

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### **(A) Background**

1.1 Hong Kong adopts a multi-modality approach in providing drug treatment and rehabilitation services to cater for the different needs of drug dependent persons from varying backgrounds. With the rapid changes in drug abuse patterns and emergence of new substances, it is necessary for the modalities to be continuously adjusted and improved to ensure that they can cater for the changing needs of drug dependent persons. For this reason, Narcotics Division (ND) has drawn up successive three-year plans on drug treatment and rehabilitation services since 1997 with the objectives of setting the policies, priorities and strategies of such services. They provide anchor points for service providers to reflect on their services and develop complementing strategies and programmes in view of the latest drug trends.

1.2 The first four Three-year Plans were promulgated in 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2006 respectively. This is the Fifth Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (the Fifth Three-year Plan) covering the period from 2009 to 2011.

### **(B) Objectives**

1.3 The objectives of the Fifth Three-year Plan are:

- (a) to assess the existing drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes in Hong Kong and see whether the services provided align with the distribution of drug dependent persons' characteristics and needs;
- (b) to identify room for adjustment and enhancement of the existing treatment and rehabilitation services in Hong Kong; and

- (c) to advise on the strategic direction to which drug treatment and rehabilitation services should take in the three-year period from 2009 to 2011.

### **(C) Consultation Process**

1.4 The formulation of the Plan is a consensus building process among relevant stakeholders. Playing a coordinating role, ND has engaged various stakeholders in the field for contribution. The process started with the setting up of a Working Group (WG) led by Dr Ben Cheung, Chairman of the Sub-committee on Treatment and Rehabilitation of the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN T&R Sub-committee), which comprised anti-drug workers from various sectors including drug treatment and rehabilitation agencies, counselling centres, academia, the medical profession and government departments to advise on the preparation of the Plan. The membership list of the WG and its terms of reference are at **Annexes I** and **II** respectively.

1.5 Through a number of consultation meetings organised by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) in July 2008, ND has solicited views from the service sector on the preparation of the Fifth Three-year Plan and on major issues of concern having regard to the rising trend of the psychotropic substance abuse.

1.6 Service agencies, counselling centres, substance abuse clinics and related government departments were invited to provide information and ideas for the Plan. Frameworks and drafts of the Plan in various stages of preparation were presented to ACAN, its T&R Sub-committee, and Drug Liaison Committee (DLC) for comment. Their views were incorporated into the Plan as far as possible.

1.7 The development of the Fifth Three-year Plan has also greatly benefited from two major reports published in 2008. They are the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse and the Director of Audit's Report No. 50. Their useful recommendations which have provided good food for thought and a steer of direction have been suitably incorporated and reflected in this Three-year Plan.

## **(D) Overview**

1.8 The Fifth Three-year Plan gives an account of the drug abuse situation in Hong Kong as captured by the Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA), and the treatment services rendered by the various government and non-governmental agencies through different modalities. It also sums up the major developments in the provision of services and implementation of the last Three-year Plan in 2006-2008. During the consultation process with the service sector and relevant stakeholders, some major issues of concern were identified. To address the concerns, we focused our strategies on certain areas and made corresponding recommendations in this Plan with a view to providing the strategic direction to which drug treatment and rehabilitation services should take in the three-year period from 2009 to 2011.

## **(E) Implementation and Monitoring**

1.9 ND will work closely with relevant stakeholders, including concerned government bureaux and departments, the Hospital Authority (HA) and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to monitor the implementation of the recommendations, and make regular progress reports to ACAN T&R Sub-committee and DLC.