

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ADDENDUM TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

MR GAN KIM YONG  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1 MOH's vision is for all Singaporeans to live well, live long, and with peace of mind. We will continue to invest in improving the health of Singaporeans and enhancing accessibility, affordability, quality and sustainability of healthcare for Singaporeans as outlined in our Healthcare 2020 Master Plan introduced in 2012.

**Looking Back**

2 In the past few years, MOH has increased the capacity of our healthcare system in line with our Healthcare 2020 Master Plan. We expanded the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) to allow about 1.4 million Singaporeans, including our Pioneers, to benefit from subsidised care at private General Practitioners (GPs) and dental clinics. In partnership with the private sector, we established Family Medicine Clinics to care for the increasing number of Singaporeans with chronic diseases. We opened the Changi General Hospital–St. Andrew's Community Hospital Integrated Building, Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, Jurong Community Hospital, and Yishun Community Hospital, adding a total of 1,800 beds when fully opened. We increased the capacity of nursing homes, senior care centres and home care services. We also introduced new care standards for nursing homes, as well as guidelines for centre-based and home care to improve the quality of care for our seniors.

3 We invested in expanding, upgrading and recognising our healthcare workforce to raise the quality of healthcare. In particular, we worked with the Singapore Institute of Technology to launch new local allied health degree training programmes in Academic Year 2016. A CARE (Career, Autonomy, Recognition, Education) package was introduced to boost the nursing profession.

4 We made healthcare more affordable for lower- to middle-income patients through significant subsidy enhancements for outpatient drugs, subsidised specialist outpatient care, community hospitals and long-term care. We also allowed more flexibility in the use of Medisave. The Pioneer Generation Package has significantly helped our Pioneers with their medical expenses and given them greater peace of mind with respect to healthcare costs.

5 MediShield Life was rolled out on 1 November 2015, providing better coverage and higher pay-outs so that patients pay less for large hospital bills. MediShield Life will cover all Singaporeans and Permanent Residents, including the very old and those who have pre-existing conditions.

6 To support successful ageing, we worked with the community to develop holistic health and social programmes, and invested in infrastructure to create senior friendly communities and make ageing a fulfilling journey. In addition, under the Health

Promotion Board (HPB)'s Healthy Living Master Plan, we launched new initiatives both within the community and at workplaces to enable Singaporeans to stay fit and healthy.

7 We faced renewed public health threats from emerging infectious diseases such as Ebola and MERS, as well as haze, and continued to strengthen our emergency preparedness against these.

## **Moving Forward**

### *Enabling Singaporeans to Lead Healthy and Fulfilling Lives*

8 MOH's foremost mission is to help Singaporeans stay healthy. We will continue to invest in Singaporeans' health by enabling citizens to adopt healthy lifestyles in workplaces, schools and the community. In partnership with other government agencies, we will step up efforts to reduce obesity and smoking, and also work in tandem with Singaporeans to overcome barriers to leading a healthy lifestyle.

9 We will collaborate with various government agencies, the people and private sectors, to jointly implement the Action Plan for Successful Ageing. The Action Plan aims to promote active ageing, build a cohesive community with inter-generational harmony, and improve our city infrastructure to enable seniors to age confidently in place.

### *Making Healthcare More Convenient and Accessible for Our People*

10 Our vision is to achieve "One Singaporean, One Family Doctor", where more Singaporeans will establish a long-term partnership with a regular family doctor. Over time, the family doctor, being the first stop of care, will develop a more holistic understanding of each family member's health needs. This will enable them to provide care that is most appropriate for the patient. We will continue to engage and work closely with the primary care community to strengthen the sector, and provide convenient, affordable and good quality care to Singaporeans.

### *Re-shaping Healthcare Delivery to Provide High Quality and Seamless Care*

11 We will build on our six Regional Health Systems (RHSes) to re-shape healthcare delivery by bringing care beyond hospital walls, and integrating preventive, primary, hospital, long-term and home care services. This is so that patients can receive seamless care that is convenient, appropriate and cost-effective. The RHSes will strengthen partnerships among public sector, private sector and Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO) healthcare providers, and also leverage on technology, to provide care that is organised around patients' needs. We will redouble efforts to enhance patient safety and the quality of care in our healthcare system.

12 The quality of our healthcare system relies on the knowledge and skills of our healthcare professionals. We will embark on efforts to develop a future-ready healthcare workforce by leveraging on SkillsFuture initiatives to strengthen healthcare career pathways. We will also continue to recruit and retain healthcare workers, and enhance efforts to raise productivity and become leaner in terms of manpower. In parallel, we will invest in the development of telehealth and robotics to enable us to

achieve higher productivity in healthcare, and bring better care closer to Singaporeans, while being manpower-efficient.

*Investing in the Future through Healthcare Research and Innovations*

13 We will continue to invest in healthcare research to improve care delivery and outcomes. As our population ages, we will also need to develop innovative methods to help Singaporeans remain healthy and dynamic even as the average lifespan increases.

*Enhancing Accessibility and Affordability*

14 From 2015 to 2020, MOH will continue to add more healthcare facilities to cater to the needs of our ageing population. Within this period, we will add more than 10,000 beds in acute hospitals, community hospitals, and nursing homes, as well as more than 7,000 places to community care, home care, and palliative home care. We will also increase primary care capacity through partnerships with GPs and the development of primary care facilities.

15 Following the introduction of MediShield Life, MOH will work on developing a standardised private Integrated Shield Plan. We will also continue to review our financing policies to keep health and aged care affordable for Singaporeans.

16 To ensure long-term affordability and sustainability for patients and society, we will also need to focus attention on providing appropriate and cost-effective care, to ensure that new treatments, drugs, devices/implants, and medical technology are effective in improving health outcomes.

*Health for All*

17 Our plans will enable Singaporeans stay healthy and active throughout their lives. We will have access to high quality care, and those of us who need support and assistance will receive them. Together, Singaporeans will age with confidence and live more fulfilling lives as members of a cohesive and caring Nation for All Ages.

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

ADDENDUM TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

MR TAN CHUAN-JIN  
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

**Introduction**

1 The social needs of our citizens and families are becoming more complex as the demographics, economics and family structures in Singapore change. Our social policies and services must evolve so that we can continue to nurture resilient individuals and strong families. Our societal culture must also evolve so that we can become a more inclusive and caring society where no Singaporean is left behind.

2 The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) will focus on (i) strengthening marriages and families, (ii) providing a good start for our young, (iii) extending a helping hand for the vulnerable, and (iv) fostering a caring community.

**Strong Marriages and Families**

3 The family must remain the basic building block of our society. The Ministry is committed to making Singapore a great place for families. We will work with government agencies, businesses and employers, as well as community organisations to create a conducive environment for Singaporeans to start families and raise children, enjoy family life and experience meaningful family ties.

4 We will provide greater support for couples to prepare for and strengthen their marriages, and offer evidence-based parenting programmes in our schools and community. These will include marriage preparation and support programmes for young couples and Singaporeans marrying foreigners.

5 MSF will also strengthen support for vulnerable families so that they can overcome their challenges and become more stable and resilient. We will look into new ways of engaging such families early, and work with social service agencies to assess their needs holistically to provide more coordinated and effective assistance.

**A Good Start for Our Young**

6 Children are our hope and future. The Ministry will strive towards giving all our young children a good start in life. We will extend greater attention and support to those from disadvantaged or vulnerable backgrounds so that they too can realise their potential.

7 The Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) will continue to expand childcare capacity, particularly in housing estates with more young children. There will be one childcare place for every two children by 2017. ECDA will provide parents with more good quality and affordable childcare options through its Anchor Operator and

Partner Operator schemes. It will also continue to enhance the quality of preschool education and the professional development of early childhood educators.

8 To help vulnerable children from low-income or disadvantaged families, we will work with other government agencies and community organisations to identify them and support their developmental needs during their early years. We will also introduce initiatives to help these families improve their home environments for the children's learning and development, as well as support the children at pre-schools.

9 For children who need protection or care outside of their own homes, we will broaden the care options available to them. This will include working with Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) and volunteers to increase the number of foster families who can offer a nurturing environment for these children to grow up in. To better help youths-at-risk, we will strengthen both government and community systems, programmes and capabilities in prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation.

### **A Helping Hand for the Vulnerable**

10 Those with less and those in need will receive an extra helping hand to overcome their difficulties and improve their lives. We will continue to strengthen our social safety net, review legislations and policies, and improve services to keep in step with emerging needs.

11 We have completed the network of 24 Social Service Offices (SSOs) across Singapore as well as the first phase of the Social Service Net (SSNet) – an integrated information sharing and case management system that will link MSF with other government and VWO help agencies. Building on their reach on the ground, SSOs will further improve the coordination in planning and delivery of social services for residents within each HDB town. We will also expand SSNet to cover more help agencies. Together, these efforts will ensure that Singaporeans with complex social support needs receive more holistic and integrated help.

12 For persons with disabilities, we will develop the next Enabling Masterplan to build a more inclusive society where they can lead more meaningful lives and become integral members of society. Through assistance in early intervention, education, training and employment, we will help them maximise their potential at different stages of their lives. We will also render greater support for caregivers. We will work with employers, businesses, community organisations, and volunteers to raise public understanding and acceptance of persons with disabilities within our communities.

13 To safeguard the interests of the growing number of elderly in Singapore, the Government will review legislations, policies and services to better protect those who are subject to abuse, neglect or self-neglect. We will also look into strengthening support for vulnerable adults in residential care through streamlining regulatory and care standards for residential homes.

**A Caring Community**

14 The future of caring in Singapore is one where Singaporeans come together to look out for and support one another, especially those amongst us who need a helping hand. Government agencies, VWOs, corporates, community organisations, social service professionals and the wider public all play a part. Through what we do and how we do it, the Ministry hopes to nurture a culture and spirit of giving in Singapore.

15 Professionals including early childhood educators, learning support specialists, social workers, counsellors, therapists, psychologists and care workers lie at the forefront of the social service sector. Through ECDA and the Social Service Institute (SSI), we will groom a larger pool of committed and skilled social service professionals and leaders. We will also expand opportunities for them to develop their capabilities and build fulfilling careers.

16 VWOs play a critical role in mobilising volunteers and donors to complement the work of social service professionals and effort by the government. The National Council of Social Service (NCSS) will work with VWOs to improve their organisational capability and management of volunteers so as to involve more Singaporean individuals and groups in enriching volunteering experiences. The Community Chest will extend its reach by tapping on new platforms and partnerships to raise funds and rally public support to meet social needs.

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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
(NATIONAL POPULATION AND TALENT DIVISION)

ADDENDUM TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

MR TEO CHEE HEAN  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER-IN-CHARGE OF THE NATIONAL  
POPULATION AND TALENT DIVISION

1 Our goal is to ensure that Singapore remains a cohesive and resilient society with a sustainable population. We aim to make Singapore a great place for starting families and raising children, and where Singaporeans can have good jobs and enjoy a quality living environment.

**Fair and Cohesive Society**

2 Singapore is a multicultural society, where everyone who shares our ideals and is committed to Singapore has a place regardless of race, language or religion. To remain relevant we must continue to tap on a global blend of people and ideas to move Singapore ahead and in doing so, create more opportunities for Singaporeans. We will continue to welcome talent to augment our economic vitality while ensuring that Singaporeans get the necessary education and training to do well in the global economy. Singapore must be a place where everyone is treated fairly, and have equal opportunity to succeed based on merit and hard work, regardless of background. We will foster greater mutual understanding and appreciation between different people living in Singapore, through facilitating more social interactions and raising awareness of shared societal values and norms.

**Great Place for Families**

3 We will promote a pro-family environment where Singaporeans can fulfil their family and work aspirations. In the last two years, citizen marriages and births were among their highest levels in more than a decade. We will try to keep this up. We have strengthened support for marriage and parenthood, for example, through enhanced housing and childcare policies. Even as we improve these measures, we must recognise the need for broader societal support. As more mothers remain active in the workforce, there is room for fathers to play more active roles in bringing up children. Employers are also critical in ensuring good workplace support. We will partner people-sector organisations which share our family focus to cultivate stronger social support for marriage and parenthood.

4 Singaporeans based overseas are part of our Singapore family. While we encourage Singaporeans to gain overseas experience, we will also engage them closely and facilitate their transition back home when they wish to return.

**An Ageing Population, Slower Population Growth**

5 Singapore has one of the most rapidly ageing populations in the world, with the number of seniors projected to double to 900,000 by 2030. While we encourage

marriage and parenthood, we will need a carefully calibrated number of new citizens to keep our citizen population stable. We will also need foreigners to complement our Singaporean workforce in areas where we are short. But we cannot grow our population indefinitely. We will strike a careful balance, so that Singaporeans do not feel crowded out, and we can meet the needs of our ageing citizen population and workforce. We have slowed the growth of our foreign workforce substantially, and as a result, our total population growth rate last year was the slowest in more than a decade.

**Engagement and Consultation**

6 Our population challenges are complex and multi-faceted. There are many needs to be fulfilled, and we will strive to strike the right balance. We will take an open and consultative approach in our population strategies to ensure that all views are heard. This is critical in achieving the balance we strive for. We will work hand-in-hand with Singaporeans to co-create our future together.

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