



**The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing**  
**香港護理專科學院**

## **Response to 2019-2020 Budget Consultation**

The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing (HKAN), incorporated in October 2011, is an independent institution to organize, monitor, assess and accredit all nursing specialist training programs and to oversee the provision of continuing specialist nursing education. The HKAN is charged with the responsibility to regulate the practices of Advanced Practice Nurses to safeguard the public's right to receive safe and quality health care services. The HKAN composes of 14 Specialty Colleges and being recognized of its pivotal role in revitalizing healthcare system through advanced nursing practice and clinical specialties.

In response to 2019-2020 Budget Consultation, the Hong Kong Academy of Nursing (HKAN) would like to make the following recommendations:

**1) Seek Government Support in statutory legislation for Advanced and Specialized Nursing Practice at the earliest**

In order to maintain the excellent health care services in Hong Kong, retention and cultivation of talents and managing the contemporary complex health care delivery services, the earliest regulation of advanced nursing practice in specialty areas is necessary and in alignment with international development. This is also for the protection of public safety. The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing sets standards, accredits curriculum and certifies examinations for advanced practice nurses in different specialty areas can help to support the government in this endeavor. Moreover, the HKAN in collaboration with the UGC funded universities provides postgraduate education to prepare advanced practice nurses in different specialties. We ask the government to speed up the process in regulating advanced and specialized nursing practice by providing financial resources including the recommendation below.

**2) Seek Government support to identify premises for different specialty nursing development, similar to Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Building at Wong Chuk Hang**

The Hong Kong Academy of Nursing (HKAN) would like to seek government support either in monetary term or free house grant for premises to be the HKAN office for

different specialty nursing training and development, which is similar to the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine building situated at Wong Chuk Hang. Ideally, the premises will include lecture theatre, conference rooms, offices, meeting rooms and examination rooms with computer setting and audio-visual equipment for nursing training, symposia and conferences.

**3) Increase University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded nursing training quotas to meet the expected demand**

The initiatives from the government to increasing 60 nos. of First Year First Degree UGC-funded nursing training places in 2019/2020, followed by increasing 60 nos. in 2022/2023 and providing funding support and subsidy to self-financing nursing degree programs have only barely met part of the manpower demand, yet the manpower supply still falls behind demand and growth. The Government should provide support to further increase in UGC-funded nursing quota to meet the manpower needs.

**4) Inject more resources to Hospital Authority (HA) and the community to develop Advanced Practice Nurse for the provision of quality care services to the public**

The qualification and competence for the initial entry to practice in nursing is not adequate to deal with contemporary and complex health care demands. Systemic reviews consistently show that Advanced Nursing Practice contribute to better patient outcomes and fill the services gap. More government funding support is needed to HA and the community for advanced practice nurse training and recruitment. Particularly in the community, advanced practicing nurses are needed to support primary health care initiatives of the Government.

**5) Inject more resources including protected time with compensation leave and financial support for course fee of continuous professional development**

To encourage continued nursing education in advancing their professional knowledge and widening their exposure both local and overseas as well as flourishing a positive and effective learning environment, resources from government including protected time and financial support for course fee is necessary.

**6) Inject resources for Chinese Medicinal Nursing training and development**

Traditionally, nurses are trained in western medicine, to cope with the services demand upon the development of Chinese Medicine and the opening the Chinese Medicine Hospital at Tseung Kwan O, more government resources to train up nurses in this area is required.

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