

SWD to accept Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities applications all year round

The Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities (SPED) administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will be open for applications all year round from tomorrow (February 11).

To support the employment of persons with disabilities, the SWD launched SPED in June 2013 to provide employers of persons with disabilities with a one-off subsidy for each employee with disabilities for procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications. The programme seeks to facilitate employees with disabilities in discharging their duties in the workplace and enhancing their work efficiency.

The subsidy is capped at a maximum support level of \$20,000 for each employee with disabilities. Starting from 2014-15, a grant of up to \$40,000 may be considered for deserving cases for which the price of a single item of assistive device and its essential accessories exceeds \$20,000.

A wide range of assistive devices and workplace modifications which cater to the special needs of employees with disabilities at the workplace will be considered. Examples include computer accessories or adaptive equipment, optical magnifying devices, hearing and assistive devices, Braille products and handrails.

The Po Leung Kuk has been commissioned to serve as the SPED Administrator. It will assist in administering and promoting SPED, provide advisory services and follow up on the progress of the subsidised programmes, prepare assessments on the applications and make recommendations to the Committee on the SPED set up by the SWD for consideration.

Employers may apply for a subsidy under the SPED through nomination of the following referring organisations:

1. non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating SWD-subvented vocational rehabilitation services;
2. NGOs running training courses for persons with disabilities or persons recovering from work injuries with the funding support of the Employees Retraining Board;
3. the Selective Placement Division of the Labour Department;
4. the Vocational Training Council; or
5. the SPED Administrator (Po Leung Kuk).

Employers may submit their completed application forms together with the required documents by mail or by hand to the SWD through the referring organisations. No application fee is required and each applicant may submit

more than one application.

For enquiries, please contact Po Leung Kuk SPED Office by phone at 3980 9677, by email at sped@poleungkuk.org.hk or by fax at 3980 9633.

For more details, the information note and the SPED application form, people may visit and download from the SWD homepage www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_rehab/sub_listofserv/id_vocational/id_sped.

Liquor Licensing Board to meet on Tuesday

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

The Liquor Licensing Board will meet on Tuesday (February 12) to consider eight applications for new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment of liquor licences.

The applications are (not in order of discussion):

Hong Kong:

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Zoo in Sheung Wan
Le Cleret Brasserie and LONG CHIM HONG KONG in Central
Le Reve in Causeway Bay
GOTTHARD BASE RESTAURANT & LOUNGE in North Point

Kowloon:

—
GUESS in Tsim Sha Tsui
Neway Karaoke Box and THE BREWERY in Mong Kok

The board will also consider revoking the liquor licence of AROY-D THAI RESTAURANT in Kowloon City.

The meeting will be held at 9.45am in the conference room, Room 102, 1/F, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. Members of the public are welcome to attend, except the private session on confidential items.

Fostering future aviation careers

The demand for aviation talent is taking off with Hong Kong International Airport's Three Runway System expected to be completed by 2024.

News.gov.hk spoke with representatives of the Vocational Training Council and the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy to find out how the Earn & Learn Scheme for aviation helps fulfil this need for talent.

The story appears on news.gov.hk today (February 10) in both text and video format.

Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates in public hospitals

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

During the winter surge, the Hospital Authority is closely monitoring the service demand of Accident and Emergency Departments and the occupancy rate in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the appended table.

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Sha Tin

Police advise motorists that special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Sha Tin to facilitate the race meeting today (February 10).

The arrangements will come into effect two hours before the start of the first race and will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

Appropriate traffic signs will be put up and police will be on hand to guide motorists.

The Police also appeal to people going to Sha Tin Racecourse for the

race meeting and to Happy Valley Racecourse for cross betting to make maximum use of public transport.

Parking spaces at the two racecourses are available only to holders of appropriate permits issued by Hong Kong Jockey Club and any vehicles illegally parked will be towed away.