

## Ah-nui's mother 'schizophrenic' <sup>16-2</sup>

By PATRICIA TSE

DOCTORS' reports have concluded that the mother of Kwok Ah-nui is schizophrenic and probably has been for many years.

During her two-month stay at the Kwai Chung Hospital Ms Wong Yue-siu has been examined by several doctors, including senior government psychiatrists, who agree that she has been suffering from the mental illness for years.

The reports say the doctors consider her fit to be discharged but recommend follow-up treatment even if her condition should stabilise.

Classified as confidential, the reports are being studied by the Umelco welfare services panel.

Statements in the reports appear to contradict those made in an earlier paper compiled by the Social Welfare Department and circulated among Legislative Councilors in May.

That report, published three days ago in the *Sunday Post*, said Ms Wong appeared

not to be suffering from any mental illness and should not stay long in hospital.

However, a source told the *South China Morning Post* yesterday that the fact the reports had been compiled two months apart could explain the apparent discrepancies.

The Social Welfare Department prepared the first report very shortly after Ms Wong and Ah-nui were taken from their flat on May 8, and therefore were only able to assess the mother's behaviour in the short term.

However, doctors who prepared the second reports, at the request of Secretary for Health and Welfare Mr John Chambers, were able to monitor Ms Wong's behaviour over a longer period and in more depth.

Members of the Umelco welfare services panel pressed Mr Chambers to request the second reports to assist them to conduct an independent review of the whole incident.

The panel will study the reports at a closed-door meeting tomorrow.