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STUDY AWARDS HANDED OUT BY AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY CARE SECTOR MORE THAN QUADRUPLED SINCE 2017

Close to 300 awardees have received the Community Care Manpower Development Award (CCMDA) administered by Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) since it was rolled out in 2017. The study award aims to provide new entrants and current staff in the Community Care sector with opportunities to pursue and grow their careers, and deepen their professional expertise through further studies in various specialisations.

2. The majority of the awardees are in-service Community Care staff. They include healthcare professionals, care support workers and those in operations or administrative roles working at community hospitals, nursing homes, eldercare centres and hospices. CCMDA has supported their further studies ranging from clinical attachments to post-graduate degrees in a variety of clinical and non-clinical topics. About 15% are students – aspiring nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists – who will join the sector after graduation to make a difference to seniors' lives.

3. Ms A Naganandini, 19, was one such recipient whose National Institute of Technical Education Certificate (NITEC) in Nursing studies is being supported by the CCMDA and her future employer, Ren Ci Hospital. She started preparing for this career from a young age, joining the Red Cross and the Girls' Brigade as co-curricular activities during school. Last December, Naganandini decided to pick up some practical experience before starting her nursing studies and underwent a two-week internship at Ren Ci @ Ang Mo Kio. "During my time in the nursing home, I engaged residents in social activities and assisted them in their daily living activities. The experience was an eye-opener. It gave me a good insight into my future role as a

nurse. It was very meaningful to be able to bring smiles to seniors' faces," shared Naganandini. Her potential and passion in caring for seniors was recognised by Ren Ci Hospital which offered to sponsor her NITEC studies with the support of CCMDA. She started her studies at ITE College East in January this year.

4. "AIC works closely with our Community Care partners to strengthen their workforce capabilities as well as improve their staff's knowledge and expertise in order to deliver better care. I am heartened to see that about 100 CCMDA awards were given out today to deserving staff joining or working in our Community Care partners. In addition, we are supporting the sector in developing their workforce through other efforts including short courses and training programmes through six AIC-appointed Learning Institutes and milestone leadership development programmes. These form an integral part of AIC's mission to partner the Community Care sector in enabling Singaporeans to live well and age gracefully in their homes and within the community," shared AIC's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tan Kwang Cheak.

5. The Learning Institutes were appointed in 2018, offering over 200 courses ranging from topics such as clinical training to organisational excellence. Last year, they offered more than 5,000 training places for the sector. AIC also organises four management development programmes catering to the sector's C-suites, senior and middle management staff. Since 2017, over 300 participants have taken part in these programmes.

6. The annual CCMDA awards ceremony took place this morning at Ng Teng Fong General Hospital. There were about 300 attendees comprising study award recipients, their family members, employers and community partners. The event was graced by Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Health.

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About the Agency for Integrated Care

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) aims to create a vibrant care community for people to live well and age gracefully. AIC coordinates and supports efforts in integrating care to achieve the best care outcomes for our clients. We reach out to caregivers and seniors with information on staying active and ageing well, and connect people to services they need. We support stakeholders in their efforts to raise the quality of care, and also work with health and social care partners to provide more services for the ageing population. Our work in the community brings care services and information closer to those in need. For more about us, please visit www.aic.sg.