

# Action demanded on services for elderly

LEGISLATORS yesterday voted unanimously to demand the Government solve the shortage of residential services for the elderly.

Hui Yin-fat, who moved the motion, said there had been an increasingly short supply of care-and-attention homes for the elderly since many places were occupied by infirm patients.

This was because of an acute shortfall of infirmary beds for the elderly under the auspices of the Hospital Authority.

He was also worried that the implementation of a licensing system for private homes for the aged would lead to the closure of some, thus increasing the pressure on such services.

He called for the Government to work out both contingency measures and long-term solutions.

Acting Secretary for Health and Welfare Dr Lee

## HOUSING

Shiu-hung reiterated the Government's commitment to improving the quality of life for the elderly, saying they would spend \$6 billion on services this year.

He said the long-term solution was to provide a system of integrated care based primarily in the community to enable elderly people to continue to live at home with their families.

In the short-term, he said an additional 800 care-and-attention places would be provided during the next two years.

He said the Government would arrange alternative accommodation for all residents affected by closure of substandard homes due to the new legislation.

A working group proposed by the Governor would also examine ways to meet the demand for the el-

derly and improve co-ordination of different residential services, he added.

● A survey found that up to half of the Home Ownership Scheme flat owners changed the standard fittings in kitchens and bathrooms, said the Acting Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands Leo Kwan Wing-wah.

Legislator Dr Tang Siu-tong said there had been reports that most owners of Saddle Ridge Garden in Ma On Shan changed the original fittings, including floors, doors, wash basins, baths and kitchen cabinets.

He said this was a waste of public money.

Mr Kwan said, in light of the survey, the Housing Department was considering improving the fittings.

It also planned to conduct a full scale survey next year to obtain a more accurate assessment of flat owners' preferences.