		6,213		6,377		6,941
month (\$)places	_	1 633	_	0,577	_	0,541
SETΔplaces	_	_	_	2 376		2 376
IVTCsplaces	_	453	_	453		453
IVRSCsplaces On the Job Training	_	5 808	_	5 858		6 058
Programme for						
People with						
Disabilities∆places	_	432	_	_		
SunnywayΔplaces	_	311	_	_		_
Medical social services						
cases servedcases	222 537	_	236 344	_	241 388	_
Special Needs Trust						
cases servedcases	61	_	72	_	86	_
Regional Guardianship Offices						
cases servedcases	670	_	704	_	740	_
Central Psychological Support Service (Adult Service) no. of clinical assessment/ clinical						
consultation/ clinical treatment	1 450	_	1 796	_	1 796	_
no. of Life	- 100		- ,,,			
Transition						
Support Service (LTSS)						
assessment	62/	\ <u> </u>	52	_	52	
no. of LTSS	1.064		064		0.64	
intervention	1 264/	\	964	_	964	_
Central Psychological Support Service (Pre-school Service) no. of individual case assessment/ consultation	1 147	_	1 172	_	1 172	_
			· <b>-</b>		· <del>-</del>	

	2023–24 (Actual)		2024–25 (Revised Estimate)		2025–26 (Estimate)	
	Government sector	Subvented/ private sectors	Government sector	Subvented/ private sectors	Government sector	Subvented/ private sectors
no. of assessment (for in-depth psychological treatment) no. of new cases receiving	148	_	150	_	150	_
in-depth psychological treatment	348¢	<b>—</b>	150	_	150	_

- Δ SE, Sunnyway and On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities have been integrated as SET with effect from 1 April 2024 while the total number of places remains unchanged.
- ^ The average number of cases receiving LTSS assessment/intervention for 2023–24 was exceptionally high due to referrals not made by the rehabilitation centres during the pandemic period. As these delayed referrals have been handled gradually in 2023–24, the demands returned to a normal level in 2024–25.
- φ The number of new cases receiving in-depth psychological treatment was exceptionally high in 2023–24 due to the trial run of parent-child play groups and online emotional awareness groups. With the completion of the trial run, the number of new cases returned to a normal level in 2024–25.

### Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26

- 23 During 2025–26, the Department will:
- continue to implement the scheme to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of RCHDs to enrol in Qualifications Framework-based training courses;
- provide additional places for day training, vocational rehabilitation, residential and pre-school rehabilitation services;
- provide additional places under the Work Extension Programme in SWs/IVRSCs;
- regularise the Pilot Project on Enhancing Vocational Rehabilitation Services to enhance the service and training model of SWs/IVRSCs to build a better vocational rehabilitation and training ladder for persons with disabilities;
- set up an additional ICCMW to provide community support services to persons in mental recovery;
- set up four additional PRCs to support persons in mental recovery and their families/carers;
- set up Transitional Support Service Teams for Persons in Mental Recovery for supporting discharged patients waitlisted for halfway house service;
- extend the peer support service to PRCs and DSCs; and
- regularise the Pilot Project on ICRCs for supporting persons with disabilities through a case management approach.

### **Programme (5): Services for Offenders**

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)				
Government sector	350.7	361.5	374.1 (+3.5%)	<b>380.8</b> (+1.8%)
				(or +5.3% on 2024–25 Original)

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Subvented sector	82.4	83.4	83.8 (+0.5%)	<b>83.4</b> (-0.5%)
				(or same as 2024–25 Original)
Total	433.1	444.9	457.9 (+2.9%)	464.2 (+1.4%)
				(or +4.3% on 2024–25 Original)

### Aim

24 The aim is to provide treatment for offenders through a social work approach, including supervision, counselling, academic, prevocational and social skill training and to help them re-integrate into the community and lead a law-abiding life.

# **Brief Description**

- 25 The Department:
- provides integrated probation and community service order (CSO) service;
- operates remand home and residential training institution;
- supports the Post-Release Supervision of Prisoners Scheme and the Young Offender Assessment Panel; and
- provides counselling, group activities, residential services, aftercare services and employment assistance for ex-offenders.
- **26** In 2024, the Department continued to provide community support for the rehabilitation of offenders mentioned in paragraph 25 above.
  - 27 The key performance measures in respect of services for offenders are:

# Target

		Tar		23–24 Actual)	(Revised Estimate)	2025–26 (Plan)
making first contact with the swithin five working days up receiving court referral for pand CSO service (%)	oon probation		95	99	95	95
Indicators#						
	2023- (Actu		2024 (Revised)	-	2025 (Estin	-
	Government sector	Subvented sector	Government sector	Subvented sector	Government sector	Subvented sector
Probation and CSO service probation service						
supervision cases served cases with order	2 409	_	2 400	_	2 400	_
satisfactorily completed (%) cost per case	91	_	91	_	91	_
served per month (\$)	5,033	_	5,346	_	5,195	_

	2023- (Acti		2024 (Revised E		2025–26 (Estimate)	
	Government sector	Subvented sector	Government sector	Subvented sector	Government sector	Subvented sector
CSOs						
supervision cases						
served	2 702		2 600		2 600	_
cases with order	- , -		_ 000		_ 000	
satisfactorily						
completed (%)	96		96	_	96	_
cost per case						
served per						
month (\$)	2,753	_	2,868		2,778	_
Integrated service centres						
for ex-offenders						
cases supervised per						
month		4 176		4 260	_	4 260
new cases served in a						
year	_	1 373		1 409		1 409
cost per case per		24-		0.4.5		0.4
month (\$)	_	917	_	915		917
Hostels for ex-offenders						
no. of places						
male		120		120		120
female	_	10		10		10
occupancy rate (%)		10		10		10
male		87		96	_	96
female		80		73		73
cost per place per						
month (\$)	_	8,575	_	7,982	_	8,038
Posidontial training						
Residential training no. of places	388		388		388	
probation home	300		300		300	
admissions	23		16	_	16	
discharges			26	_	26	
cases satisfactorily						
completed (%)	100		96	_	96	_
rate of successful						
re-integration						
of discharged	100		100		100	
cases (%)	100	_	100	_	100	
reformatory school admissions	10		12		12	
discharges			10		10	
cases satisfactorily	,		10		10	
completed (%)	89	_	80	_	80	
rate of successful						
re-integration						
of discharged						
cases (%)	100	_	100	_	100	
remand home/place of						
refuge	010		800		800	
admissionsdischarges		_	600	_	800 600	_
cost per resident per	007	_	000		000	<del></del>
month (\$)	129,586	_	132,513	_	135,434	
(+)	- )		)- <del>-</del>		- /	

<sup>#</sup> Demand for statutory services under this programme hinges on the number of prosecutions and the type of court sentence, and must always be met in full.

### Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

28 During 2025–26, the Department will continue to provide community support for the rehabilitation of offenders mentioned in paragraph 25 above.

# **Programme (6): Community Development**

L	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)				
Government sector	5.7	5.6	5.8 (+3.6%)	<b>5.7</b> (-1.7%)
				(or +1.8% on 2024–25 Original)
Subvented sector	219.9	217.8	223.9 (+2.8%)	<b>219.7</b> (-1.9%)
				(or +0.9% on 2024–25 Original)
Total	225.6	223.4	229.7 (+2.8%)	225.4 (-1.9%)
				(or +0.9% on 2024–25 Original)

### Aim

29 The aim is to promote a sense of belonging in the community through social work services which encourage people to identify their social needs and mobilise community resources to solve their problems.

# **Brief Description**

- **30** The Department:
- provides community work and group services for the general public with particular focus on the needs of vulnerable groups;
- implements Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects (NLCDPs) in areas qualified under the existing criteria; and
- provides, through the Care and Support Networking Team, outreaching support, casework and group work services aiming to assist mainly street sleepers and persons in mental recovery to integrate into the community.
- 31 In 2024, the Department continued to provide the services mentioned in paragraph 30 above.
- 32 The key performance measures in respect of community development services are:

### **Indicators**

	2024–25 2023–24 (Revised (Actual) Estimate)		2025–26 (Estimate)	
	Subvented sector	Subvented sector	Subvented sector	
Group and community work units in district community centres				
new and renewed members per month	64 847	64 847	64 900	
attendance per month	192 537	192 537	192 600	
groups per month	2 346	2 346	2 400	
NLCDPs				
community programmes and community groups attendance and residents' contacts	262 083	262 083	262 100	

### Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

33 During 2025–26, the Department will continue to keep in view the provision of community development services in the light of changing community needs.

## Programme (7): Young People

Financial provision (\$m)	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Tillaticiai provision (\$\pi\til)				
Government sector	131.2	134.4	135.9 (+1.1%)	136.3 (+0.3%)
				(or +1.4% on 2024–25 Original)
Subvented sector	2,747.7	2,860.6	2,857.9 (-0.1%)	<b>2,907.3</b> (+1.7%)
				(or +1.6% on 2024–25 Original)
Total	2,878.9	2,995.0	2,993.8 (—)	<b>3,043.6</b> (+1.7%)
				(or +1.6% on 2024–25 Original)

### Aim

34 The aim is to provide support services for disadvantaged young people and those at risk.

### **Brief Description**

- 35 The Department provides integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSCs), children and youth centres (CYCs), outreaching social work service (YOTs), community support service scheme, cyber youth support teams (CYSTs) and school social work (SSW) service in secondary schools.
  - 36 In 2024, the Department:
  - continued to implement the enhancement measures for the After School Care Programme (ASCP) for Primary School Student;
  - assisted in the implementation of Child Development Fund (CDF) projects;
  - supported the implementation of Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (PFD) projects;
  - continued to implement the initiative on purchase of premises for the provision of welfare facilities; and
  - implemented the Strive and Rise Programme to lift underprivileged students out of intergenerational poverty.
  - 37 The key performance measures in respect of services for young people are:

### **Indicators**

2023–24 (Actual)	(Revised Estimate)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Subvented sector	Subvented sector	Subvented sector
22	22	22
413 707 99 35 447	413 707 99 35 447	413 800 99 35 500
	(Actual) Subvented sector  22 413 707 99	2023–24 (Revised (Actual) Estimate)  Subvented sector Subvented sector  22 22 413 707 413 707 99 99

2024 25

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Revised Estimate)	2025–26 (Estimate)
	Subvented sector	Subvented sector	Subvented sector
LOVICO	Sector	sector	sector
ICYSCs no. of centres	139	139	139
attendees in programme sessions	5 172 068	5 172 068	5 172 100
clients served	382 500	382 500	382 500
programmes with goals achieved (%)	99	99	99
SSW			
cases served	29 857	29 857	29 900
cases closed having achieved the agreed goal	9 166	9 166	9 200
YOTs			
cases served	13 749	13 749	13 800
cases closed having achieved the case goal plan	1 405	1 405	1 500
clients identified	5 368	5 368	5 400
cost per case per month (\$)	1,088	1,115	1,091
CYSTs			
cases served	1 339	1 339	1 400
cases closed having achieved the case goal	324	324	350

# Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

- **38** During 2025–26, the Department will:
- enhance the services of CYSTs by setting up an online support platform for emotional wellness of the young people;
- continue to implement the enhancement measures for ASCP for Primary School Student;
- support the implementation of PFD and CDF projects; and
- continue to implement the Strive and Rise Programme to lift underprivileged students out of intergenerational poverty.

### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

n		2023–24 (Actual) (\$m)	2024–25 (Original) (\$m)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$m)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m)
Prog	gramme				
(1)	Family and Child Welfare	4,837.7	5,814.5	5,416.8	5,898.3
(2)	Social Security	72,558.0	81,977.1	78,054.3	85,775.5
(3)	Services for The Elderly	14,776.8	16,430.2	15,471.4	17,127.7
(4)	Rehabilitation and Medical Social				
	Services	10,996.4	12,250.4	11,975.9	12,633.9
(5)	Services for Offenders	433.1	444.9	457.9	464.2
(6)	Community Development	225.6	223.4	229.7	225.4
(7)	Young People	2,878.9	2,995.0	2,993.8	3,043.6
		106,706.5	120,135.5	114,599.8 (-4.6%)	125,168.6 (+9.2%)

(or +4.2% on 2024–25 Original)

## **Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision**

## Programme (1)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$481.5 million (8.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the additional provision and enhancement measures for day and residential child care services, partly offset by a net decrease of five posts in 2025–26.

### Programme (2)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$7,721.2 million (9.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the anticipated increase in expenditure under the SSA Scheme, partly offset by a decrease of 16 posts in 2025–26.

### Programme (3)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$1,656.3 million (10.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the additional provision for community care and support services, and residential care services including the expansion of RCSS in GD, partly offset by a net decrease of four posts in 2025–26.

# Programme (4)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$658.0 million (5.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the additional provision for day and residential service as well as enhancement in community support for persons with disabilities and extension of Care Teams – Supporting Elderly and Carers Scheme to 18 districts, partly offset by a net decrease of 11 posts in 2025–26.

### Programme (5)

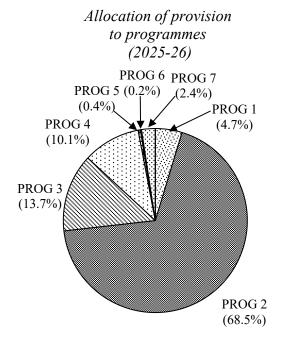
Provision for 2025–26 is \$6.3 million (1.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increase in operational expenses, partly offset by a decrease of four posts in 2025–26.

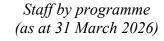
### Programme (6)

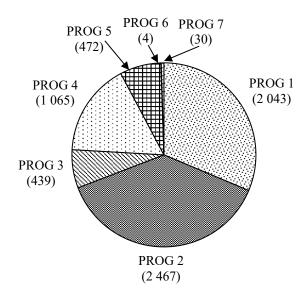
Provision for 2025–26 is \$4.3 million (1.9%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the decrease in operational expenses.

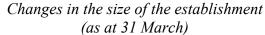
# Programme (7)

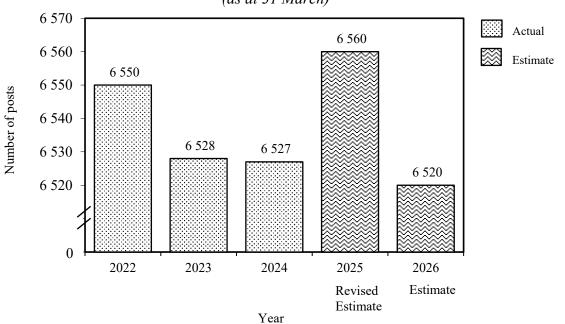
Provision for 2025–26 is \$49.8 million (1.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increase in operational expenses.











Sub- head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2023–24	Approved estimate 2024–25	Revised estimate 2024–25	<b>Estimate 2025–26</b>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	Operating Account				
	Recurrent				
000 003	Operational expenses	35,583,280	39,144,781	37,865,157	40,525,757
157 176	Deduct reimbursements	52	136	136	136
177 179	compensation	6,294 403	7,170 1,000	6,502 1,000	6,502 1,000
180 184 187	scheme	21,912,188 46,586,307 37,012 6,988	22,457,000 54,957,000 48,548 7,800	22,388,000 51,318,000 48,548 7,800	23,096,000 57,948,000 58,267 8,500
	Total, Recurrent	104,132,524	116,623,435	111,635,143	121,644,162
	Non-Recurrent				
700	General non-recurrent	2,568,935	3,500,661	2,953,095	3,516,782
	Total, Non-Recurrent	2,568,935	3,500,661	2,953,095	3,516,782
	Total, Operating Account	106,701,459	120,124,096	114,588,238	125,160,944
	Capital Account				
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	5,069	11,431	11,549	7,632
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	5,069	11,431	11,549	7,632
	Total, Capital Account	5,069	11,431	11,549	7,632
	Total Expenditure	106,706,528	120,135,527	114,599,787	125,168,576

### **Details of Expenditure by Subhead**

The estimate of the amount required in 2025–26 for the salaries and expenses of the Social Welfare Department is \$125,168,576,000. This represents an increase of \$10,568,789,000 over the revised estimate for 2024–25 and \$18,462,048,000 over the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

### Operating Account

### Recurrent

- 2 Provision of \$40,525,757,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Social Welfare Department, as well as subventions and contract payments for the operation of subsidised welfare services.
- 3 The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 6 560 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 40 posts in 2025–26. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2025–26, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$3,806,931,000.
  - 4 An analysis of the financial provision under Subhead 000 Operational expenses is as follows:

	2023–24 (Actual) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Original) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	3,575,151	3,705,879	3,688,357	3,802,139
- Allowances	41,875	40,016	41,756	41,811
- Job-related allowances	2,837	2,112	2,292	2,500
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund				
contribution	12,249	17,069	12,684	17,321
- Civil Service Provident Fund	•			
contribution	266,061	299,025	296,646	331,175
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	557,648	594,057	634,854	617,625
Other Charges	,	,	,	,
- Grant to the Emergency Relief Fund	15,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
- Programme expenses	936,968	615,843	466,440	626,176
- Other payment for welfare services	5,440,984	7,161,192	6,406,000	8,003,294
- United Nations Children's Fund	128	128	128	128
Subventions				
- Social welfare services (grants)	24,650,714	26,617,460	26,227,000	26,991,588
- Refunds of rates	83,665	87,000	84,000	87,000
	35,583,280	39,144,781	37,865,157	40,525,757

- 5 Gross provision of \$8,130,000 under *Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General)* is for the salaries and allowances of civil servants involved in taking forward initiatives and programmes of the Community Care Fund. The gross provision must not be exceeded without the prior approval of the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury. Expenditure under this subhead is to be reimbursed by the Fund.
- **6** Provision of \$136,000 under *Subhead 157 Assistance for patients and their families* is for payment to patients requiring medical care and assistance to their families pending provision of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), or where CSSA is not applicable.
- 7 Provision of \$6,502,000 under Subhead 176 Criminal and law enforcement injuries compensation is to cover compensation payable to persons who are injured as a result of violent crimes or acts of law enforcement or to their dependants as appropriate. The level of compensation for criminal injuries is based on the payment schedule of the Emergency Relief Fund whereas the level of compensation for law enforcement injuries is assessed on the basis of common law damages.
- **8** Provision of \$1 million under *Subhead 177 Emergency relief* is to cover expenditure arising from the provision of food and necessities to victims of natural and other disasters.
- 9 Provision of \$23,096 million under *Subhead 179 Comprehensive social security assistance scheme* is for payment to persons who meet the criteria for CSSA. The financial provision sought has taken into account an upward adjustment of 1.3 per cent in the standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme with effect from 1 February 2025.

- 10 Provision of \$57,948 million under *Subhead 180 Social security allowance scheme* is for payment of Disability Allowance, Old Age Allowance (OAA) and Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), as well as OAA and OALA to be paid under the Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme to eligible persons. The increase of \$6,630 million (12.9%) over the revised estimate for 2024–25 is mainly due to the expected increase in OALA cases as well as an upward adjustment of 1.3 per cent in the rates of allowances under the Social Security Allowance Scheme with effect from 1 February 2025.
- 11 Provision of \$58,267,000 under Subhead 184 Traffic accident victims assistance scheme is for the Government's contribution towards the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund. It does not represent the actual payment for cases during the year. The annual provision is calculated at 25 per cent of the estimated amount of levies to be collected in the current financial year and takes into account necessary adjustments to the Government's contribution in respect of the collection of levies in previous years. The increase of \$9,719,000 (20.0%) over the revised estimate for 2024–25 is mainly due to an estimated increase in the amount of levies to be collected in 2025–26.
- 12 Provision of \$8,500,000 under *Subhead 187 Agents' commission and expenses* is for payment of bank charges on autopay transactions.

Capital Account

# Plant, Equipment and Works

13 Provision of \$7,632,000 under Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) represents a decrease of \$3,917,000 (33.9%) against the revised estimate for 2024–25. This reflects the decreased requirement for scheduled replacement of minor plant and equipment.

# Commitments

Sub- head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2024	Revised estimated expenditure for 2024–25	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$,000	\$,000
Opera	ting Acc	count				
700		General non-recurrent				
	470	Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged	1,200,000	786,587	50,000	363,413
	521	Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project	254,000	148,775	8,300	96,925
	813	Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care	2,000,000	431,155	220,000	1,348,845
	819	Dedicated Fund for NGOs operating subvented welfare services	500,000	_	40,400	459,600
	822	Additional provision for social security recipients 2024	2,873,000	_	2,634,000	239,000
	823	Additional provision for social security recipients 2025γ	2,988,000γ	_	_	2,988,000
		Total	9,815,000	1,366,517	2,952,700	5,495,783

γ This is a new item involving half-month extra payment to eligible recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and Social Security Allowance, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2025.