



# 新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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## Hong Kong's First Camp Quality Outing for Children Cancer Patients

More than 40 children suffering from cancer enjoyed funful and exciting outdoor activities at Hong Kong's first Camp Quality camp, organised by the Department of Paediatrics of the Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

These children are receiving treatment from the Lady Pao Children's Cancer Centre at the Prince of Wales Hospital and other hospitals under the Hospital Authority. They have been fighting against cancer for a long time. Some have received bone marrow transplants.

Cancer is the major killer disease of children under the age of 15 in Hong Kong. Each year about 50 children died from cancer and 150 new cases reported. It is estimated that about 1,000 children with cancer are now receiving treatment.

Leukaemia is the commonest cancer in children. 40% of children cancer patients suffer from this disease. Brain tumour and lymphoma are the other more common tumours in children. Some tumours such as Neuroblastoma, Wilms' tumour and Retinoblastoma only occur in children. Treatment is mainly by chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy. Chemotherapy is used widely in childhood cancer because the effect is usually better. With advanced medical treatment, 60-70% of children cancer patients can be cured. However side-effects of treatment like vomiting, hair loss, infection and bleeding are often seen. Other than the physical discomfort, patients and their families have to face psycho-social problems such as prolonged isolation, and schooling, housing and financial problems. Hence, psychological and social support to the patients and their family during treatment and rehabilitation period is very important.

Equipped with the facilities at the Lady Pao Children's Cancer Centre, the Department of Paediatrics of The Chinese University of Hong Kong is currently treating more than 50% of Hong Kong's paediatric cancer patients. A leading centre for childhood malignancies and bone marrow transplant, the Department did the majority of the bone marrow transplant in Hong Kong. Having conducted Hong Kong's first paediatric bone marrow transplant in 1991, the Department proceeded to set records with successful performance of the territory's first paediatric autologous stem cell transplant in 1992, and the first paediatric allogeneic stem cell transplant in 1995. Until June 1996, the Department has done 73 bone marrow transplants.

The Department has advocated that children with cancer should be allowed to

have fun, to participate in exciting activities, to make new friends and, as far as possible, be removed from all stress.

In December 1995, with this consideration, the Department teamed up with International Camp Quality, an international camping and support programme for children with cancer to set up the first Camp Quality in Southeast Asia and to organise camping activities for children with cancer in Hong Kong. It is hoped that funful experience of these occasions will sustain them in the weeks and months ahead as they continue their medical treatment. Such activities will also give the families of these children a much needed rest, knowing that the finest programme has been selected to keep their children happy.

The first camp in Hong Kong, held during July 4-6 at Tai Tam Scout Centre is made possible by the generous donation from the public and enthusiastic participation of voluntary workers.

The activities of the three-day-and-two-night camp include games, group performance, barbecue, camp fire, etc. The children will be looked after by voluntary workers and a team of doctors, nurses, medical social workers throughout their stay in the camp. A one to one ratio of voluntary workers and children will ensure that the children are properly looked after all time.

Camp Quality originated from Australia when the first camp was held in 1983 with 38 participants. Since then, Camp Quality has developed into an international, non-profit making organisation which has extended its programme to 12 countries and 41 cities. Worldwide, over 5,000 children attend the Camp Quality each year.

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