

About RACAS

Introduction

Between 2002 and 2004, Hong Kong Association of Gerontology (HKAG) conducted a two-year "Pilot Project on Accreditation System for Residential Care Services for the Elderly in Hong Kong" (referred to as the "Pilot Scheme"), thanks to the funding from the Government Lotteries Fund. During the implementation of the Pilot Scheme, the accreditation systems of countries such as the UK and the US were studied, and a set of accreditation standards suitable for local residential care homes, along with an "Accreditation Process," was developed. Pilot accreditation was carried out in 39 residential care homes in Hong Kong to explore the feasibility of implementing an accreditation system that aligns with international standards while meeting local needs.

After the conclusion of the Pilot Project, HKAG submitted a report on the Pilot Project to the Elderly Commission and the Legislative Council Welfare Services Panel in October 2004. The report received high commendation. With the support of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and the Social Welfare Department, the outcomes of the Pilot Project were implemented in March 2005 with the official launch of the "Residential Aged Care Accreditation Scheme (RACAS)". The management framework of RACAS was established based on the standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and ISO/IEC 17021.

Report of the "Pilot Project on Accreditation System for Residential Care Services for the Elderly in Hong Kong"

Objectives

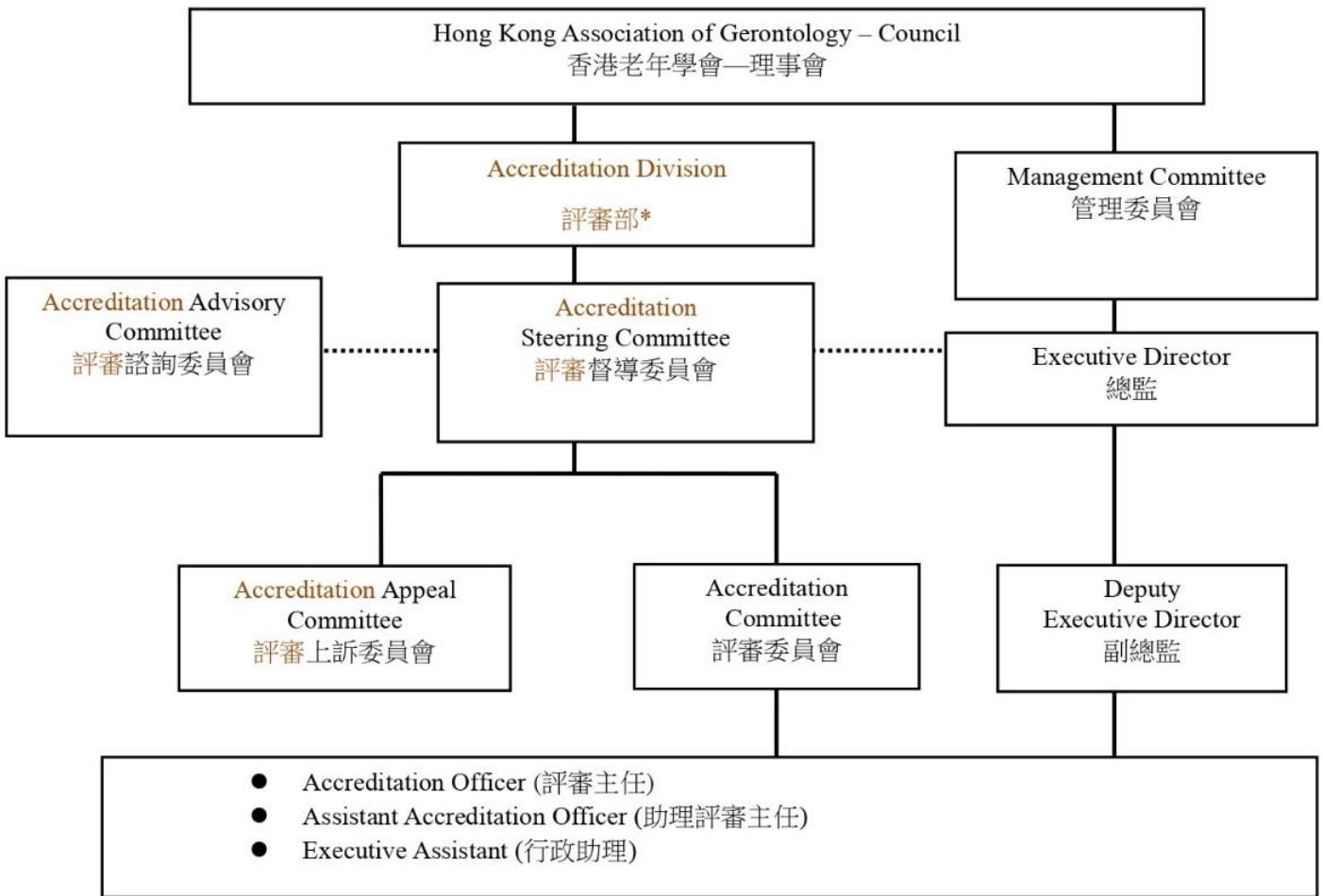
- To provide a voluntary accreditation system for all residential care homes for the elderly in Hong Kong;
- To improve the service quality of residential care homes for the elderly through promoting continuous improvement and performance monitoring; and
- To provide the public with a reference when choosing residential care homes for the elderly.

Characteristics

- Participation in the accreditation process is voluntary;
- 40 accreditation standards were developed with reference to international practices, licensing standards for residential care homes for the elderly in Hong Kong, and the Service Quality Standards of the Social Welfare Department. These standards were tested and validated during the Pilot Project in local residential care homes to establish their reliability;
- The onsite accreditation is conducted by assessors from health care & social work professionals with adequate experience in aged care like physicians, nurses, social workers, allied health professionals;
- Participating residential care homes must pass self-assessments and main assessments to meet the required standards; and

- The accreditation cycle lasts for three years. The first year involves the main assessment, followed by annual reviews in the subsequent two years.

Organization Chart



For details of Hong Kong Residential Care Homes Accreditation Scheme, please contact our staff on 2727-3250.

Remark: There are relevant courses organized by HKAG which aim to improve the efficiency and service standards of elderly care service. These courses will not provide any information or advice on how to pass the accreditation of the "Hong Kong Residential Care Homes Accreditation Scheme". Participants' institutions will not receive any preferential treatment if they participate in the program.

Supporting Organizations:



The Hong Kong Council of Social Service



The Hong Kong Association of Senior Citizens Ltd



The Hong Kong Geriatrics Society



Hong Kong Occupational Therapy Association



Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association



Hong Kong College of Gerontology Nursing