



5 September 2017

## **CLOSE TO \$12 MILLION INJECTED INTO THE COMMUNITY CARE SECTOR TO BOOST TALENT ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT WITH AN EXPANDED SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME**

Over the next four years, close to \$12 million will be set aside through the Community Care Manpower Development Award (CCMDA) to attract more new entrants to join the sector and support staff in developing their careers. The consolidation of existing Community Care scholarships<sup>1</sup> into the CCMDA was announced by Senior Minister of State for Health Dr Amy Khor this morning. The expanded scholarship scheme, which was rolled out in April 2017, is administered by the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC).

2. In the past, only new entrants looking to join the sector in the fields of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and nursing could apply for sponsorship to pursue their fields of study. With the CCMDA, sponsorship is extended to new entrants looking to develop a career in other disciplines such as social work and speech therapy. Existing staff can also look forward to more upgrading opportunities, especially those who wish to pursue certification programmes.

3. “Community Care services will become more important in supporting our seniors to age-in-place. To provide quality care, emphasis on training and skills upgrading is key in order to nurture a pool of dedicated and skilled Community Care staff. The new Community Care Manpower Development Award will offer more comprehensive support

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<sup>1</sup> The four Community Care scholarships were the Balaji Sadasivan Study Award, Intermediate and Long-Term Care – Upgrading Programme (ILTC-UP), Social and Health Manpower Development Programme – ILTC (SHMDP-ILTC) and Community Care General Practitioner Partnership Training Award (CC-GPPTA). Refer to [Annex A](#) for details on each scholarship.

in developing our sector's care professionals in line with their career aspirations as well as our clients' needs," shared Dr Jason Cheah, Chief Executive Officer of AIC.

4. The CCMDA caters for entry and advanced skills training in a range of clinical and non-clinical areas for aspiring and current Community Care staff, as well as General Practitioners who desire to serve the needs of our seniors. It covers short courses, formal academic programmes and attachments to local or overseas healthcare and Community Care facilities. Awardees will have the cost of their training co-funded by the CCMDA and their hiring Community Care organisations, and will serve a bond upon completion of training. (Refer to [Annex B](#) for more details on the CCMDA)

5. The award will also better support Community Care organisations in attracting, retaining and developing staff passionate in making a difference to the lives of seniors. St Luke's Hospital (SLH) is one of the Community Care organisations that have consistently tapped on the scholarships and study awards administered by AIC. The study awards administered by AIC have helped SLH train and develop their staff. "In the past three years, we have over 40 staff who tapped on the awards to further their education, including seven CCMDA awardees. St Luke's Hospital, or SLH, is a Serving, Loving and Healing organisation not just for patients but for staff too. We look after our staff through training and development, and they look after patients better. When staff see the outcomes of their care, with patients recovering, they feel good about working here," said Ms Leo Bek Hoon, Director of Human Resource & Administration at SLH.

6. 28-year old Ms Aw Hui Zhen, a senior physiotherapist from Singapore Cancer Society, is among the first CCMDA awardees. An ex-Balaji Sadasivan Study Award recipient in 2010, Ms Aw joined the sector after graduating with her diploma. She then received support in 2014 from the ILTC-UP to complete her degree. This is Ms Aw's third time receiving support in furthering her studies. She will be doing an advanced certificate in lymphedema management with CCMDA's support. "I learnt practical clinical skills through my diploma and got the opportunity to complete my degree overseas. Lymphedema management is a relatively new area of cancer rehabilitation, and I hope to contribute by establishing this service in my organisation to benefit more

clients. Moving forward, I also hope to explore other areas of care such as palliative care,” said Ms Aw.

7. More than 100 awardees received their awards from Guest-of-Honour Dr Khor at the 2017 Community Care Manpower Development Awards Ceremony held at the Ng Teng Fong General Hospital Auditorium. They include the first batch of 33 CCMDA awardees. Since 2002, over 700 Community Care staff have been supported to further their education and fulfil their career aspirations. This is the fifth year AIC has organised the annual awards ceremony, previously known as the ILTC Manpower Development Awards Ceremony.

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### **About the Agency for Integrated Care**

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) seeks to create a vibrant Care Community enabling people to live well and age gracefully. AIC coordinates and facilitates efforts in care integration to achieve the best care outcomes for our clients. We do this by empowering them with health and social care information and arranging for their care when they are discharged from hospitals. We enable stakeholders to raise the quality of care, and also enhance collaboration by working with health and social care providers to increase services to support the ageing population. Our work in the community brings care services and information closer to those in need. For more information, please visit [www.aic.sg](http://www.aic.sg).