

Section 2. Improvement of Measures to Support People with Developmental Disorders

1. Summary of Measures for People with Developmental Disorders

(1) Establishment of the Support Law for People with Developmental Disorders

The Support Law for People with Developmental Disorders aims at supporting people with developmental disorders throughout their lives with regard to their self-sufficiency and social participation, hence contributing to the promotion of welfare, and was approved at an extraordinary Diet session in 2004 and enforced in April 2005.

(2) Promotion of the Support Law for People with Developmental Disorders

In order to promote consistent support for people with developmental disorders according to the respective life stage of infancy through to adulthood, a “Headquarters to Promote Measures for Developmental Disorders”, lead by the Administrative Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, was established in June 2006 and efforts are being made to promote related measures across systems including measures for medical care, health care, welfare, and employment.

2. Implementation of Measures to Support People with Developmental Disorders

(1) Establishment of Community Support System for People with Developmental Disorders

A community support system for people with developmental disorders is being established through providing consultation support, development support, and employment support for people with developmental disorders and their families at developmental disorder support centers in all prefectures and designated cities, and through a network of related support organizations for continuous support according to the respective life stage in each region while setting up discussion committees to establish support system in prefectures. In addition, in FY 2008, a “promotion program of a core hospital system for treating children’s minds”, which will establish a support system mainly at core hospitals in cooperation with medical institutions and health/welfare institutions, will be implemented in prefectures to cope with the various problems of children’s mental health, child abuse, and developmental disorders.

(2) Steady Implementation of Development of Support Methods for People with Developmental Disorders and Dissemination/Enlightenment Activities

Development programs of support for people with developmental disorders for use in

developing effective support methods for people with developmental disorders will be implemented through leading measures to realize consistent support in accordance with the growth of children with developmental disorders. In addition, improved dissemination/enlightenment activities for developmental disorder support institutions and the general public will be held at the developmental disorder information centers that were established in March 2008, and improved developmental disorder support training for support staff at respective workplaces will be promoted.

In addition, in FY 2008, service employment support system models for adolescents with developmental disorders to help in realizing self-sufficient lives, including employment in communities, will be established and distributed nationwide, mainly at National Rehabilitation Centers for Persons with Disabilities, in cooperation with related institutions.

(3) Promotion of Employment Support for People with Developmental Disorders

1) Promotion of employment support for people with developmental disorders

Attentive employment consultations and guidance according to the respective characteristics of people with developmental disorders have been provided at special support sections of Hello Works. Various specialized employment rehabilitation is being implemented at Local Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities in cooperation with Hello Works that includes employment evaluations, employment preparation support, and workplace adaptation support. In addition, Employment and Vocational Life Support Centers for Persons with Disabilities, which provide integrated consultations and support for employment and daily living in neighborhoods can also be used. In the mean time, trial employment programs for people with disabilities and support from Job Coaches can also be used as required. In addition to that training courses that provide know-how on employment support for supporters at related institutions that includes medical care, health and welfare, and education have been provided, seminars for service providers to disseminate/facilitate know-how on employment management were held, and “nurturing programs for supporters of people with developmental disorders” implemented as measures for people with developmental disorders since FY 2006.

Since FY 2007 people with developmental disorders that are using the general counters at Hello Works in Labour Bureaus and having difficulty with communication are guided to special support institutions while “employment programs for young people requiring communication support” is implemented for those not wishing to use special support in providing individual consultations/support according to their characteristics.

2) Vocational training for people with developmental disorders

From FY 2006 to FY 2007 vocational training for people with developmental disorders was

implemented on a trial basis at the Kibi-Kogen Vocational Abilities Development School for People with Disabilities while investigation/research (for 2 years) on effective instruction in vocational training for people with developmental disorders was conducted and a handbook on vocational training know-how was created.

In addition, the establishment of training courses for people with developmental disorders at prefectural general public vocational abilities development facilities are being promoted. Efforts will continue to be made in the future in increasing opportunities for them to receive vocational training.