

Head 149 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD BUREAU

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2003–04	\$160.6m
Establishment ceiling 2003–04 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 101 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2003 rising by 32 posts to 133 posts as at 31 March 2004 ...	\$56.7m
In addition there will be an estimated 15 directorate posts as at 31 March 2003 rising by five posts to 20 posts as at 31 March 2004.	
Capital Account commitment balance	\$111.0m

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office	This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food).
Programme (2) Social Welfare	This programme contributes to Policy Area 14: Social Welfare (Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food).
Programme (3) Health	This programme contributes to Policy Area 15: Health (Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food).
Programme (4) Women's Interests	This programme contributes to Policy Area 33: Women's Interests (Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food).
Programme (5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food).
Programme (6) Environmental Hygiene	This programme contributes to Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food).

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2001–02 (Actual)	2002–03 (Approved)	2002–03 (Revised)	2003–04 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	—	—	—	6.1

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food is responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food in carrying out his duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions.

Programme (2): Social Welfare

	2001–02 (Actual)	2002–03 (Approved)	2002–03 (Revised)	2003–04 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	44.4	65.8 (+48.2%)	51.4 (–21.9%)	68.0 (+32.3%)

Aim

4 The aim is to provide an environment which enables everyone to reach their full potential thereby achieving self-reliance and contributing to the well-being of the community and in this context, appropriate welfare support is available to assist those in need.

Head 149 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD BUREAU

Brief Description

5 The bureau formulates and co-ordinates policies and programmes to:

- improve the quality of life of our elders so that they can enjoy a sense of security, a sense of belonging, and a feeling of health and worthiness;
- provide a social safety net to ensure that assistance is available to the financially vulnerable;
- facilitate and encourage the full participation and integration of people with disabilities into the community;
- protect children in need of care;
- enhance social inclusion in the community;
- preserve and strengthen the family;
- help young people develop into responsible and contributing members of the community and facilitate the rehabilitation of young offenders; and
- prevent suicide.

6 Generally, the effectiveness of the work of the bureau is reflected in the extent to which the departments and subvented organisations delivering social welfare services achieve the objectives of this programme and in the extent to which the social security system achieves its objectives. The bureau is making good progress towards achieving the targets set out in the 2002–03 Controlling Officer's Report.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003–04

7 During 2003–04, the bureau will:

- promote the concept of healthy ageing through strengthening community participation in healthy ageing activities and explore ways to promote active ageing, including lifelong learning for elders;
- oversee the provision of enhanced and integrated home and community care services for frail elders living at home;
- monitor the supply of residential care places to help meet the needs for residential care services of elders;
- review the social security schemes to develop a sustainable financial support system for needy older persons to meet their basic needs;
- keep under review the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme to ensure that it is financially sustainable as a safety net of last resort, and monitor the provision of intensified employment assistance to employable CSSA recipients to help them become self-reliant;
- pilot new planning strategies for welfare services;
- continue to oversee the implementation of improvements to the social welfare subvention system;
- assist in the design and monitoring of measures designed to promote the self-reliance, accessibility and employment opportunities of people with disabilities;
- monitor and enhance services for young people;
- introduce legislative proposals to the Adoption Ordinance and the Disability Discrimination Ordinance;
- operate the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund;
- pursue the harmonisation of child care centres and kindergartens;
- encourage research into suicide and the development of appropriate preventive and assistive programmes;
- putting in place the necessary arrangements for launching a new legal representation scheme for children/juveniles involved in care or protection proceedings;
- provide assistance to family members of those who sacrifice themselves to save others; and
- pursue the development of integrated welfare services, particularly Integrated Family Service Centres.

Programme (3): Health

	2001–02 (Actual)	2002–03 (Approved)	2002–03 (Revised)	2003–04 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	29.2	34.6 (+18.5%)	35.2 (+1.7%)	43.5 (+23.6%)

Head 149 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD BUREAU

Aim

8 The aim is to formulate and oversee implementation of policies to protect and promote public health, to provide comprehensive and lifelong holistic care to each citizen, and to ensure that no one is prevented, through lack of means, from obtaining adequate medical treatment.

Brief Description

9 The bureau formulates and co-ordinates policies and programmes to:

- protect and promote health;
- prevent and treat illness and disease; and
- minimise the impact of disability.

10 Generally, the effectiveness of the work of the bureau is reflected in the extent to which the departments and subvented organisations delivering medical and healthcare services achieve the objectives of this programme. The aims have been broadly achieved in 2002–03.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003–04

11 During 2003–04, the bureau will:

- oversee the transfer of the general out-patient clinics from the Department of Health to the Hospital Authority;
- oversee the implementation of a parenting programme as well as health promotion and preventive programmes for adolescents, men, women and elders;
- oversee the implementation of the registration system for Chinese medicine practitioners;
- oversee the phased introduction of Chinese medicine out-patient services in selected clinics;
- phase-in the controls over the trading and manufacture of Chinese medicines;
- take forward legislative proposals to regulate misleading or untruthful health claims;
- amend the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance;
- assess the merits of Health Protection Account;
- commence operation of the Health and Health Services Research Fund to promote the advancement of knowledge in human health and health policy formulation; and
- strengthen and enhance the existing non-CSSA waiver mechanism to assist those patients who cannot afford the medical fees due to insufficient means.

Programme (4): Women's Interests

	2001–02 (Actual)	2002–03 (Approved)	2002–03 (Revised)	2003–04 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	14.6	23.7 (+62.3%)	20.7 (–12.7%)	23.0 (+11.1%)

Aim

12 The aim is to promote the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong, and to support the Women's Commission's mission to enable women to fully realise their due status, rights and opportunities in all aspects of life.

Brief Description

13 The bureau formulates and co-ordinates policies and programmes to:

- facilitate the incorporation of women's perspectives in the process of policy making where appropriate;
- empower women and enable them to participate more fully in the community;
- identify needs and concerns of women and improve delivery of services to women;
- enhance the community's sensitivity to and understanding of gender-related issues and reduce gender stereotyping as well as to facilitate exchange of views and ideas on women matters;
- improve communication between the Government and non-governmental organisations and strengthen liaison with relevant international bodies; and
- ensure adherence to the relevant international conventions and agreements in Hong Kong.

Head 149 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD BUREAU

14 Generally, the effectiveness of the work of the bureau is reflected in the extent to which work on the three identified priority areas of action, i.e. gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women, and public education has progressed. Overall, the bureau is making good progress.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003–04

15 During 2003–04, the bureau will:

- introduce a “Gender Mainstreaming Checklist” to a number of policy areas;
- provide gender-related training to civil servants to facilitate the taking into account of women’s perspectives during policy formulation, the legislative process and the implementation phase;
- commission studies, surveys and research on women issues;
- conduct regular meetings with local women’s groups and service agencies and participate in key international forums;
- review services for women and promote the development of new or improved services, including new models and good practices;
- work with relevant parties to enhance women’s participation in advisory and statutory bodies; and
- conduct public education programmes to enhance public awareness on gender-related issues.

Programme (5): Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

	2001–02 (Actual)	2002–03 (Approved)	2002–03 (Revised)	2003–04 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	13.0	14.1 (+8.5%)	12.0 (–14.9%)	10.9 (–9.2%)

Aim

16 The aim is to formulate and oversee implementation of policies to ensure that food available for human consumption is safe, to respond to food incidents promptly and effectively, to prevent the introduction and spread of zoonotic diseases and diseases in animals and plants, to facilitate the development of the agricultural and fisheries industries, and to oversee efficient operation of government wholesale marketing facilities for fresh food produce.

Brief Description

17 Following the implementation of the accountability system on 1 July 2002, this bureau has taken over the programme on “Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety” from the former Environment and Food Bureau. The bureau’s main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and to keep under review policies relating to food supply and food safety. It made significant progress in this area of work.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003–04

18 During 2003–04, the bureau will:

- introduce legislative amendments to update the requirements for the labelling of food additives, allergic food ingredients etc. in the light of international standards;
- consult the public on the introduction of a nutritional labelling system into Hong Kong;
- formulate and oversee the implementation of measures to upgrade veterinary public health to minimise the risk of outbreaks of zoonotic diseases;
- oversee the implementation of the regulation to control the use of chemicals and drugs in food animals;
- formulate proposals to extend import control to animal products and feeds to prevent animal diseases; and
- continue to oversee the formulation of implementation plans to conserve fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters.

Programme (6): Environmental Hygiene

	2001–02 (Actual)	2002–03 (Approved)	2002–03 (Revised)	2003–04 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	14.0	13.4 (–4.3%)	10.8 (–19.4%)	9.1 (–15.7%)

Head 149 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD BUREAU

Aim

19 The aim is to provide quality environmental hygiene services in the territory, to strengthen the management and facilities of public markets, to minimise the risks and threats caused to public health by pest and other nuisances, to enhance the effectiveness of regulatory control over food business premises, and to promote public involvement in the upkeep of personal and environmental hygiene standards.

Brief Description

20 Following the implementation of the accountability system on 1 July 2002, this bureau has taken over the programme on “Environmental Hygiene” from the former Environment and Food Bureau. The bureau’s main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and co-ordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities. It made good progress in achieving the targets set for 2002.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2003–04

21 During 2003–04, the bureau will:

- continue to identify and implement measures to achieve greater cost effectiveness in the provision of environmental hygiene services;
- maintain the viability of public markets by carrying out improvement works and upgrading their management;
- continue to identify potential areas for deregulation and streamlining of licensing procedures;
- strengthen surveillance and control of rodent and mosquito populations; and
- continue to promote public awareness of the importance of food, environmental and personal hygiene.

**Head 149 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE
AND FOOD BUREAU**

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2001-02 (Actual) (\$m)	2002-03 (Approved) (\$m)	2002-03 (Revised) (\$m)	2003-04 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Director of Bureau's Office	—	—	—	6.1
(2) Social Welfare	44.4	65.8	51.4	68.0
(3) Health	29.2	34.6	35.2	43.5
(4) Women's Interests	14.6	23.7	20.7	23.0
(5) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety#.....	13.0	14.1	12.0	10.9
(6) Environmental Hygiene#	14.0	13.4	10.8	9.1
	<hr/> 115.2	<hr/> 151.6 (+31.6%)	<hr/> 130.1 (-14.2%)	<hr/> 160.6 (+23.4%)

Provisions for Programmes 5 and 6 were previously funded under Head 154—Environment and Food Bureau before the introduction of the accountability system on 1 July 2002. The related expenditure in 2001-02 and 2002-03 are included to facilitate comparison.

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2003-04 is \$6.1 million. This is the provision for the salaries and allowances of the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food and staff in his Office.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2003-04 is \$16.6 million (32.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the provision for the payment of financial assistance under the "Financial Assistance Scheme for Family Members of Those Who Sacrifice Their Lives to Save Others" and the provision for the payment of financial assistance under the "Legal Representation Scheme for Children/Juveniles in Care or Protection Proceedings", partly offset by the reduced operating expenses under the efficiency savings.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2003-04 is \$8.3 million (23.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the provision for Health and Health Services Research Fund, partly offset by the reduced operating expenses under the efficiency savings.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2003-04 is \$2.3 million (11.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the expenses for organising programmes, liaison with local women's groups, participation in major international forums, conducting training as well as surveys and studies to be incurred in 2003-04, partly offset by the reduced operating expenses under the efficiency savings.

Programme (5)

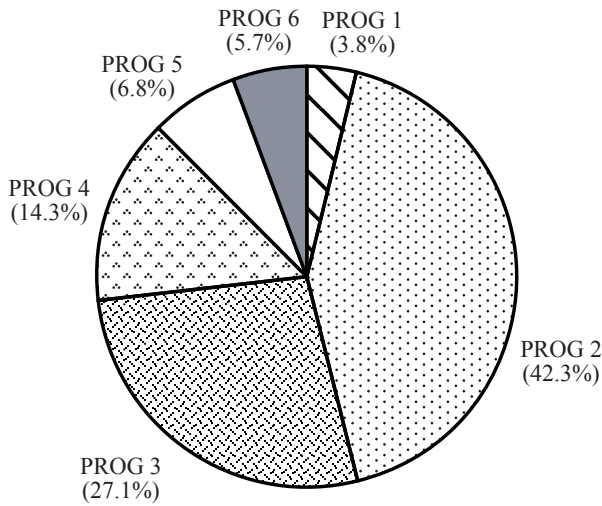
Provision for 2003-04 is \$1.1 million (9.2%) lower than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the redistribution of resources arising from the implementation of the accountability system with effect from 1.7.2002 and the reduced operating expenses under the efficiency savings.

Programme (6)

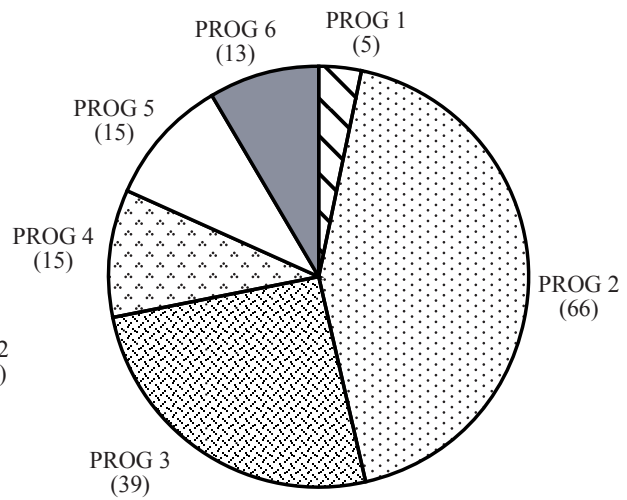
Provision for 2003-04 is \$1.7 million (15.7%) lower than the revised estimate for 2002-03. This is mainly due to the redistribution of resources arising from the implementation of the accountability system with effect from 1.7.2002 and the reduced operating expenses under the efficiency savings.

**Head 149 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE
AND FOOD BUREAU**

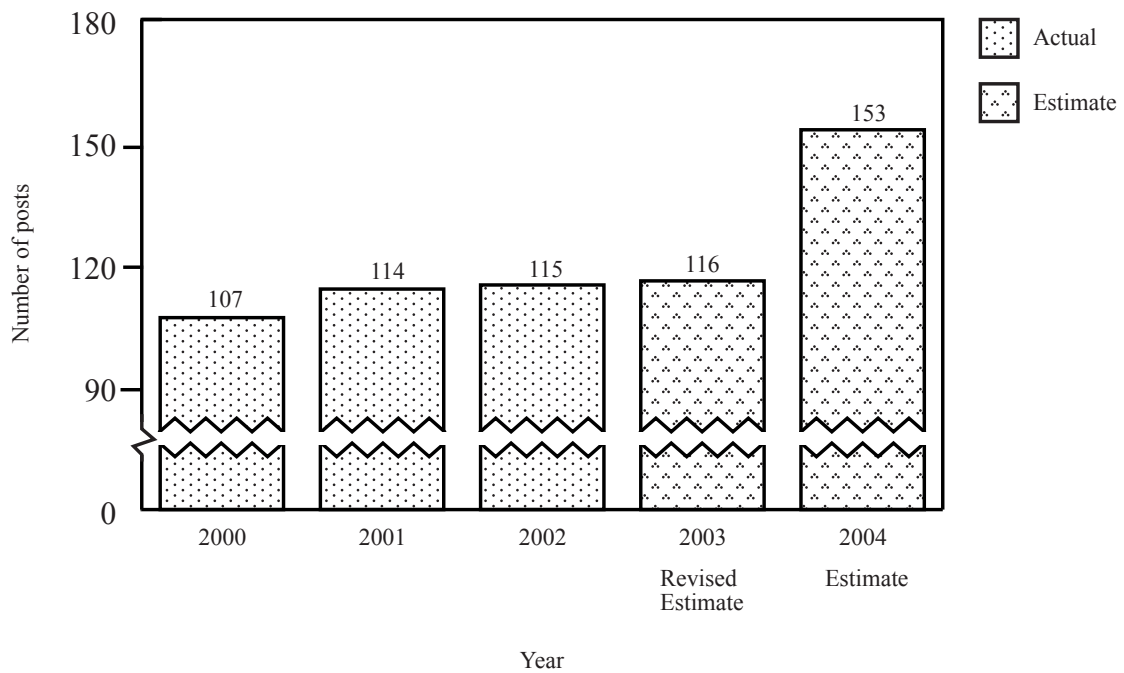
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2003-04)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2004)*



*Changes in the size of the establishment
(as at 31 March)*



**Head 149 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE
AND FOOD BUREAU**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2001-02	Approved estimate 2002-03	Revised estimate 2002-03	Estimate 2003-04
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Recurrent Account				
000	Operational expenses.....	—	—	138,889
	Salaries	63,994	64,505	—
	Allowances	3,243	3,465	—
	Job-related allowances	6	7	—
	General departmental expenses	19,798	43,793	—
	Total, Recurrent Account	87,041	111,770	138,889
Capital Account				
II — Other Non-Recurrent				
700	General other non-recurrent	1,204	318	9,687
846	Financial assistance for family members of those who sacrifice their lives to save others (block vote).....	—	12,000	12,000
	Total, Other Non-Recurrent	1,204	12,318	21,687
	Total, Capital Account	1,204	12,318	21,687
	Total Expenditure.....	88,245	124,088	160,576

Head 149 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD BUREAU

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2003–04 for the salaries and expenses of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau is \$160,576,000. This represents an increase of \$53,285,000 over the revised estimate for 2002–03 and of \$72,331,000 over actual expenditure in 2001–02.

Recurrent Account

2 Provision of \$138,889,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for salaries and allowances of staff of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and its operating expenses. The increase of \$39,319,000 (39.5%) over the revised estimate for 2002–03 is mainly due to the transfer of resources for the two programmes on “Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety” and “Environmental Hygiene” from Head 154—GS: Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Environment) and Health, Welfare and Food Bureau arising from the implementation of the accountability system on 1 July 2002, the provision for the payment of financial assistance under the “Legal Representation Scheme for Children/Juveniles involved in Care or Protection Proceedings”, the provision for the payment of planned projects which will be incurred in 2003–04, the full-year provision for the remuneration of non-civil service contract staff and the payment for MPF contribution.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2003 will be 116 permanent posts. Following the implementation of the accountability system on 1 July 2002, there will be an increase of 37 posts in 2003–04 to reflect the transfer of 35 posts from the former Environment and Food Bureau and two posts from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to this bureau with effect from 1 April 2003. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated powers create or delete non-directorate posts during 2003–04, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$56,652,000.

4 An analysis of financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2001–02 (Actual) (\$'000)	2002–03 (Original Estimate) (\$'000)	2002–03 (Revised Estimate) (\$'000)	2003–04 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	63,994	64,505	64,947	81,836
- Allowances.....	3,243	3,465	2,912	5,564
- Job-related allowances.....	6	7	11	13
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	—	—	—	130
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses.....	19,798	43,793	31,700	45,393
Subventions				
- Legal representation scheme for children/juvenile involved in care or protection proceedings.....	—	—	—	5,953
	87,041	111,770	99,570	138,889

Capital Account

Other Non-Recurrent

5 Provision of \$12,000,000 under *Subhead 846 Financial assistance for family members of those who sacrifice their lives to save others (block vote)* is for the payment of financial assistance under the “Financial Assistance Scheme for Family Members of Those Who Sacrifice Their Lives to Save Others”.

**Head 149 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE
AND FOOD BUREAU**

Capital Account

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2002	Revised estimated expenditure for 2002-03	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
700		<i>General other non-recurrent</i>				
	015	Promotion of healthy ageing 02.....	1,000	—	357	643
	016	Community Investment and Inclusion Fund.....	100,000	—	—	100,000
	018	Survey to Update Domestic Health Accounts of Hong Kong	1,500	—	1,100	400
	019	Health and Health Services Research Fund.....	10,000	—	—	10,000
		Total.....	<u>112,500</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,457</u>	<u>111,043</u>