

## **Social Welfare Services of Macao**

Macao is a small city with unique historical culture; the strong sense of human touch and being kind to others are the common characteristics of Macanese, the social atmosphere that people are nice and charitable has a very long history. The charity and relief service that government engaged with can be traced from 1930s, and the Social Relief Division was set up in 1967, which was the predecessor of Social Welfare Bureau, and its headquarter “Blue House” has already become the symbol of social welfare for residents in Macao. This historical building that is assessed to be holding artistic interest witnesses the changes and advancement of the charity and social services in Macao over the last decades. Since the establishment of the first College of Social Work in 1977, social work professional education officially commenced. Up until now, there is a range of higher education institutes provide education to nurture large numbers of social work professionals. In respect of service delivery, it has grown from the single relief service in the past to today’s diversified professional service mode with both prevention and treatment. Since returning to Motherland, the social service has been further developed. The function of Social Welfare Bureau has expanded to various areas, services include individual and family assistance, children and youth, rehabilitation, elderly, prevention and treatment of drugs dependence, problem gambling as well as social reintegration, etc. Both non-governmental organizations and the government cooperate with each other, in the spirit of working collaboratively with one heart and jointly offering help with pleasure, it has formed a strong social service network and motivation, together they build a harmonious society with happy livelihood for all the citizens in Macao. 2017 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Social Welfare Bureau, it will continue to uphold the philosophy of “People-oriented, helping people to overcome difficulties and rebuilding a new life”, to provide welfare and create the future together.

### **The important development journey of Social Welfare Bureau**

1967 - Social Relief Division (the predecessor of Social Welfare Bureau) was set up;

1979 - Macao Department for Social Welfare was set up;

1986 - Macao Department for Social Welfare was reorganized, and the principle of social work development was formulated;

1999 - After returning to Mainland China, it was re-named as Social Welfare Bureau, the function for prevention and treatment of drug dependence was added;

2016 - Social Welfare Bureau was reorganized, the function for social reintegration was added;

2017 - The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Social Welfare Bureau.

Social Welfare Bureau of the Macao SAR Government  
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