

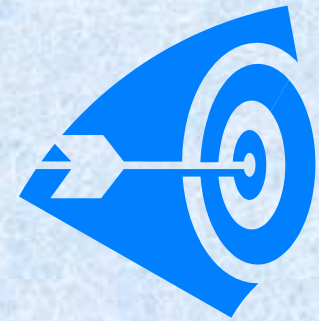
Ms Julia Lee ● ON AIR

TOUCH COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMME DIRECTOR FOR SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE & DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Ms Lee has nearly 3 decades of dedicated experience as a registered social worker since 1985, first with MCYS and subsequently the past 22 years with TOUCH services. Her value-driven motivation to improve along with her lively personality ensures variety while being committed to keeping in 'TOUCH' with our ever-changing social landscape. She obtained her Masters in Health Science (specialisation in Gerontology) at 40 years old, and was in charge of leading the pioneer team towards TOUCH Home Care and TOUCH Seniors Activity Centre.



Stages of Development as a Social Worker



- ✓ Your impact on others is more important than recognition
- ✓ Your job is to see potential, to create transformations
- ✓ Help to maximise clients' capabilities



- ✓ Personal + professional growth
- ✓ Steep learning curve
- ✓ Offers autonomy, a chance to exercise creativity

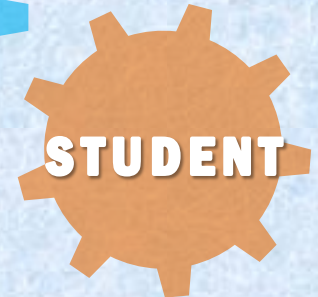


- ✓ Join an organisation whose core values align with your own
- ✓ Understand political climate and environment

- ✓ Overview of sector for larger understanding



- ✓ First-hand exposure to issues
- ✓ Chance to apply skills



- ✓ Build foundations
- ✓ Greater awareness of social service sector

- ✓ Explore strengths and weaknesses
- ✓ Opportunity to understand complexity

Her Thoughts on Social Work

“DO WHAT YOU LOVE / LOVE WHAT YOU DO”

– a social worker should ideally have both in their career

An impactful job that contributes to a meaningful and fulfilling career, helps you look forward to your work

Always ask yourself:
“WHAT CAN I DO (BETTER)?”

= necessary, constant motivation onto road to finding solutions

ENSURE VARIETY & ENJOY THE JOURNEY!

“MIND THE GAP”

in abilities, and how you try to address it in services provided

Acquire knowledge and skills along the way, keep on growing and improving self

Important to be grounded, explore your own blind spots and ability to manage group dynamics

“WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION? WHY BECOME A SOCIAL WORKER? IN 10-20 YEARS' TIME, WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE IN YOUR CAREER?”

– to help people with problems, make a difference in someone's life, advocate for needs

Your Questions

WHAT HAS REMAINED RELEVANT SINCE THE START OF YOUR JOURNEY?

“The values you hold as a Social Worker still stand, across the various sectors. Believing in the potential for change can be reflected in the designing of programs and activities for your clients, for example, promoting independence to mobilize them. The conscientious effort to spread those values will differentiate you from the rest of your colleagues.”



WHAT IS YOUR ONE WISH FOR THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION?

“Social Workers need to collaborate and transfer knowledge, and engage among themselves. We should have a collective voice, possibly on different platforms where we can freely express our views!”

HOW CAN WE ENSURE THE TRANSLATION OF POLICIES, AND EFFECTIVE DELIVERANCE TO THE GROUND?



SSOs are the right approach towards understanding unique community cultures better

“Social workers should meet to pilot test new programs in small areas to see if they are addressing the community’s issues, and make appropriate adjustments before implementing them nation-wide. Knowing how to strategise and get support (e.g. an MP has a lot of say on the community’s issues – he is a useful resource).”

Going Forward...



Need to create concern for issues faced, brainstorming ideas allows for individual ownership

**ULTIMATE
AIM:
to build a
strong
society**

She hopes for “strong passion, community bonding and integration” within the social work sector

Changes needed in levels of engagement for various intellectual age groups
-- allow clients to challenge themselves and their abilities

SOCIAL WORKERS NEED TO STEP UP AND TAKE CHARGE!