

IV Building the Foundations for a Comfortable Living Environment

1 Measures to Establish Comfortable Community for Persons with Disabilities

In order to support the self independence and social participation of persons with disabilities according to their abilities and aptitude, “**The Law for Supporting Independence of Persons with Disabilities**” that includes allowances and other support related to disability welfare services was enacted partially in April 2006 and completed in October.

When “**The Law for Supporting Independence of Persons with Disabilities**” was enforced, maintenance of systematic service foundation was advanced, based on disability welfare plan, and the foundation for a user-oriented living support system was provided through the foundation for an accessible consulting support system and the promotion of the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. In addition, plans for development of at-home services, revision of mental health and welfare measures, dealing with the various kinds of disabilities including children and adults with developmental disabilities, were promoted.

(Main measures taken)

- When the **Law for Supporting Independence of Persons with Disabilities** was enforced, in order to make utmost efforts to establish the law, special measures were taken over three years until fiscal year 2008, to smoothly enforce **The Law for Supporting Independence of Persons with Disabilities**. The measure of 120 billion yen in total was executed including the supplementary budget of 96 billion yen in fiscal year 2006.
- The ruling party’s project team for **Supporting Independence of Persons with Disabilities** arranged the report related to review of **The Law for Supporting Independence of Persons with Disabilities**, and basic issues for the review after the three years of law enforcement and its directionality were defined in December, 2007. After receiving this report, in fiscal year 2008 budget, government enforced emergency measure of 31 billion yen in total with full fiscal year base including usage of the fund raised by “Special measures” such as reduction in user liability and reinforcement of the employer’s management base.
- In order for persons with disabilities to lead economically independent lives in regions, it is important to raise wages levels at welfare facilities and so forth. “Support Project for Doubling Wages Plan” was founded in fiscal year 2007. “Doubling Wages Plan”, which provides concrete measures for doubling wages in individual prefectures, was established. The goal was decided therein that existing wages would be doubled by fiscal year 2011.
- When Disability Welfare Plans were established, prefectures and municipalities, from the point of view of advancing migration to community life and regular work, set the target value for the fiscal year 2011 and the estimated amount of related necessary services.

Chart 10 Special measures of the Law for Supporting Independence of Persons with Disabilities

<December, 2006>

Guideline of Special Measures (National expenditure 120 billion yen in three years.)

1. Further mitigation of user charges (At the Beginning of FY 2007 and beginning of FY 2008: 24 billion yen in total)

→ Measures taken to reduce the financial burden for disabled individuals and their families for using the rehabilitation centers and home care services

- Rehabilitation Centers and home care services: the upper limit of 10% share was reduced from 1/2 to 1/4
- Expanding the income limit for using the benefits (Income base was expanded to 6 million or less)
 - Admission can also be applied for disabled children as well as commuting to rehabilitation centers and receiving home care services
- Admission Admission charges waived off (288,000 yen annually will be fully waived off)

2. Measure to ease drastic changes for companies (FY 2006 supplementary budget: 30 billion yen)

→ Measures taken are focused on the rehabilitation centers with reduced income due to daily payment

- Old system Insured amount will be incremented (80% → 90%)
 - For institutions transferring from old system to new system will also establish 90% insurance
- Transportation aid provided for rehabilitation centers

3. Emergency process measures taken for transition to new system (FY 2006 supplementary budget: 66 billion yen)

→ Emergency support measures were also made for operators who were unable to transfer to new system immediately

- Aid for small scale companies
- Aid for the renovating expenses borne during transition, and for initial cost for hiring group homes.
- To cope with the management costs incurred due to regulation amendment, and for publicity and raising awareness, etc.

<December, 2007>

Emergent Measures due to fundamental amendment in the Law for Supporting Independence of Persons with Disabilities

- Due to “Fundamental Amendment in the “Law for Supporting Independence of Persons with Disabilities”, provide special assistance depending upon the scale and status of the operators.
(Special Measures)

Using the funds raised under “Special Measure”, total of 31 billion yen for the whole fiscal year.*
(budget for fiscal year 2008) 13 billion yen

1. Revising users’ share (enforced from July 2008) 7 billion yen

- Reducing the financial burden of low income households (disabled adults and children) (10 billion yen for the whole fiscal year)*
- Expanding the scope of tax payer households that can apply for reduced financial burden (disabled children)
- Revising the income stages slots for individuals for reaping the benefits of special aid (disabled adults)

2. Strengthening the management infrastructure of the operators (Implemented in April 2008)

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..... 3 billion yen

(including “Special Measures” fund → 18 billion yen)*

3. Promotion of maintenance of Group Homes (Implemented in fiscal year 2008) 3 billion yen*

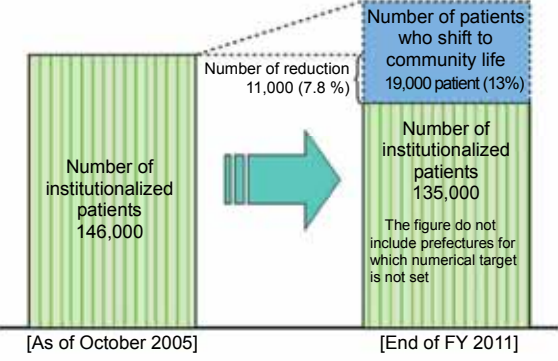
- Aid for maintenance of group homes facilities

References: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Chart 11 Future Forecast of Service User

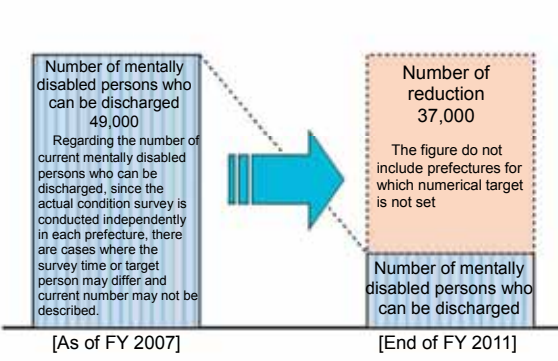
[Numerical Target] Transition from welfare institution to community life

- Regarding the transition of institutionalized patient to community life, 19,000 people (approx. 13 %) among the current institutionalized patients (146,000 people) will be shifted to community life by 2011 and 11,000 people (approx. 7.8 %) among the current institutionalized patients are expected to be reduced considering the tendency incoming patient.



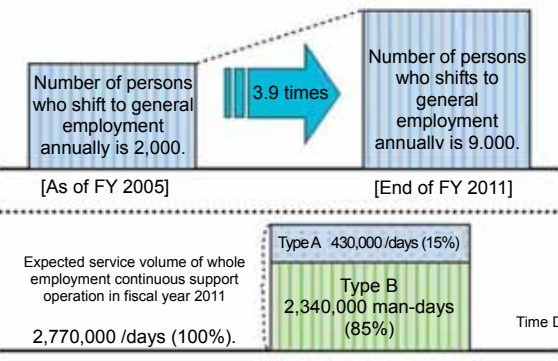
[Numerical Target] Reduction target value of mentally disabled persons who can be discharged from the hospital

- Regarding the mentally disabled persons who can be discharged, 37,000 patients among the 49,000 mentally disabled patients who can be discharged with necessary conditions to do so (hereafter, mentally disabled persons who can be discharged) are expected to be discharged by the end of fiscal year 2011.

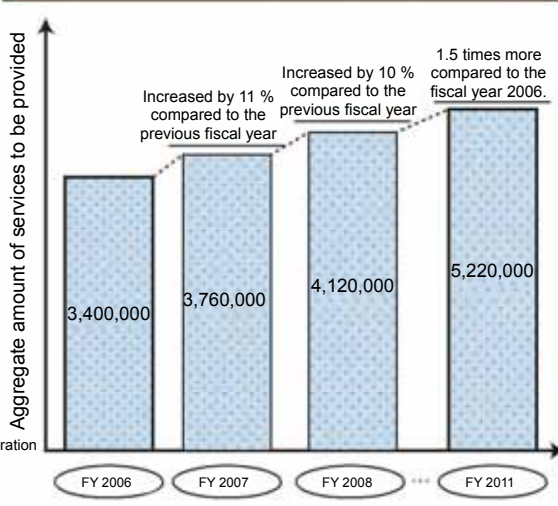


[Numerical Target] Transition from welfare institution to general employment

- Regarding the transition to general employment, the number of persons who will shift to general employment during fiscal year 2011 is expected to be 3.9 times more than the general employment transition result in fiscal year 2005. Additionally, the expected volume of whole employment continuous support operation is depicted in type A which is approx. 15 % of whole employment continuous support operation.

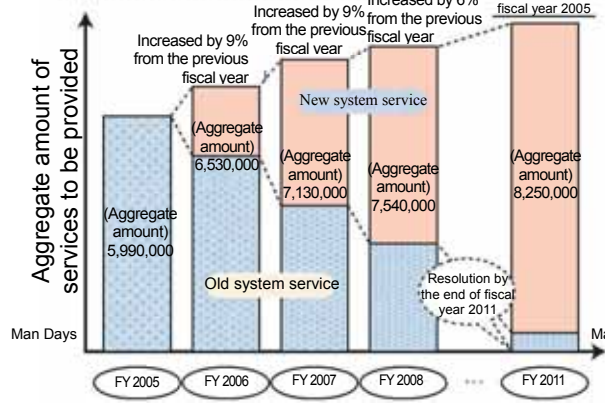


Shift of expected number of Welfare Service for Persons with Disabilities (home-visit services)

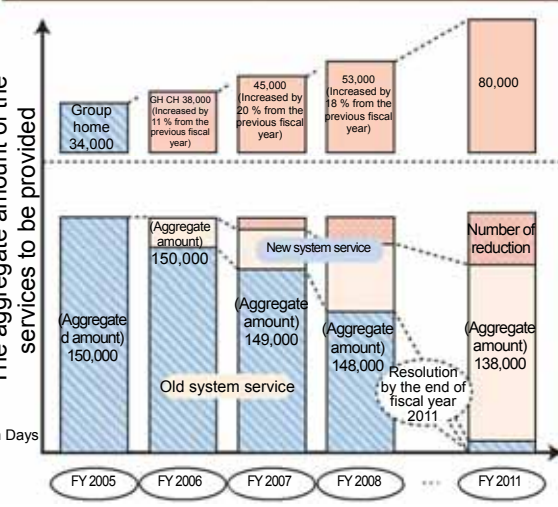


Changes in expected volume of Welfare Service for Persons with Disabilities (daytime activity service)

* Children day, short-stay and Medical treatment nursing are not included.
* "person per day" = "Number of monthly users" x Number of average days of a user per month"



Changes in expected volume of Welfare Service for Persons with Disabilities (Resident system service)



Data: The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

- In fiscal year 2007, “the Partial Amended Law of Assistance Dogs for the Persons with Disabilities” was enforced. It was clear that application counters are to be set up from April 2008 in prefectures for registering complaints. From October 2008, companies above certain size will be prohibited from denying the assistance of dogs for workers with disabilities working there.
- In fiscal year 2007 also, “Project for the Arrangement of Supporting System for the persons with Developmental Disabilities” is carried out in cooperation with “**Project for the Promotion of Special Needs Education System**”. In prefectures, “Committee for Arrangement of Supporting System for Persons with Developmental Disabilities” was formed to consider with the related parties, the setting up of a complete support system for those with developmental disabilities from infants to adults. By creating a strong support network in each sector of health, medical, welfare, education and labour and a support team for those with developmental disabilities, individual support programs for those with developmental disabilities were created and a complete support system was implemented for infant period to adulthood.
- “Centers for Supporting Persons with Developmental Disabilities” were set up to support the individuals with developmental disabilities and the families, by early diagnosis of developmental disabilities and by providing early support. 61 centers were established countrywide by fiscal year 2007.
- In fiscal year 2007, a support measure was implemented as a model operation for those with developmental disabilities and their families. To develop effective support procedures, “Developmental Disorder Support Development Project” was carried out. To gather all the information and knowledge regarding the developmental disorder and to distribute information and raise awareness, “Developmental Disabilities Support Center” was set up.
- Regarding the sports for persons with disabilities, in fiscal year 2007, “2007 Special Olympics Summer International Competition” was held in Shanghai and 82 athletes participated. In Japan also, World Championship of automated wheel chair soccer, “1st FIFA World Cup 2007” and the table tennis world championship for persons with intellectual disabilities, “5th INAS-FID Table Tennis World Championship 2007 for persons with intellectual disabilities” were held.
- In order to improve the daily life of persons with disabilities, and also to increase the awareness and understanding regarding the disabilities among the citizens, Nagasaki prefecture held “7th Art and Culture festival by persons with disabilities” in November 30 to December 2, 2007, aiming at contributing to self independence and social participation of persons with disabilities.
- Under the promotion of development of welfare equipments based upon the “Welfare Equipment Act”, financial grants were given to companies developing special highly technical and innovative equipments for improvement of the quality of daily life of the persons with disabilities, the elderly and those receiving nursing care. The aid was provided by New Energy Development Organization (NEDO), to cover the research development cost.
- The standardization of welfare equipments was promoted based upon Japan Industry Standards (JIS) which aligned with the international standardization trends. In fiscal year 2007, new chairs and seats with electrical mechanisms assist standing up and sitting down standards were

established (JIST 9255).

○In 2007, “Social Welfare Employees and care takers law” was amended in order to secure and improve the quality of human resources that can effectively deal with diversification and development of nursing and welfare services such as usage support of nursing and services that involve more than the physical care for dementia and of new consultation support like protecting rights. Training and securing of higher quality social welfare counselors and nursing welfare counselors were implemented.

2 Health and Medical Care Measures

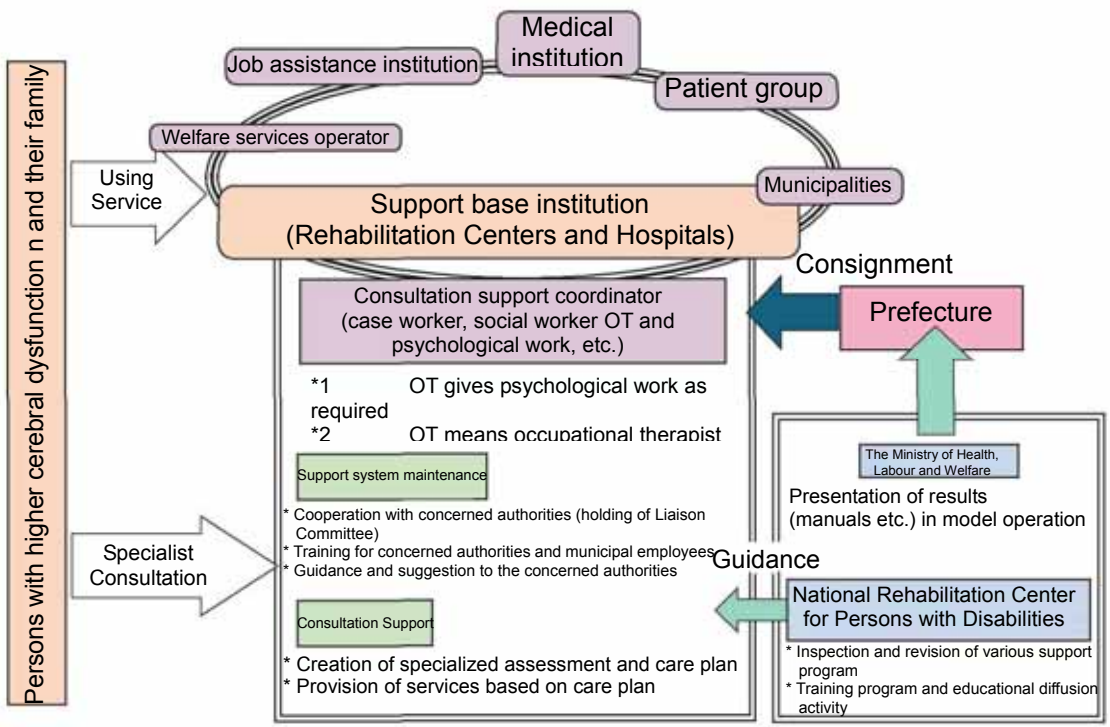
Prevention of diseases that can be causes of disabilities, early diagnosis, treatment, safety at educational facilities, and prevention of occupational injuries are promoted. Medical treatment and medical rehabilitation for persons with disabilities are also carried out.

Mental health medical measures such as maintaining healthy mental state, early diagnosis of psychological illnesses and treatment are promoted. And a “Comprehensive Outline for Preventing Suicide” was decided based upon the “Suicide Prevention Act”, as a basic and general guideline to prevent suicide.

(Main measures taken)

- In April 2007, “Healthy Japan 21” midterm evaluation report was published. An upgraded measure for metabolic syndrome was included in the “New Health Frontier Strategies” (April 18th, 2007 New Health Frontier Strategy Knowledgeable Persons Conference) as a measure for diseases related to life style.
- In fiscal year 2007, a central support body for persons with higher brain function disorder was established and, (1) specialized consultation support for high brain function disability by consultation support coordinators, (2) enhancement of network of related authorities and in the community (3) training regarding high brain function disability support procedures through “Support Project for Persons with High Brain Functional Disabilities” were carried out.
- Based upon the “Suicide Prevention Law”, as a basic measure promoted by government as a suicide preventive measure, “Fundamental Principle of Suicide Prevention Comprehensive Measure” was decided in the Cabinet meeting. In the outline, 9 items and 46 measures were set as the major points emphasized as the main measures to be taken. The main aim of implementing these measures was to reduce the suicide rate in 2005 by more than 20% by 2016. To evaluate the results of implementation of measures based upon the guideline, “Suicide Prevention Committee” was held to hear the opinions of specialist in various fields.

Chart 12 Higher brain dysfunction support promotion project (image)



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare