



## **THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY CARE MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS ALMOST DOUBLED THIS YEAR**

This year, the Agency for Integrated Care will be awarding the Community Care Manpower Development Awards (CCMDA) to 109 recipients this year, almost double the number of awards in 2017. These scholarships support new entrants and current staff within our Community Care sector to upgrade their professional skills and pursue further studies in various areas of specialisations to deliver better quality care.

2. 27-year-old Social Work Assistant, Charlene Tham, is one of our CCMDA recipients this year. She works at The Salvation Army Peacehaven Nursing Home and as part of her job, visits seniors' houses in the Fengshan estate and screens them for depression and dementia. In addition, she conducts exercise programmes in the nursing home's day centre to encourage seniors to stay active. She realises that besides keeping seniors socially engaged, managing their ability to carry out daily activities such as feeding, dressing and showering is important for them to feel independent. The desire to provide better care to seniors prompted/motivated her to pursue a Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy) at the Singapore Institute of Technology.

3. Upgrading her skills through CCMDA will help Charlene to provide more holistic and person-centred care to the seniors. "I hope to broaden my knowledge and skills in health and social care services which will complement my work experience in social work as I will be able to assess seniors' physical ability in daily living, as well as develop customised care plans that promote seniors' physical and emotional wellbeing."

4. There is an increasing demand for more highly skilled professionals to deliver care and support to seniors at home. With the sector's emphasis on both health and social care, there are opportunities for Community Care staff to broaden their horizons in other areas or for those who aspire to try other roles in a different discipline. Charlene is one example, as she hopes to become an occupational therapist one day. Besides complementing their current know-how to better support clients, lifelong learning is a way for staff to develop in their careers.

5. One of the new programmes supported by the CCMDA this year is the Work-Learn Technical Diploma in Rehabilitation Care offered by the Institute of Technical Education. The two-and-a-half-year apprenticeship-based programme aims to provide trainees with skills and knowledge in using assessment tools, creating treatment plans and promoting health and wellness among their clients. It is open to therapy aides and other support care staff with a NITEC in Community Care and Social Services, Nursing, or Paramedics and Emergency Care. When completed, the support care staff in the Community Care sector can look forward to higher responsibilities as senior therapy assistants. 21 Community Care staff undergoing this diploma are among this year's scholarship recipients.

6. AIC's Chief Executive Officer Dr Jason Cheah is heartened by the increase in the number of scholarship recipients this year. "With more seniors preferring to age at home today, the Community Care sector will continue to raise the bar in how it delivers care. We need more care professionals like our CCMDA awardees who are driven to acquire new knowledge and skills so as to take on more challenging roles in supporting seniors in living and ageing well. Working with our partners to strengthen the sector's workforce capabilities, career prospects and opportunities remains one of our key priorities."

7. The recipients will be receiving their awards from Guest-of-Honour Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Health, at the CCMDA 2018 ceremony. This is the sixth year AIC has organised the annual event.

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## **Media Contact and Enquiries**

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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 increase 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](http://www.aic.sg).