

100 social workers in protest march

BY CHOW MING-FAI

ABOUT 100 social work assistants marched in Central yesterday in protest over pay and work conditions.

Chanting in the street and accusing the Social Welfare Department of being "muddled and confused", they took their complaints to the Omelco office.

They said that despite their complicated duties, they were paid less than senior welfare workers who did basic caring jobs and were not trained in social work.

When they were promoted to senior social work assistants, they were paid less than

assistant social work officers. Spokesman for the petitioners Lai Wing-shing said the department could not give them a satisfactory explanation for the wage discrepancies.

He also said the department had revised the job description of their grade without consulting them - resulting in senior social work assistants taking up statutory duties. They wanted to return to their original duties.

Executive and Legislative Councillor Hui Yin-fat said as there was a high leaving rate and recruitment difficulties for social work assistant posts and the Government should listen to their problems.