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For Immediate Release

10 Healthcare Professionals Awarded the New Scholarship Programme for Intermediate and Long-Term Care (ILTC)

Minister of State for Health and Manpower, Dr Amy Khor today announced a new scholarship programme for ILTC healthcare professionals at the 2012 Health Manpower Development Programme for ILTC (HMDP-ILTC) Awards ceremony. The ILTC–Upgrading Programme (ILTC-UP) offers healthcare professionals opportunities to upgrade their skills through a Degree programme in Nursing or Allied Health disciplines. It is part of ongoing efforts to promote continuous learning and skills development within the ILTC sector.

2. Application for the ILTC-UP scholarship opened in July this year. To date, a total of ten ILTC healthcare professionals have been awarded the scholarship. They will be funded at up to 90% of the tuition and compulsory fees, with the remaining 10% to be co-funded by their employers. Each of them will also receive a one-time study allowance of \$2,000 for purchase of items required during their course of studies. The ILTC-UP is an initiative under the Healthcare Productivity Fund which is part of the National Productivity Fund. The programme is funded by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and administered by the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC).

3. Through the skills upgrading and knowledge gained from the Degree programme, healthcare professionals will be better equipped to take on expanded job scopes and apply their learning to improve patient care.

4. Ms Jacqueline Pang, Occupational Therapist at St Andrew's Community Hospital (SACH) said, "I'm truly honoured to be awarded with the ILTC-UP scholarship. It provides me with an opportunity to challenge myself further as an Occupational Therapist and prepare me for an expanded role in future so as to provide more holistic care for my patients in the community."

5. Ms Suhani Hamzah, Staff Nurse for Ang Mo Kio – Thye Hua Kwan Hospital (AMK-THKH) said, "Being able to pursue a Degree in Nursing has been my life-long dream. With the support of ILTC-UP, I will be able to sharpen my skills and knowledge, gain new perspectives and apply them to the clinical setting without any financial worries. Through the training received, I will be able to act as a resource person and mentor my colleagues in ensuring that we provide our patients optimum quality of care."

6. The ILTC-UP scholarship complements other training initiatives of AIC such as the HMDP-ILTC. Supported by MOH, HMDP-ILTC supports advanced skills training in elderly and continuing care. These include short courses and graduate diploma/postgraduate degree programmes and attachments to healthcare/ILTC facilities. For 2012, a total of 91 healthcare professionals received the HMDP-ILTC award.

7. Dr Jason Cheah, Chief Executive Officer of AIC said, "With the ILTC-UP, there are even more opportunities for ILTC staff to look forward to for upgrading and training. This is in recognition of the growing importance of the ILTC sector. AIC is committed to support the ILTC sector through initiatives such as the ILTC-UP and HMDP-ILTC to enable service providers to achieve the best health outcomes for their patients."

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About the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) is set up by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to oversee, coordinate and facilitate all efforts in care integration. Our mission is to achieve best health outcomes for our patients by empowering clients and coordinating access to appropriate care, enabling stakeholders to strengthen the primary care, intermediate and long-term care and community mental health sectors, and enhancing collaboration to create a well-connected healthcare system. For more information, please visit www.aic.sg.