



Policy Address and Budget Consultation Support Team  
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 Hong Kong

## The Zubin Foundation’s Submission on the Public Consultation for the 2016 Policy Address and 2016-17 Budget

Recommendation 1	A statement made by our Chief Executive, CY Leung in his Policy Address for 2016 to express that all Hong Kong people, regardless of ethnicity, are equally valued. To that end, the Administration ought to develop a policy for an inclusive/multicultural Hong Kong.
Recommendation 2	All policies and law to be developed ought to have a “diversity lens” applied to them to ensure that they are also considered from the viewpoint of and accessed for their impact on ethnic minorities in Hong Kong.
Recommendation 3	<p>For government committees, extra effort ought to be made to ensure that for all positions to be filled, ethnic minority candidates are included in the list of potential candidates to be considered (as the government would do for women as part of its gender mainstreaming policy).</p> <p>The Zubin Foundation will launch the <i>RACE FOR OPPORTUNITY: DIVERSITY LIST</i> on March 21 2016, which is a list of ethnic minority candidates who have the skills, capability and commitment to serve on government committees. We would like for the HKSARG to give the opening remarks at the event and/or arrange a meeting to receive the list. This would demonstrate the importance of ethnic minorities to Hong Kong.</p>
Recommendation 4 (please refer to Appendix for details)	<p>For special education needs (SEN) children who are non-Chinese speaking (NCS):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Government to provide greater transparency by schools (public and private) on types of support they provide and severity of NCS SEN that they cater for.</li> <li>2. English Medium of Instruction (EMI) classrooms/streams be established for public sector special schools and Chinese Medium of Instruction (CMI) schools.</li> <li>3. Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools, private schools and international schools be approached to commit to accepting NCS SEN and providing appropriate support.</li> <li>4. Government to increase subsidies for SEN students in government schools (e.g. Macau provides 40,000-110,000 MOP per year per student to school compared with Hong Kong, which provides HK\$13,000-26,000 per year per student). The subsidies ought to be extended to be made available to NCS SEN students who are not in government schools.</li> <li>5. Government to build another EMI special school given critical shortage of available spaces for NCS SEN.</li> </ol>



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About The Zubin Foundation	<p>The Zubin Foundation (TZF) is a social policy think tank in Hong Kong. The mission of TZF is to raise awareness on social issues that do not receive enough attention in Hong Kong. TZF focuses on patient care in Hong Kong, racial integration for ethnic minorities, support for non-Chinese speaking children with special education needs in Hong Kong. TZF is a registered charity in Hong Kong (IR 91/12344).</p> <p>For more information, please visit: <a href="http://www.zubinfoundation.org">www.zubinfoundation.org</a></p>



**Appendix: The current state of education opportunities at primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) special education needs (SEN) children and recommendations.**

The Current State:

- Actual numbers in primary and secondary school: 1487 (Conservative estimated number based on 8.1%\* of population is 3,590)
- Composition: 815 in international schools; 672 in government schools (we believe these numbers are underrepresented)
- The Jockey Club Sarah Roe capacity is 70 children (waitlist is more than 90)
- The dropout rate between government primary and secondary school is 52% for NCS SEN (vs. 5% for all SEN)
- 42% of NCS SEN children are in government special schools (vs. 19% of all SEN students)

Recommendations:

Recommendations	Government and Aided Schools			Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools, Private schools and International Schools.	
	Special Schools	EMI- Mainstream Schools	CMI-Mainstream Schools	Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools	Private and International schools
<b>Current State</b>	No English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) special school(s)	Only 8 EMI primary schools (with a large number of ethnic minority students in these schools)  Secondary schools - not clear on whether they are EMI or CMI	Most primary schools are CMI	Receive \$42-46k per student per year in government subsidies but they have no obligation to take SEN students	Selectively accepting NCS SEN with little or no transparency and mostly with only mild SEN  Only 1 special school  Cost is prohibitively expensive for average income family in HK



<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>What:</b></p> <p>In existing special schools (Chinese medium), to include EMI streams.</p> <p><b>Why:</b></p> <p>So that EMI students may benefit from approach, structure and knowledge provided to CMI kids.</p> <p>Also, there is only one EMI Special School in Hong Kong which is The Jockey Club Sarah Roe Centre and places are insufficient.</p>	<p><b>What:</b></p> <p>Transparency on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Type of support for NCS SEN</li> <li>b. Severity of NCS SEN that they cater for</li> </ol> <p><b>Why:</b></p> <p>So SEN students who can be mainstreamed and not Chinese, can access this education.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transparency on:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Type of support for NCS SEN</li> <li>b. Severity of NCS SEN that they cater for</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. In existing primary schools (Chinese medium), to include EMI streams</li> </ol> <p><b>Why:</b></p> <p>So that EMI students may benefit from approach, structure and knowledge provided to CMI kids.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transparency on:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Type of support for SEN</li> <li>b. Severity of SEN that they cater for.</li> <li>c. Numbers on waitlist</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Comment to accepting SEN NCS and providing appropriate support</li> <li>3. Financial subsidies for SEN – Macau government provides subsidies ranged from 40,000 – 110,000 MOP per year per student to school to hire or bring in support for that student.</li> <li>4. The waiting list at Jockey Club Sarah Roe School of approx 90 students (the capacity of the school is 70 students) suggests that another EMI special school is required.</li> </ol>
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**Key:**

CMI: Chinese Medium of Instruction

EMI: English Medium of Instruction

NCS: Non-Chinese Speaking

SEN: Special Education Needs

\*8.1% is cited from The Census and Statistics Department, 'Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases in Hong Kong' January 2015, <http://www.statistics.gov.hk/pub/B71501FB2015XXXXXB0100.pdf>