

# Chapter 1

## The Public Consultation

1.1 The public consultation on Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities (PHFs) was conducted between 15 December 2014 and 16 March 2015. We consulted the public on –

- (a) the **three categories of PHFs proposed to be regulated and their respective definitions:**
  - **hospitals**
  - facilities providing **high-risk medical procedures in ambulatory setting**
  - facilities providing medical services **under the management of incorporated bodies;**
- (b) the proposed **19 regulatory aspects and their applicability** under the revamped regulatory regime; and
- (c) the proposed **powers to be conferred on the regulatory authority.**

1.2 During the consultation period, we rolled out a publicity campaign comprising a series of engagement activities. We engaged different organizations and stakeholders in the community through various briefings and public forums. Submissions from the public and stakeholders were received in written and electronic form during the consultation period. Public views were also invited through the Public Affairs Forum managed by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB).

### General Publicity

1.3 We publicized the public consultation through an Announcement in the Public Interest broadcast on television and radio, as well as various publicity materials distributed to District Offices, public libraries, public hospitals, government offices and private hospitals, etc. A total of 32,000 leaflets, 10,000 information booklets, 2,000 posters and 25,000 Consultation Documents were printed for distribution to the public.

### Legislative Council

1.4 We attended the meeting of the Panel on Health Services of the Legislative Council on 15 December 2014 and its special meeting on 13 January 2015 to brief Members on the Consultation Document. We also listened to the views of a total of 27 deputations at another special meeting of the Panel on Health Services on 17 February 2015. Please see [Annex I](#) for links to the minutes of meetings.

## District Councils

1.5 We briefed the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the 18 District Councils (DCs) on the proposals on 18 December 2014. Representatives of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) attended meetings of all 18 DCs (or their relevant subcommittees as advised by the respective DCs) to brief them on the proposals in detail and to collect Members' views. At the meetings, Members actively expressed their views on the proposals and reflected the views of local communities. In general, DCs agreed with the direction and proposals put forward to enhance regulation of PHFs. Please see **Annex II** for links to the minutes of the relevant DC meetings.

## Briefings/ Seminars/ Forums in the Community

1.6 During the consultation period, we attended 25 briefing sessions, including community forums organized by FHB, briefings and seminars organized by various parties and stakeholders in the community. These occasions provided the opportunity for the Government to explain the proposals in detail and to listen to the views expressed by various stakeholders and members of the public. Please see **Annex III** for a list of the briefing sessions, forums and seminars held.

## Written Submissions and Opinions Expressed

1.7 The Government received a total of 296 submissions on the proposals from individuals and organizations by hand, email, post and facsimile, etc. These included 238 submissions from individuals and 58 submissions from organizations. Please see **Annex IV** for a list of all written submissions received (except where the sender requested to remain anonymous or did not want to publish his/ her views). Copies of the submissions are available on the Healthcare Planning and Development Office (HPDO) website (<http://www.hpdo.gov.hk>), except where the sender requested not to make public the submission. We have also monitored commentaries and opinions expressed through other channels, including the media (both electronic and printed) and online forums such as the Public Affairs Forum run by HAB. We have taken all these into account when analyzing the public responses.

## Telephone Survey

1.8 To facilitate collation and assessment of views on the proposals and issues related to the regulation of PHFs, we commissioned a household survey by telephone interview from January to June 2015. The summary of the results of the survey is at **Annex V**, whereas the full report is available on the HPDO website.

1.9 The ensuing chapters set out our analysis of the public views received in the consultation exercise and the recommended way forward.