



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS KEPT BUSY IN 1974  
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS ATTENDED TO 38,171 CASES IN THE YEAR ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 1974.

OF THESE, 10,696 PATIENTS WERE SEEN AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, AND 6,959 AT THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL. OTHERS WERE ATTENDED TO AT THE TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL, AND OTHER DEPARTMENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

HEADING THE DEPARTMENT'S MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE IS MISS PEGGY CHAN, PRINCIPAL MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER. SHE IS ASSISTED BY A STAFF OF ABOUT 100 AT PRESENT, SEVEN OF WHOM WERE RECRUITED LAST YEAR.

THE SERVICE IS INTENDED TO COMPLEMENT HOSPITAL AND CLINICAL WORK BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PATIENTS WHO, ON ENTRY INTO OR DISCHARGE FROM GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS OR CLINICS, HAVE PERSONAL OR SOCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH COULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR ILLNESS OR DISABILITY, THEIR USE OF THE MEDICAL CARE OFFERED, OR THEIR SPEEDY AND SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY.

FORMERLY, MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS WERE KNOWN AS ALMONERS. THIS TERM CEASED TO BE USED IN 1965 BECAUSE IT WAS FELT THAT MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS IS A MORE APPROPRIATE DESCRIPTION OF THEIR ROLE IN THE HOSPITAL OR CLINIC SITUATION.

+THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER IN SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL THERAPY IS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNISED, + MISS CHAN SAYS.  
+IN HONG KONG, THE SERVICE OF MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS IS GROWING BECAUSE OF THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, AND THE INCREASING EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON MEDICAL AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION.

+MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS ARE PART OF A MEDICAL AND HEALTH TEAM, AND THEIR MAIN CONCERN RELATES TO THE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN ILLNESSES AND DISABILITIES.

+THEIR MAIN CONTRIBUTION IS TO HELP PATIENTS MAKE THE BEST USE OF MEDICAL CARE, AND TO ASSIST THE PATIENT AND HIS FAMILY WITH THE PROBLEMS THAT ARISE FROM AN ILLNESS.

/MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS .....

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+MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS ALSO HELP THE HANDICAPPED AND THE CHRONICALLY-ILL TO ADJUST TO THEIR CONDITIONS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE POSITIVELY IN THE COMMUNITY. THIS IS DONE BY LIAISON WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.+

MISS CHAN SAYS THERE ARE THREE WAYS OF PROVIDING MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE -- BY THE CASE WORK METHOD, THE GROUP WORK METHOD, AND THE COMMUNITY WORK METHOD.

THE INDIVIDUAL CASE WORK METHOD -- THE MOST POPULAR OF THE THREE -- IS USED IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS, DEPENDING ON THE ABILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO RESPOND.

THE GROUP WORK METHOD IS BEING INCREASINGLY USED. SMALL NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR PROBLEMS, SUCH AS AMPUTEES, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE GROUPED TOGETHER TO HELP FIND A SOLUTION SUITABLE FOR ALL. THEY SHARE COMMON PROBLEMS, AND SO ARE ABLE TO HELP EACH OTHER CONSTRUCTIVELY THROUGH INTERACTION WITHIN THEIR CIRCLE.

THE COMMUNITY WORK METHOD IS EMPLOYED IN A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY CONCERNED WITH PARTICULAR PROBLEMS, BUT IS SELDOM USED IN THE MEDICAL SETTING OF HONG KONG.

THE DEPARTMENT'S MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES IN HOSPITALS, CLINICS, CONSULTANTS' CLINICS, PSYCHIATRIC UNITS, AND MANY OTHER INSTITUTIONS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ACCORDING TO MISS CHAN, MORE IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES ARE BEING CARRIED OUT NOW THAN PREVIOUSLY.

THE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO REQUESTS FROM OTHER NON-GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS' NURSING SCHOOLS, WELFARE ORGANISATIONS, AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING SECTIONS, TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THEIR STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

IN ADDITION, PRACTICAL WORK PLACEMENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S HOSPITALS AND CLINICS, MAINLY THE QUEEN ELIZABETH, THE QUEEN MARY AND THE KOWLOON HOSPITALS, AND OTHER CLINICS, ARE AVAILABLE TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNDERGOING TRAINING IN SOCIAL WORK.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING A MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER AT WORK ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AFTER 3 P.M. FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM, DEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 6TH FLOOR.

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**PUBLIC REMINDED OF NEED TO REGISTER FOR I.D. CARDS**

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SOME 150 PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED LAST YEAR FOR FAILING TO REGISTER FOR IDENTITY CARDS, WITH FINES OF \$500 IMPOSED IN THE MORE SERIOUS CASES.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION, MR. JOHN MITCHELL, REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OF THE NEED TO REGISTER FOR IDENTITY CARDS.

HE SAID THAT HOLDERS OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN PASSPORTS MUST REGISTER FOR IDENTITY CARDS IF THEY INTENDED TO STAY IN HONG KONG FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR MONTHS OR LONGER.

FAILING TO REGISTER FOR AN IDENTITY CARD IS AN OFFENCE AND THE OFFENDER MAY BE FINED UP TO \$1,000 AND SENT TO PRISON FOR SIX MONTHS.

THE COMMISSIONER ALSO STRESSED THAT PERSONS WHO HAVE MOVED HOUSE, CHANGED JOBS, GOT MARRIED OR RETURNED FROM OVERSEAS RECENTLY, ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT SO THAT RECORDS CAN BE UP-DATED.

ANY CHANGE IN REGISTERED PARTICULARS MAY BE REPORTED BY LETTER AND FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC, A SPECIALLY POSTED FORM (ROP 18) MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ANY POST OFFICE COUNTER, CITY DISTRICT OFFICE OR DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN CASE OF DOUBT, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD SEEK ADVICE FROM ANY OF THE BRANCH OFFICES OF THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT.

REFERRING TO JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS, THE COMMISSIONER SAID IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN WHEN THEY REACHED THE AGE OF 11.

REGISTRATION MUST BE DONE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A CHILD'S 11TH BIRTHDAY AND, IN THE CASE OF A NEW ARRIVAL, WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE CHILD'S ARRIVAL.

AS FOR YOUNG PERSONS, THEY SHOULD REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS WITHIN A MONTH OF THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY.

LAST YEAR, ABOUT 200,000 CHILDREN REGISTERED FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS WHILE OVER 82,000 PEOPLE REGISTERED FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS.

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