



19 January 2014

For Immediate Release

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSIST SCHEME (CHAS)

Now, All Ages can Qualify!

Over 520,000 eligible Singaporeans have qualified for CHAS, more expected!

Since 1 January 2014, with the enhancements to the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS), about 140,000 family members who auto-qualify following the age floor removal have already received their CHAS Health Assist card. This brings the total number of CHAS beneficiaries to over 520,000 today. In the past year, CHAS beneficiaries have received more than \$25 million in subsidies for their medical and dental care.

2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, presented the CHAS Health Assist card to 11 families in Taman Jurong Constituency who are first time applicants for CHAS under the enhanced scheme. As part of the Taman Jurong Constituency's Annual Lunar New Year Celebrations, DPM Tharman, who is Advisor to Jurong GRC Grassroots Organisations, also presented "Hong Baos" to the seniors residing in Taman Jurong, recognizing the contribution from them in nation building during the early years of Singapore's independence.

3. The CHAS enhancements (Refer to Annex A – Fact Sheet) provide an opportunity for the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), who administers the Scheme, to reach out to new segments of the population. AIC will continue with its community outreach efforts to promote the scheme and encourage eligible Singaporeans to apply for the Health Assist Card. Today's CHAS Family Carnival jointly organised by AIC and Taman Jurong Grassroots Organisations seeks to do that. More than 2,500

residents are expected at the Carnival, during which they can interact with MediaCorp artiste, Chen Li Ping who is the “face” for the CHAS marketing and publicity campaign, and learn about CHAS. Participants can approach the AIC Booth at the Carnival to find out more information about CHAS or to apply for the Health Assist card. Other fringe activities include henna tattooing, face painting and multi racial performances by interest groups of Taman Jurong.

4. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AIC, Dr Jason Cheah said, “We are grateful for the support from partners and grassroots leaders from all the constituencies such as Taman Jurong, who have been actively promoting CHAS to their residents. We hope that Singaporeans will use the Health Assist card whenever they visit their family doctor to enjoy the medical and dental subsidies nearer to their home.”

5. Currently, there are over 970 participating CHAS clinics island-wide, with four CHAS GP clinics and one dental clinic located in Taman Jurong.

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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 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.