

Ah-nui case 'shows shortage of help' / 1-2

THE handling of the Kwok Ah-nui case has left much to be desired even accepting the versions given by the Social Welfare Department and the Medical and Health Department in their detailed reports.

Members of the Hong-kong Social Workers' General Unions have submitted this view in a letter to the welfare panel of the Unofficial Members of Executive and Legislative Councils Office.

The president of the union, Mr Mak Hoi-wah, asked its members not to rely solely on reports and to arrive at a fair judgment after an in-

dependent investigation.

The Kwok Ah-nui case highlighted the extreme shortage of workers at the Social Welfare Department and voluntary agencies.

It is too much for one social worker to handle about 100 cases. The ratio should be lowered to about one social worker to 50 cases, Mr Mak said.

New posts for "frontline veteran social workers" should be set up in the Social Welfare Department to deal with complicated cases, with professional back up from specialists such as psychiatrists, he said.