

## **Executive Summary**

### **PPE 642 PM “Transgender HIV/AIDS prevention and education programme”**

#### Aim and Objectives

Transgender HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education Programme implemented by the TransGender Resource Center (TGR) aims to educate the TransGender (TG) community in Hong Kong the concept of HIV/AIDS prevention and safer sex practices through a series of activities.

#### Project Design

It is extremely difficult to identify the number of TGs in Hong Kong as the group is very invisible due to stigma and discrimination towards them. The lack of reference and statistics lead to the difficulties in understanding the needs, rights and risks of the TG community.

According to some crossdresser (CD) online forums, which are almost the only resource in the aspect, many TGs, in particular male CDs and many with the intention to undergo sex reassignment surgery, seek to have sex with other TGs and men.

HIV prevalence among MSM in Hong Kong has increased to a record high of 378 cases in 2014. HIV prevalence in TG range from 18.6% to 22% world-widely , which is significantly higher than that of MSM in many countries. Based on many transgender HIV/AIDS needs assessment, risky behaviors may be higher among TGs and there is a lack of transgender-appropriate education and prevention activities. Many TGs perceive themselves as low risk of HIV infection as they do not and should not associate themselves as MSM.

#### Target Population

Owing to the above reasons, the project has designed to provide HIV education and prevention to TG populations, to provide TG sensitive HIV voluntary testing and counselling service to them and to collect data and statistics on sexual behaviors and practices of TGs in Hong Kong.

#### Main achievements

To achieve these objectives, TGR proposed to create and provide a safe and

secure environment for TGs to gather for social activities, as well as to conduct workshops and to hold support groups. The project is designed in line with the community empowerment stage model of HIV prevention. It is found to be more effective to bring people together around a common topic, develop a sense of community and then promote HIV prevention. Workshops, support groups for male-to-female (MtF) transgender persons as well as female-to-male (FtM), hotline and online outreach programmes, HIV voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) and questionnaire were conducted during the period of the programme.

### Conclusions

To conclude, the goal of the programme has been successfully achieved. TGR has gained valuable data from the scheme and the target group received support under the design of the programme. Without doubt, we did face some difficulties while carrying out the program. However, with the more and more education for the society, TGs must receive more support from the society, as well as less discrimination towards them.