

# 公共專業聯盟

呼籲特首虛心改正而非一錯再錯

The Professional Commons urges Government to reverse policy and to adopt two core principles:

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**市民應享有繼續工作至65歲的權利**

Everyone has a right to work till they are 65

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**市民應從60歲起享有申領長者綜援的權利**

Everyone qualified has a right to apply for elderly welfare once they reach 60

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呼籲特首虛心改正而非一錯再錯

**Carrie Lam Urged to Listen to the Public with an open Mind to avoid Mistakes again**

政府宣佈取消全港 60 至 64 歲人士申領長者綜援的權利，以全港現有 52 萬名年齡介乎 60 至 64 歲的長者而當中勞動參與率為 45% 計算，潛在受政策影響的長者人數近 30 萬人。

The Government decided to raise the minimum age requirement for the elderly CSSA benefits to 65 from 60 at present. With a total of 520,000 elderly people aged between 60 and 64 in Hong Kong and based on a labour participation rate of 45%, the number of potential elderly people affected by this new policy is nearly 300,000.

雖然政府在輿論壓力下宣布向 60 至 64 歲新申領綜援的健全人士發放每月 1060 元作為「就業支援補助金」，但新方案不僅未能補足健全成人和長者綜援的全部差額待遇，反而突顯了政府仍然堅持未經公眾諮詢的錯誤原則：即是通過削減福利、以懲罰方式迫使健全長者投入勞動市場，剝奪他們頤養天年的選擇權，這正好與社會認同的道德價值背道而馳。

Under the pressure of public opinion, the Government announced the supplementary scheme on 18<sup>th</sup> this month, which takes effect from Feb. 1, senior citizens aged 60 to 64 who are applicants for the CSSA benefits, will receive an additional HK\$1,060 a month to make up for the shortfall in their welfare payments due to the new age requirement. However, the supplementary scheme not only has failed to make up the full differential treatment for the healthy adult and elderly under CSSA, but it further highlights the fact that the Government still insists on the wrong principle without proper public consultation, that is, by cutting welfare to force the elderly to enter the labor market and depriving them of the right to choose to work or not, which is exactly against our moral value of social identity.

最受政府削減福利政策所影響的長者，主要是低收入的基層人士，他們多數是辛勞工作了幾十年，但由於現行政策未能提供足夠的退休保障，才需要在 60 歲以後申領長者綜援。因此政府這次政策改動，進一步加劇了社會不公的現象，令基層長者變相被強迫勞動。

The most affected elderly by the government's welfare reduction policy are mainly low-income grassroots people. Most of them have been working for decades and have no choice but to apply for CSSA for the elderly after the age of 60, because the current policy fails to

provide adequate retirement protection. Therefore, this policy change has further aggravated the social injustice and forced the grassroots elderly to work in disguise.

事實上，為了適應社會高齡化的趨勢，政府的責任是維護長者工作的權利，例如通過立法禁止年齡歧視，或參照新加坡和日本訂立《高齡員工僱員法》，保障市民獲得企業及僱主續聘至起碼 65 歲而不會喪失原有待遇，但長者可按本身的意願自由選擇是否繼續工作。

In fact, in order to adapt to the coming aging society, the government's responsibility is to protect the rights of the elderly, such as legislation to prohibit age discrimination, or to refer to the "Older Employees' Law" in Singapore and Japan to ensure that citizens re-employed to at least 65 years old without losing their original employment benefits, and the elderly can freely choose whether to continue working as they wish.

有鑑於此，公共專業聯盟呼籲特區政府尊重並實施兩項重要原則：In view of this, Professional Commons calls for HKSAR Government to respect and implement the following two important principles:

- 一、通過立法及其他行政措施，確保市民有繼續工作至 65 歲的權利；  
Adoption of legislative and other administrative measures to ensure that citizens have the right to continue working until the age of 65; and
- 二、撤回方案，令年屆 60 歲的市民擁有申領長者綜援的權利。Withdrawal of the scheme, enabling the old citizens at 60 years old to have the right to apply for CSSA for the elderly.

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22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2019