



## HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR NURSING EDUCATION LIMITED

P.O. Box 98898, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
<http://www.hksne.org.hk>

Dr York Chow  
Secretary for Food and Health  
Food and Health Bureau  
19/F Murray Building  
Garden Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
Fax (852) 21022525  
Email [beStrong@fhh.gov.hk](mailto:beStrong@fhh.gov.hk)

30 May 2008

Dear Dr Chow,

Re : Health reform consultation document

We appreciate the Hong Kong SAR Government for her efforts in composing the health reform consultation document and the invitation of the public to provide comments. The Hong Kong Society for Nursing Education would like to express our views on the document. We agree on some of the underlying principles of the reform, but we also have a number of concerns. Below please find an account of our views.

We agree on the following principles in the health care reform:

- We need a health care system that encompasses financial stability and sustainability
- We need a health care system that provides accessible, affordable and available care to all citizens of Hong Kong
- We need a health care system that is effective but efficient to contain cost and appropriate use of resources
- We support a health care financial system that pools and shares out risks

Our concerns are that:

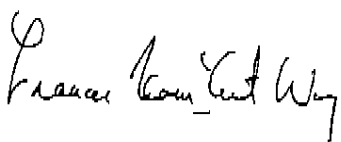
- The document appears to have equated primary care to primary medical care. We believe that primary care not only involves medical care, but health maintenance, health promotion and illness prevention.
- The document has put its focus on health care financing. We believe that a sound health care finance system can facilitate access to affordable care, but a sound health care finance system alone cannot make people healthy. To achieve health for all, we

need efforts from all people concerned including the participation of a multi-disciplinary health care team, not just medical doctors as well as the people who have a sense of responsibility to take care of their own health.

- In regard to building a multi-disciplinary team to help maintain peoples' health, it should be cautioned that we need use human and financial resources effectively. For instance, we need to reduce the use of resources on administration and bureaucracy so as to ensure that most of the resources are put in for the actual delivery of services. At the same time, the Government needs to have long-term manpower planning to prepare appropriate health care professionals for illness prevention and health maintenance.
- In regard to the realization of shared responsibilities of individuals in their own health, the concept of empowerment needs to be reinforced and included in the formal health care system.
- The Hong Kong Society for Nursing Education has a particular mission "to achieve excellence in nursing service through the enhancement of quality nursing education". We represent a substantial number of nurses in Hong Kong to confirm our mission and determination to contribute the health of Hong Kong people. We urge the Government to make the best use of the nurses in Hong Kong in the health care reform. To this end, we would like to express our grave concern for the Hospital Authority, Hong Kong to re-open a number of hospital-based nursing schools. The training of nurses in a hospital environment is antithetical to the main theme of the document which is the promotion of primary health care and keeps people healthy in the community. The preparation of a generation of nurses must be in line with the needs of future health care services which is the advocate of primary care and reduction of inappropriate use of hospital services. The Government needs to consider prepare nurses with generic competences which are best prepared in the universities and not in hospitals.

We look forward to the second phase of the work in preparation of the health care reform. We would be willing to work closely with the government to make the community of Hong Kong healthy and strong!

Yours sincerely,



Frances Kam Yuet Wong RN PhD  
Chairperson  
Hong Kong Society for Nursing Education

