

Public Policy Forum, 5 June, 2007

Summary Report of Group Discussion

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1. The Government asks money from the public but offers no vision or promises in services in the Consultation Document.
2. The group however agreed with the need for reform. Although the Hospital Authority has done well, problems are obvious: the price of drugs, queues, time a patient able to spend with a doctor, etc.
3. The reform should not limit to the public sector but must include the private sector.
4. The Group agreed that primary care should be the thrust of reform and act as a platform for public-private cooperation. It also agreed with:
 - multi-disciplinary clinics
 - Primary Care Authority
 - that the Report of the Working Party on Primary Care in 1990 should be revisited.
5. On financing, the Group:
 - did not support any of the six options in the Consultation Document;
 - opposed to placing the entire burden of health care on salaried workers. It should be everyone's responsibility and funded by the complete spectrum of Government revenue (e.g. including land premium) and not only by direct taxes;
 - agreed that the better off should contribute more;
 - supported the \$50 billion concept, that in good years, instead of tax refunds (“派糖好無聊”), Government should put aside money and save for everyone for health care.
 - felt that sin tax, e.g. wine tax, tobacco tax, should be implemented.
6. The Group strongly supported “evidence based assessment” which should be adopted not only in treatment but also management and how money is spent.
7. Worries were expressed on resources, the shortage of doctors and nurses. Small hospitals could be considered.

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