

Project Title:**Support Fund for HIV/AIDS Patients and their Families****(Project Code: MSS 178PM)****Executive Summary:**

This project consists of i) Support Fund for HIV/AIDS Patients and their Families and ii) Social Support Programme of HIV/AIDS Patients and their Families

Objectives

1. To maintain a funding mechanism to provide immediate and temporary financial assistance to HIV/AIDS patients and their families in a direct and significant way
2. To promote mutual support among HIV/AIDS patients and their families, as well as enhance the patient's adjustment to the disease and develop positive coping strategies

Design

1. The Fund was administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD)
2. The planning, implementation and evaluation of this project are based on the SWD's experience in administering other charitable/trust funds
3. Each successful application will cover a period not exceeding three months
4. 6 Categories of assistance
5. Grants will be offered to the 3 designated Medical Social Services Units (MSSUs) on reimbursement basis to meet the programme expenses of the activities

Setting

HIV/AIDS patients and their families in need can make direct applications for the grant under the Fund at the MSSUs at Kowloon Bay Integrated Treatment Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital

Participants

HIV/AIDS patients or their families who are in need of immediate financial assistance or social support programmes

Interventions

Medical Social Workers (MSWs) stationed in the 3 MSSUs provide timely welfare services to HIV/AIDS patients and their families, processed their applications for the

Fund and organized social support programmes

Main outcome measures

1. From 1.7.2010 to 30.6.2013, a total of 37 applications were received and all of them were approved with a total amount around \$90,000 granted to patients as financial assistance. The average amount of grant was about \$2,400 per application. The first and second highest portions of the Fund were granted to provide temporary maintenance for patients to acquire their basic needs and to meet other expenses on essential items respectively. These, together with the short average processing time from the application date to the date of Fund granted, i.e. 1.25 day, reflected that the Fund could meet the objectives of providing immediate and temporary financial assistance to resolve patients' temporary financial hardship in a timely manner
2. 24 programmes were organized by MSWs for a total of 794 participants from 1.7.2010 to 30.6.2013 including 3 sharing meetings, 6 health talks and 15 large-scale festive social activities
3. The average rating of the activities was above 5.55 out of a full score of 6. This indicated that the programmes could meet the said objectives

Results

Nil

Conclusions

1. This project provides HIV/ AIDS patients and their families a funding mechanism with simplified procedures and firm confidentiality for immediate temporary financial assistance
2. The Fund had been used in an effective way to relieve the HIV/AIDS patients with genuine financial need in a timely manner
3. The programmes organized achieved the objectives of promoting mutual support among HIV/AIDS patients and their families and enhancing their adjustment to the disease and developing positive coping strategies