

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 abusers from varying backgrounds. With the rapid changes in drug abuse patterns and emergence of new substances, it is necessary to continuously refine and improve the service approach to keep abreast of the evolving needs. Since 1997, the Narcotics Division (ND) has been drawing up three-year plans setting out the policies, priorities and strategies on drug treatment and rehabilitation services. Each three-year plan serves to provide a reference for service providers to review and develop their action plans and programmes against the latest drug scene.

1.2 A total of five three-year plans have been issued (in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2009 respectively). This is the Sixth Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (“Sixth Three-year Plan”) covering the period from 2012 to 2014.

(B) Objectives

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

- (a) to assess the existing drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes in Hong Kong and see whether they can effectively respond to the characteristics and needs of drug abusers today;
- (b) to identify room for adjustment and enhancement of the existing treatment and rehabilitation services; and
- (c) to advise on the strategic direction to which drug treatment and rehabilitation services should take between 2012 and 2014.

(C) Consultation Process

1.4 The formulation of the Plan is a consensus building process among stakeholders. ND has engaged different parties and coordinated

input. Dr Ben Cheung, Chairman of the Action Committee Against Narcotics Sub-committee on Treatment and Rehabilitation (ACAN T&R Sub-committee), led a Working Group (WG) which comprised representatives from drug treatment and rehabilitation agencies, counselling centres, academic, the medical profession and government departments to advise on the formulation of the Plan. The membership list of the WG and its terms of reference are at **Annexes I and II** respectively.

1.5 ND solicited views from the social welfare sector through a focus group and a consultation session organised by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) in June and July 2011 respectively. In August 2011, ND also consulted the medical sector with the help of the Hong Kong Medical Association in August 2011.

1.6 ND also heard views from service agencies, counselling centres, substance abuse clinics and related government departments. Frameworks and drafts of the Plan were reviewed by ACAN, its T&R Sub-committee, and Drug Liaison Committee (DLC). Their views were incorporated into the Plan as far as possible.

1.7 The Sixth Three-year Plan has also taken into account the recommendations on voluntary residential Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (DTRCs) as set out in the Report No. 55 of the Director of Audit issued in late 2010; and also the Report of the Public Accounts Committee published in early 2011.

(D) Overview

1.8 The Sixth 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 different treatment services rendered by the various government and non-governmental agencies. It summarises the major developments since the Fifth Three-year Plan covering 2009-2011. The Plan also addresses the major issues of concern that were identified during the consultation with the anti-drug sector and stakeholders, and recommends strategic direction in the period from 2012 to 2014.

(E) Implementation and Monitoring

1.9 ND will work closely with stakeholders, including concerned

government bureaux and departments (B/Ds), the Hospital Authority (HA) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and regularly report the progress to ACAN T&R Sub-committee and DLC.