

## \$179m earmarked for subvented hospitals

THE Government will continue with its commitment to further develop the integration of public and subvented medical services.

It will provide \$179.2 million for the development of various subvented hospitals in the next financial fiscal year.

This sum will enable these hospitals to assume a greater role in the treatment of patients.

The Financial Secretary, Piers Jacobs, also revealed in his budget yesterday that, by the end of 1987, there will be some 24,850 beds in public, subvented and private hospitals.

But these will only meet approximately 75 percent of the estimated requirement.

On the subvented scheme, development programmes at a total estimated cost of \$1.4 billion, are under way in several subvented hospitals.

The proposed \$179.2 million in subventions will enable the projects to be continued at the Caritas, Pok Oi, Tung Wah Group, Yan Chai and United Christian hospitals, the Cheshire Home and the Rutonjee Sanatorium.

The public can also expect more medical facilities in the future as the Government will spend another \$1 billion to improve and extend Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth and Tang Shiu Kin hospitals.

A further \$123.5 million will be spent on site formation work and consultants' fees

for a new hospital to serve the Eastern District of Hongkong Island.

In addition to the building of hospitals, 13 new clinics and polyclinics are presently included in the Public Works Programme.

On the development of the school dental service, the Government is planning to open two more clinics in Sham Shui Po and Ha Kwai Chung.

The service that provides dental health education and conservation treatment to primary school children, will be extended to cover Primary 6 pupils this year.

An additional 14 community services centres are on the drawing boards.

On education development, the Government proposes to spend \$9.8 billion in the coming fiscal year — the biggest slice of the expenditure.

Fifteen new primary schools are expected to be completed in 1987-88 in conjunction with the development of public housing estates in new towns and other development areas.

The Government will continue to build additional secondary schools to meet the target.

Based on the current building programme, some 46 new schools are expected to be completed between 1987 and 1993.

Moreover, a sum of \$192.7 million will be allocated for the construction of 11 secondary schools.