

Mental Health Policy

As stated by the World Health Organization (WHO), there is “no health without mental health”¹. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region attaches great importance to the mental well-being of the public and recognises that mental health goes beyond medical care.

The Government adopts an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach towards mental health, including promotion, prevention, early identification, as well as timely intervention and treatment, and rehabilitation for persons in need. From self-care, primary care and community support to specialist care and institutionalised services, the Government seeks to provide comprehensive and cross-sectoral services to the public (in particular, persons with mental health needs) through engagement and support of legislative councillors, academic experts, patients and carers, healthcare, social welfare and legal professionals, and stakeholders in the community, as well as collaboration and cooperation among relevant bureaux/departments, the Hospital Authority, academic institutions and organisations/associations in the healthcare, social welfare and education sectors.

It is the Government’s policy direction to encourage community support and ambulatory services, coupled with necessary and essential institutionalised services, so as to build a mental-health friendly society, facilitating re-integration into the community.

In view of the cross-sectoral nature of mental health services, it is important for the Government to put in place high-level standing mechanism to ensure full integration and coherence of services provided to the public.

¹ World Health Organization. Mental health: strengthening our response. Fact sheet No 220.