


To achieve our vision of a sustainable healthcare system, we must take forward this series of inter-connected reform proposals as a whole package. The proposals should thus be considered in their entirety.

In the process of developing our future healthcare system, the Government's commitment to public healthcare will only be increased and not reduced. The Government will continue to provide the main financing source for healthcare services. The Chief Executive has pledged to increase government expenditure on healthcare from 15% to 17% of recurrent government expenditure by 2011-12. The Financial Secretary has also committed in the Budget announced in February that, after the implementation of supplementary financing arrangements after consultation, no matter what the final arrangements are, he will draw \$50 billion from the fiscal reserves to assist the implementation of healthcare reform so as to help meet this major challenge to future public finances.

Where healthcare is concerned, every member of the society is a stakeholder. Our future rests with our choice. Our healthcare system is important for each and every one of us, and is an important asset that we leave for our future generations for the protection of their health. I hope we can all seize the opportunity to build a consensus to reform the healthcare system to make it sustainable.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to members of the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee and to members of the Committee's Working Group on Health Care Financing for their thorough analysis of the problems involved and their constructive and valuable recommendations. Their contributions have been instrumental in the formulation of this consultation document.



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