

Embargoed until 13 February 2014, Thursday, 10.00am

13 February 2014

For Immediate Release

More care options for frail elderly as SPICE rolls out in three more eldercare centres in the New Year

150 elderly expected to benefit from expansion of SPICE

The Singapore Programme for Integrated Care for the Elderly (SPICE), developed by the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), marked another milestone with its expansion to another three eldercare centres. SPICE is now provided at Peacehaven Nursing Home (Upper Changi Road North), Tembusu Eldercare Centre (Eunos), and Sunshine Welfare Action Mission, SWAMI (Sembawang Walk). This brings the total number of eldercare centres with the SPICE programme to six, and is in line with AIC's vision to extend the SPICE programme to different regions of Singapore to serve seniors so that they can live well and age gracefully in the community. To date, the SPICE programme is available at three eldercare centres located in the East, one in the West, one in Central and one in the North. Already, more than 190 frail elderly have benefitted from the programme. With the roll out of SPICE to another three eldercare centres, another 150 frail elderly are expected to benefit from SPICE services.

2. SPICE@Tembusu Eldercare Centre and SPICE@SWAMI began operating in January this year while SPICE@Peacehaven Nursing Home was officially opened by Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Associate Professor (A/Prof) Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim today. The expansion of SPICE across the island enables more frail elderly clients to receive personalized care within the community. Under SPICE, they are cared for during the day at the eldercare centre, and in the evenings, they are able to return home to spend time with their loved ones. Recognizing that family members and caregivers may face challenges in caring for their frail elderly at home, AIC has

worked with SPICE@Peacehaven Nursing Home to introduce a new 24-hour helpline so that caregivers of its SPICE clients can call in to seek advice and guidance. Additionally, SPICE@Peacehaven Nursing Home will be the first to offer clients care services during the weekends, subject to their care needs and the centre's assessment.

3. Executive Director of The Salvation Army Peacehaven Nursing Home, Mdm Low Mui Lang said, "The Salvation Army Peacehaven Nursing Home has been meeting the care needs of the Bedok community these past years. Increasingly, we have noticed that the needs of seniors are becoming more complex. They now require multiple psycho-social, medical and nursing support services, which in turn require higher skilled staff. As the SPICE programme meets such needs, we felt that it is timely to start the programme in our nursing home and tap on our existing professional expertise to run it. I am very excited that in partnership with AIC, we are adding several new services to the SPICE programme here, such as elder-sitter session, weekend care, and providing home medical observation for short durations. We will provide these additional services based on the individual client's needs, and which we will assess using a strict set of criteria."

4. The new helpline and weekend services at SPICE@Peacehaven Nursing Home complement the standard care services provided under the SPICE programme. They include medical, nursing, rehabilitative and social care as well as assistance with clients' Activities of Daily Living such as feeding and bathing.

5. The SPICE programme was introduced in 2010 at The Salvation Army – Peacehaven Bedok Multi-Service Centre. It was rolled out at Tembusu Rehab and Day Care Centre (Jurong) in 2011 and at Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens (Serangoon Gardens) in 2013.

6. Chief Executive Officer of AIC, Dr Jason Cheah said, "SPICE has proven to be a viable care option for the frail elderly given its comprehensive integrated centre and home-based services. We want to help seniors age in the community where possible, and their desire to be cared for at home so that they are in a familiar surroundings when receiving long-term care. Through SPICE, we have been able to

help lower the need for nursing home admissions, decrease hospital admissions and unnecessary visits to the emergency department. AIC will bring onboard more service providers and roll out SPICE to another three eldercare centres in the different regions of Singapore by 2015.”

###

Media Contact and enquiries:

Agency for Integrated Care

Chong Yi Han

Executive, Corporate & Marketing Communications

Tel: 6603 6992/ 9836 7101

Email: Yihan.chong@aic.sg

About the Agency for Integrated Care

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 care outcomes for our patients 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.