

JOINT MEDIA ADVISORY



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ENSURING AID FROM TOP REACHES THE GROUND

Tanglin-Cairnhill Constituency Partners the Agency for Integrated Care
to reach out to elderly in need of mobility aids

Grassroots Adviser Ms Indranee Rajah, Member of Parliament (MP) for Tanjong Pagar GRC has observed that while the government has many assistance schemes in place to help the residents in need, more outreach efforts can be carried out to raise the awareness of these schemes and ensure that the assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries. This is especially so when the beneficiaries are the elderly and/or illiterate.

2 Ms Rajah said: "I believe that through more effective outreach, help from the top can reach the ground. Otherwise all the good that was intended to be achieved by such programmes will be lost."

3 To ensure that the help actually reached the intended beneficiaries, the grassroots leaders of Tanglin-Cairnhill Constituency embarked on a pilot outreach project with the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) to go door to door of the rental flats to inform the low income elderly requiring mobility aids of the \$10m Senior's Mobility Fund (SMF), and to refer eligible residents for assessment on the type of mobility aids like wheelchairs and walking aids they should get. This was done by the project team over two Saturdays on 17 and 24 September 2011.

4 The pilot project is AIC's first collaboration with the community to deliver a programme administered by AIC. It is also a joint effort by many helping hands :

- AIC;
- Tanglin-Cairnhill GROs;
- Buddhist Life Mission; and
- Students of the School of Humanities and Social Services of Ngee Ann Polytechnic

5 During the two days, about 50 members from the team went door-to-door to conduct a screening survey of 1,200 households in the rental units of Blocks 117, 121, 123 Bukit Merah View and Block 91 Henderson Road to inform them about the SMF and how they can benefit from the help scheme.

6 At the end of the two-day outreach programme, AIC organised and conducted therapy assessments to determine the need and type of mobility aid for the individual applicants. Although it was first-time collaboration amongst the three volunteer groups and AIC, new friendships soon fostered amongst the young and old as they came together as a community to reach out and better understand the needs of the elderly. This is an example of the Tanglin-Cairnhill Constituency's main theme: "***A Community Caring for the Community***".

7 Now that the residents in need have been identified and assessed, the mobility aids for the qualifying beneficiaries are ready for distribution. As it is difficult for the recipients to move around, Ms Rajah, the GRLs and volunteers and AIC officials will be distributing the mobility aids directly to the first batch of residents on the morning of 9 October 2011 at 10am. The remaining eligible residents will receive their mobility aids at a later date, when the second round of distribution is conducted.

8 Dr Wong Loong Mun, Chief of Care Integration Division for AIC said, "AIC is pleased to partner the Tanglin-Cairnhill grassroots leaders on our community engagement efforts to reach out to the elderly who require assistance. We will continue to work together with the various grassroots organisations to raise more awareness of the

assistance schemes available. Through these avenues, we hope to empower the public to make well-informed decisions about their healthcare needs.”

9 Following the success of the pilot SMF outreach programme with Tanglin-Cairnhill Constituency, AIC will be rolling out similar programmes to other constituencies under Tanjong Pagar GRC and other parts of Singapore.

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About People’s Association

The **People’s Association**, through its Community Clubs’ courses and activities, offers opportunities for people to make new friends, share common interests and help foster a strong cohesive community. *More information available at www.pa.gov.sg*

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, enable stakeholders to strengthen the primary and community care sectors, and enhancing collaboration to create a well-connected healthcare system. For more information, please visit www.aic.sg.