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\$19.5b for health, welfare, education

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THE Departments of Social Welfare, Hospital Services and Education will take up \$19.59 billion, or 22 per cent of the total expenditure estimated for the next financial year.

Spending for the Social Welfare Department for 1990-91 will go up by about 12 per cent to reach \$4.7 billion.

The additional amount is earmarked for improving services, particularly those for the elderly, children and the disabled.

Spending on the provision of rehabilitation services to the disabled is estimated at \$331.2 million next year, an increase of 24.6 per cent over the revised estimate of \$265.9 million for 1989-90.

This is to cover the costs needed for expanding the number of special child care centres, hostels for disabled persons, sheltered workshops and day activity centres and other spending.

Social security services expenditure will require a hefty increase of \$228.2 million, or 10.2 per cent, over the revised figure of \$2,813 million for the current fiscal year.

Additional resources are required for extending the Old Age Allowance to those aged 66 and the Higher Dis-

Where the money goes

	89-90 Original \$m	89-90 Revised \$m	90-91 \$m
Architectural Services ..	673	682	875
Buildings and Lands	580	613	653
Correctional Services ...	883	957	996
Civil Aviation	277	255	399
Customs and Excise	459	489	531
Dept of Health	763	944	1,067
Education	7,916	8,654	9,025
Environmental			
Protection	180	294	271
Fire Services	867	913	1,053
General expenses of			
Civil Service	1,864	1,854	1,684
Highways	645	647	768
Hospital Services	4,805	5,154	5,863
Housing	326	348	367
Immigration	669	754	804
Miscellaneous Services	5,497	1,743	9,110
Pensions	1,664	1,977	2,877
Police Force	4,867	4,722	4,987
Social Welfare	3,984	4,205	4,705
Universities and			
Polytechnics	2,486	2,784	2,973

□ Some of the key departments where the Government will increase spending this year.

ability Allowance to people younger than 16, and an increase in staffing to improve the schemes.

The department's establishment is expected to be expanded with the creation of 153 new non-directorate posts by the end of March, 1991.

An estimated \$5.9 billion is set aside for the Hospital Services Department, representing a 14 per cent rise over the previous year.

The increase is required to allow for improvements

to services and staff conditions and emoluments.

Spending on general hospitals is expected to be boosted by \$630.7 million — up from \$4.3 billion to \$4.9 billion.

The rising expenditure mainly stems from an increase of 871 posts for the phased commissioning of government hospitals, including the Tuen Mun Hospital, the Queen Mary Hospital extension and the Tang Shiu Kin Hospital extension.

It also covers the costs for the commissioning of the Ruttonjee Sanatorium and the new Sha Tin Cheshire Home in the subvented sector and other staff and patient care improvement packages.

Psychiatric hospital services are expected to require \$409 million in 1990-91, a rise of 9½ per cent over the revised 1989-90 figure.

The rising spending is needed to improve staff conditions and emoluments and the quality of services to psychiatric patients and the expansion of psychiatric services.

Specialist clinics also need \$477 million next year. The current year's figure is \$436.1 million.

A total of 850 new posts will be created for the department, boosting its establishment to 23,174 by the end of the next financial year.

The Government proposed to spend \$9 billion for the Education Department, compared with the revised estimate of \$8.7 billion for the current year.

More than half, or \$4.7 billion, will be allocated to the territory's secondary education sector, representing a rise of 4.7 per cent.

Another \$3.5 billion will be used to finance primary education — a rise of three per cent.