

# COMMUNITY CARE ENDOWMENT FUND

ANNUAL REPORT FOR  
FINANCIAL YEAR 2017





# CONTENTS

**OVERVIEW OF COMCARE 1**

**OVERVIEW | COMCARE ASSISTANCE 3**

**COMCARE ASSISTANCE 4**

**CONCLUDING REMARKS 8**

**COMCARE STATISTICS 9**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR COMCARE ENDOWMENT FUND 14**

The image features three overlapping arrow-shaped bars pointing to the right. The top bar is blue and contains the text 'OVERVIEW OF COMCARE'. The middle bar is green and is positioned below the blue bar. The bottom bar is yellow and is positioned below the green bar. The bars overlap such that the blue bar is on top, the green bar is in the middle, and the yellow bar is at the bottom.

# OVERVIEW OF COMCARE

# OVERVIEW

The Government has strengthened its social safety net over the last decade by investing heavily in education, healthcare, housing, employment and retirement adequacy for Singaporeans. There are broad-based schemes and subsidies that benefit many, while a network of government and community agencies provides targeted assistance for low-income and vulnerable groups who need additional help. Within these multiple layers of assistance, the Community Care Endowment Fund (“ComCare Fund”) plays the role of supporting low-income households with their living expenses.

## OVERVIEW | COMCARE FUND

The ComCare Fund was launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 28 June 2005 as a sustainable source of funds to provide social assistance to low-income Singaporeans. The interest income generated from the ComCare Fund is used to fund ComCare programmes.

Established under the Community Care Endowment Fund Act, the ComCare Fund has the following objectives:

- a. To provide assistance to Singapore citizens and permanent residents, and their family members living in Singapore who are in financial or other difficulties, to enable them to:
  - i. Attain sufficient income to meet their basic needs;
  - ii. Address the development issues faced by their children;
  - iii. Facilitate their integration into society; and
- b. To develop programmes to enhance the capacity of the community to undertake the three objectives mentioned above.

The ComCare Fund started with an initial capital of \$250 million from the government. Since then, the government has made periodic top-ups to the Fund. The fund now stands at \$1.9 billion.

During Financial Year 2017, about \$131 million was disbursed under the various ComCare programmes. \$75 million was funded by the ComCare Fund’s interest income. The remainder was covered by the budget of the Ministry of Social and Family Development.



## OVERVIEW | COMCARE ASSISTANCE

### COMCARE SHORT-TO-MEDIUM TERM ASSISTANCE

- To develop and nurture responsible individuals and families
- To assist clients who are work-capable but need assistance while they seek employment
- To assist those who are temporarily unable to work to tide over difficult periods

### COMCARE LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE

- To help those who are permanently not able to work and with little or no family support

### COMCARE STUDENT CARE FEE ASSISTANCE

- To provide developmental support through student care fee assistance for children from low-income families

### COMCARE INTERIM ASSISTANCE

- To enable various community touch points (namely Social Service Offices (SSOs), Family Service Centres (FSCs), Grassroots Organisations and the Community Justice Centre) to provide quick financial assistance to families with urgent needs

### SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

- To help the community (grassroots leaders, social enterprises, community organisations) support the low-income and vulnerable in their midst



# COMCARE ASSISTANCE

# COMCARE ASSISTANCE

## COMCARE SHORT-TO-MEDIUM-TERM ASSISTANCE

ComCare Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance is targeted at low-income families and individuals, those who are temporarily unable to work (e.g. due to illness, caregiving responsibilities), jobseekers who require financial assistance, and those earning a low income and require financial support. Recipients may receive cash assistance for daily living expenses, rent assistance, utilities and service and conservancy charges assistance, medical assistance, and employment assistance. A Social Assistance Officer may work with the family and individuals to develop an action plan to improve their financial circumstances.

- **27,986 unique households** assisted with ComCare Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance in FY2017
- **64,191 unique individuals** assisted with ComCare Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance in FY2017
- **\$85.29 million** disbursed in FY2017

## COMCARE LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE

ComCare Long-Term Assistance is targeted at individuals who are unable to work due to old age, illness or disability, have limited or no means of income, and have little or no family support. Individuals receive cash assistance for their daily living expenses, Medifund assistance for medical bills, as well as additional assistance for other essential items. They may also be linked up with community-based agencies for other assistance or services, such as home help, befriending and placement in day centres, to support their living in the community.

- **4,409 unique households** assisted with ComCare Long-Term Assistance in FY2017
- **4,675 unique individuals** assisted with ComCare Long-Term Assistance in FY2017
- **\$23.52 million** disbursed in FY2017

## COMCARE ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)

### COMCARE STUDENT CARE FEE ASSISTANCE

ComCare Student Care Fee Assistance provides monthly fee assistance for children aged between 7 and 14 years from low-income families to attend student care centres (SCCs) while their parents are at work. This fee assistance is also available to special needs students attending Special SCCs.

- **8,413 unique households** assisted with ComCare Student Care Fee Assistance in FY2017
- **10,331 unique children** assisted with ComCare Student Care Fee Assistance in FY2017
- **\$20.45 million** disbursed in FY2017

### COMCARE INTERIM ASSISTANCE

ComCare Interim Assistance schemes are administered by SSOs and community partners to provide immediate financial assistance to individuals and families who require urgent and temporary financial relief. The community touch-points administering ComCare Interim Assistance are: the Citizens' Consultative Committees (Grassroots), the Family Service Centres, and the Community Justice Centre. The type and amount of assistance rendered depend on the needs and circumstances of each resident, and may be in the form of cash or supermarket vouchers.

#### Citizens' Consultative Committee ComCare Fund (CCF)

- **4,192 individuals** assisted with CCF in FY2017
- **\$1.34 million** disbursed in FY2017

#### Family Service Centre ComCare Fund (FCF)

- **1,405 individuals** assisted with FCF in FY2017
- **\$184,202** disbursed in FY2017

#### Community Justice Centre ComCare Fund (CJCCF)

- **61 individuals** assisted with CJCCF in FY2017
- **\$9,050** disbursed in FY2017

#### Interim Assistance Fund (IAF)

- **1,704 individuals** assisted with IAF in FY2017
- **\$61,414** disbursed in FY2017

In all, there were **7,090** unique individuals assisted through ComCare Interim Assistance schemes in FY2017 with a total disbursement of **\$1.59** million.



## **COMCARE ASSISTANCE** (CONTINUED)

### **SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY**

#### **COMCARE CALL**

ComCare Call is a toll-free service which persons in need can contact, so that they can be referred to appropriate social assistance. This helpline automatically redirects calls for financial assistance to the nearest Social Service Office (SSO) based on the postal code entered by the caller. This allows callers to get help closer to where they live or work. Alternatively, callers can choose to speak to customer service executives who are conversant in the four main languages as well as common Chinese dialects. In FY2017, ComCare Call attended to 44,361 calls.

#### **SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

MSF provides funding support for social enterprises through the Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise, *raiSE* Ltd. *raiSE* was set up in 2015 to develop the social enterprise sector in Singapore. As a sector developer, *raiSE* nurtures new enterprises by providing advisory services, programmes, training and resources to sustain their growth. Where possible, *raiSE* seeks to connect and share best practices with social enterprises and intermediary bodies. As a membership body, *raiSE* supports over 400 members through their social enterprise journeys, from set-up to growth and expansion. Ultimately, *raiSE* aims to build a vibrant eco-system of social enterprises with aspiring social entrepreneurs, supportive organisations and passionate individuals to contribute towards a more caring and inclusive society in Singapore.

## Concluding Remarks

Since the launch of ComCare in 2005, the schemes have been reviewed and enhanced regularly to ensure that those who face financial difficulties receive the help they need.

Recognising that vulnerable low-income individuals and families may have multi-faceted needs, we work closely with government agencies and community partners to strengthen social service delivery on the ground, and provide more holistic and coordinated assistance. Following the completion of the 24 Social Services Offices (SSOs) island-wide in 2015 to improve accessibility for ComCare applicants, we are stepping up efforts for coordination and information-sharing among government and community agencies, exploring more help services to be provided through the SSOs, and supporting community efforts towards better outcomes for low-income groups. These ongoing efforts will be progressively implemented over the coming years.

MSF would like to express our appreciation to our community partners, who play a key role in supporting low-income and vulnerable individuals and families in Singapore. They are critical to helping us fulfil our mission of nurturing resilient individuals, strong families and a caring society.





# COMCARE STATISTICS

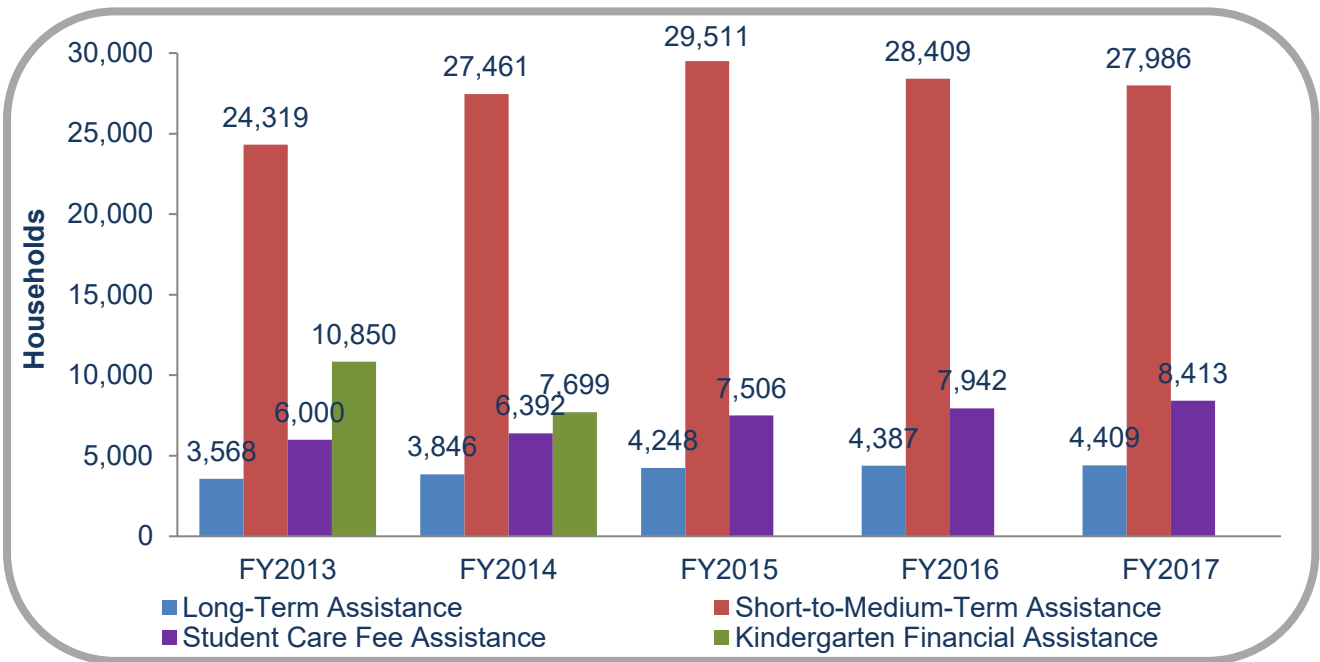
## COMCARE STATISTICS

In FY2017, the overall number of unique households assisted under ComCare remained fairly stable at about 39,300. There was a 5% decrease (83,353 to 79,470) in the overall number of unique individuals assisted, as compared to FY2016. The decrease was primarily due to a drop in the number of individuals receiving Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance and Interim Assistance.

The number of households and individuals receiving Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance decreased by 1% (28,409 to 27,986) and 3% respectively (65,910 to 64,191). The number of individuals receiving Interim Assistance registered a 27% decrease (9,778 to 7,090).

On the other hand, the number of households receiving Long-Term Assistance increased by 1% (4,387 to 4,409), as compared to FY2016. There was also a 6% increase in the number of households with children receiving Student Care Fee Assistance in FY2017 (7,942 to 8,413).

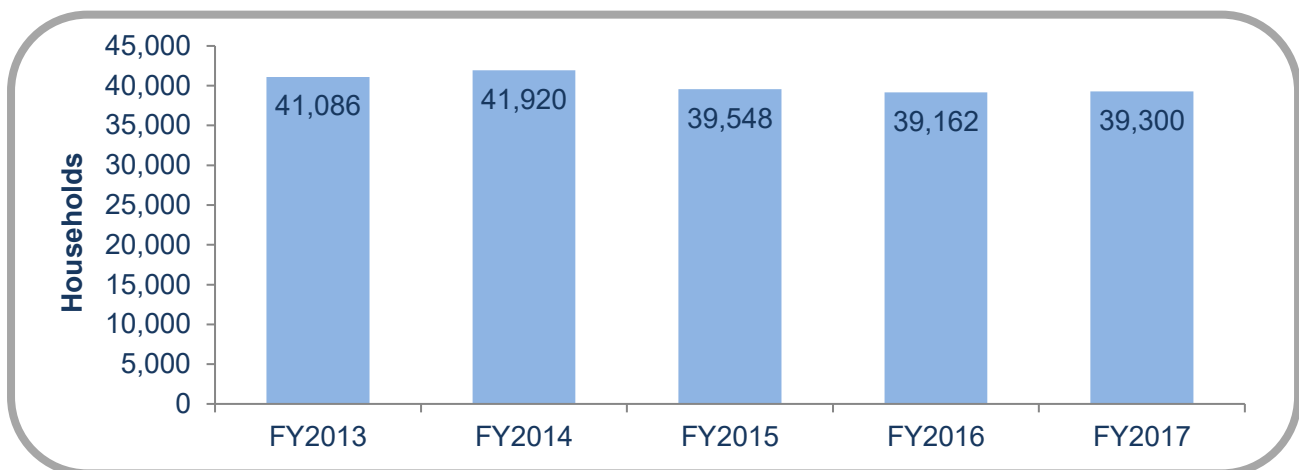
**Figure 1: Number of Unique Households Assisted, by ComCare Scheme**



**Note(s):**

1. The count of households was unique within the scheme and financial year. Each household was counted once under the respective scheme in each financial year. Hence, the same household might be included more than once within the same FY, if it received assistance from more than one scheme in that FY.
2. FY2015 to FY2017 data excluded Kindergarten Financial Assistance Scheme (KIFAS) households, as the scheme was transferred to the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) under the national kindergarten subsidy scheme with effect from 1 January 2015.

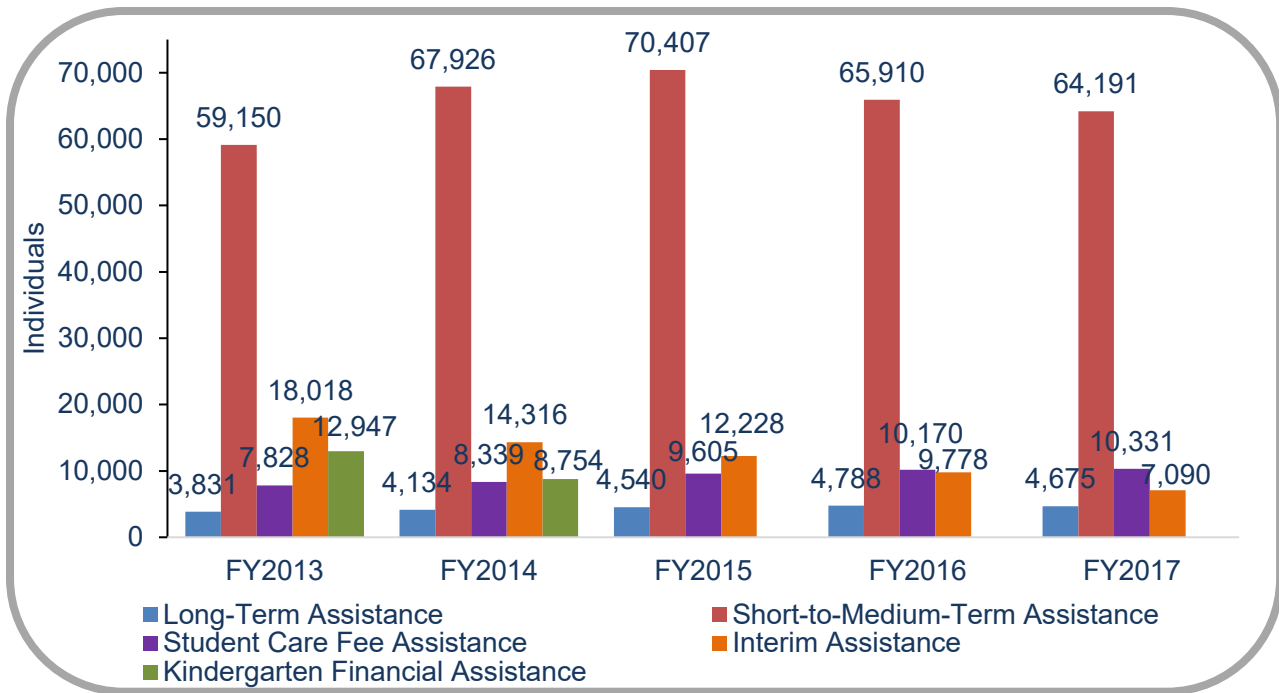
**Figure 2: Number of Unique Households Assisted Across ComCare Schemes**



**Note(s):**

1. ComCare schemes include the Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance, Long-Term Assistance, Kindergarten Financial Assistance and Student Care Fee Assistance. There is no household-level info for Interim Schemes as it is administered by different community partners to individuals requiring urgent and temporary financial relief.
2. The count of households was unique across the schemes and financial year. Each household was counted once regardless of scheme in each financial year.
3. FY2015 to FY2017 data excluded Kindergarten Financial Assistance Scheme (KIFAS) households, as the scheme was transferred to the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) under the national kindergarten subsidy scheme with effect from 1 January 2015.

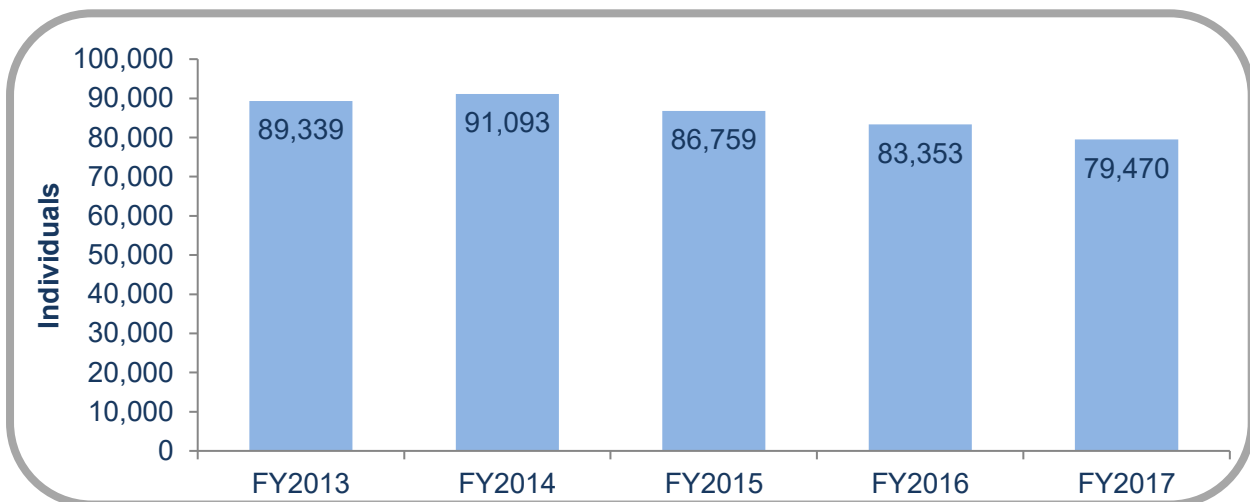
**Figure 3: Number of Unique Individuals Assisted, by ComCare Scheme**



**Note(s):**

1. The count of individuals was unique within the scheme and financial year. Each individual was counted once under the respective scheme in each financial year. Hence, the same individual might be included more than once within the same FY, if he/she received assistance from more than one scheme in that FY.
2. FY2015 to FY2017 data excluded Kindergarten Financial Assistance Scheme (KIFAS) households, as the scheme was transferred to the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) under the national kindergarten subsidy scheme with effect from 1 January 2015.

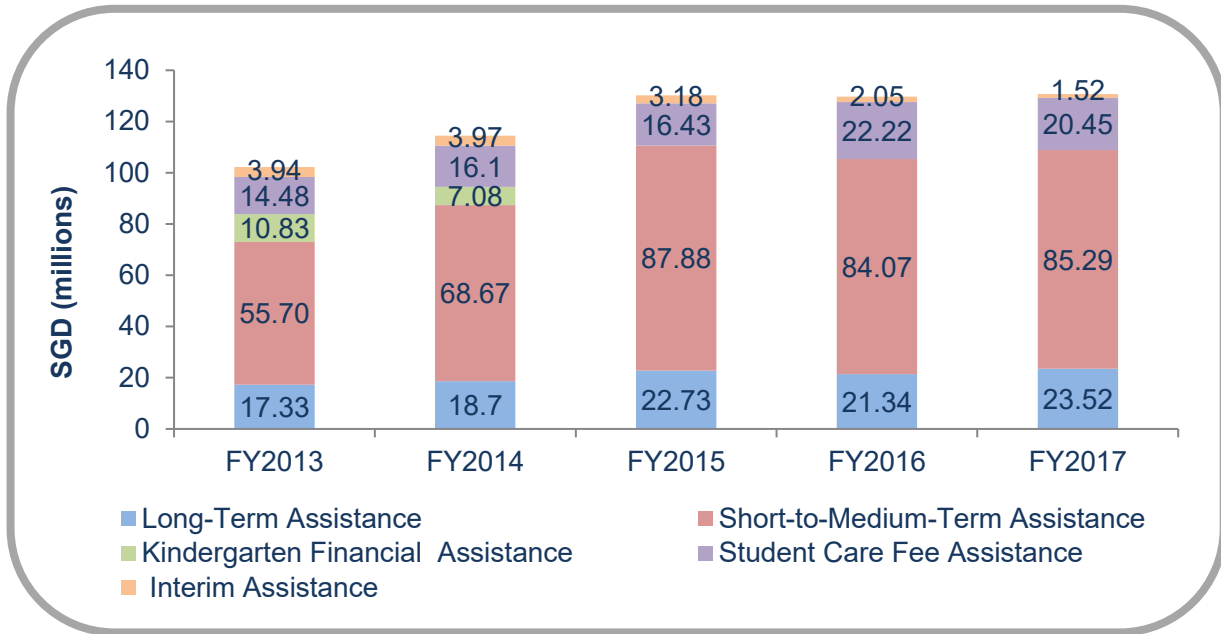
**Figure 4: Number of Unique Individuals Assisted Across ComCare Schemes**



**Note(s):**

1. ComCare schemes include the Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance, Long-Term Assistance, Kindergarten Financial Assistance, Student Care Fee Assistance and Interim Assistance Scheme.
2. The count of individuals was unique across the schemes and financial year. Each individual was counted once regardless of scheme in each financial year.
3. FY2015 to FY2017 data excluded Kindergarten Financial Assistance Scheme (KIFAS) households, as the scheme was transferred to the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) under the national kindergarten subsidy scheme with effect from 1 January 2015.

**Figure 5: Amount of ComCare Disbursement**



Note:

1. FY2015 to FY2017 figures exclude disbursement under KiFAS

# **COMMUNITY CARE ENDOWMENT FUND**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR  
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31  
MARCH 2018



## CONTENTS

## PAGE

Statement by Management	1
Independent Auditor's Report	2
Statement of Financial Position	5
Statement of Receipts and Expenditure	6
Notes to the Financial Statement	7



**Statement by Management**

We state that, in the opinion of the management, the accompanying financial statements together with notes thereto are drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Community Care Endowment Fund Act 2005 (the Act) so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Community Care Endowment Fund for the financial year ended 31 March 2018.

The Management,



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**Chew Hock Yong**  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Social and Family Development



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**Kong Kum Peck**  
Director – Comcare and Social Support Division  
Ministry of Social and Family Development

Singapore, 17 MAY 2018



**Philip Liew & Co**  
劉金水會計公司



accredited  
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organisation

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT** **Ministry of Social and Family Development**

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### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of **Community Care Endowment Fund** (the Fund), which comprise the statement of financial position as at **31 March 2018**, and the statement of receipts and expenditure for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Community Care Endowment Fund Act (the Act) and Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore (FRSs) so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund as at **31 March 2018** and of the receipts and expenditure of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing (SSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Other Information**

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Management's Statement set out on page 1.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**Ministry of Social and Family Development**

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**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the provisions of the Act and FRSs, and for devising and maintaining a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide a reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorised use or disposition; and transactions are properly authorised and that they are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of true and fair financial statements and to maintain accountability of assets.

The Community Care Endowment Fund's policy is to prepare the financial statements on the cash receipts and disbursements basis. On this basis, revenue is recognised when received rather than earned and expenses are recognised when paid rather than when incurred.

The management's responsibilities include overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**Ministry of Social and Family Development**

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We communicate with the management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

In our opinion:

- a) the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Community Care Endowment Fund have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act; and
- b) the receipts, expenditure and investment of monies and the acquisition and disposal of assets by the Community Care Endowment Fund have been in accordance with the provisions of the Act.



**PHILIP LIEW & CO**  
**PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Singapore,

**17 MAY 2018**

Ministry of Social and Family Development  
 Community Care Endowment Fund  
 Statement of Financial Position  
 As at 31 March 2018

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2018</u> S\$	<u>2017</u> S\$
Accumulated surplus	4	<u>1,925,315,358</u>	<u>1,723,949,856</u>
<b>Total surplus</b>		<b><u>1,925,315,358</u></b>	<b><u>1,723,949,856</u></b>
 <i>Represented by:</i>			
Balance held by Accountant-General	5	<u>1,925,315,358</u>	<u>1,723,949,856</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b><u>1,925,315,358</u></b>	<b><u>1,723,949,856</u></b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Ministry of Social and Family Development  
Community Care Endowment Fund  
Statement of Receipts and Expenditure  
For the financial year ended 31 March 2018

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
		S\$	S\$
<b>Receipts</b>			
Capital Contribution from the Government		200,000,000	-
Donation		1,250	720
Income from investments		<u>76,300,460</u>	<u>68,518,131</u>
		276,301,710	68,518,851
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Grants disbursed	3	(74,932,708)	(57,515,528)
Audit fees		<u>(3,500)</u>	<u>(7,000)</u>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<u>201,365,502</u>	<u>10,996,593</u>
Accumulated surplus brought forward		<u>1,723,949,856</u>	<u>1,712,953,263</u>
Accumulated surplus carried forward	4	<u>1,925,315,358</u>	<u>1,723,949,856</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Ministry of Social and Family Development  
Community Care Endowment Fund  
Notes to the financial statements  
For the financial year ended 31 March 2018**

These notes form an integral part of and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements.

**1. General**

The Community Care Endowment Fund (the "Fund") is established in the Republic of Singapore. The address of the Ministry of Social and Family Development's (the "Ministry") principal place of activity is 512 Thomson Road MSF Building, Singapore 298136.

The Fund is set up by the Singapore Government (Government) under the Community Care Endowment Fund Act 2005 (Act) for the purpose of:

- (a) providing assistance to citizens and permanent residents of Singapore and their family members living in Singapore who are in financial or other difficulties to enable them to:
  - (i) attain sufficient income to meet their basic needs;
  - (ii) address the development issues faced by their children;
  - (iii) facilitate their integration into society; and
- (b) developing programmes to enhance the capacity of the community to undertake the foregoing objects set out in (a) (i), (ii) and (iii).

The Fund came into operation on 24 October 2005. Details of the fund are as follows:

	<b>Capital Contribution</b>	<b>Transfer from Community Assistance Fund</b>
	<b>S\$</b>	<b>S\$</b>
24 October 2005	250,000,000	-
February 2006	-	246,641,688
25 July 2006	100,000,000	-
25 April 2008	200,000,000	-
31 May 2011	500,000,000	-
19 April 2012	200,000,000	-
24 April 2013	200,000,000	-
28 April 2017	200,000,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,650,000,000</b>	<b>246,641,688</b>

The Government may make further payments of capital money into the Fund from time to time.

Only income earned from the Fund will be used.

The fund is deemed to be a Government Fund for the purposes of any written law in Singapore.

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies**

**Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements are expressed in Singapore Dollars.

In line with the Government's policy, the cash basis of accounting is adopted. On this basis, receipts are recognised when received rather than earned and expenses are recognised when paid rather than incurred.



Ministry of Social and Family Development  
Community Care Endowment Fund  
Notes to the financial statements  
For the financial year ended 31 March 2018

3. Grants disbursed

During the financial year, the Fund made disbursements to the beneficiaries for the following programmes:

	2018	2017
	S\$	S\$
Student Care Fee Assistance Scheme (SCFA)	1,969,037	6,225,735
Public Assistance Scheme (PAS)	6,387,662	44,487
Special Grant (SG)	86,800	3,100
Short-Medium Term Assistance (SMTA)	66,489,209	51,241,936
	<u>74,932,708</u>	<u>57,515,258</u>

4. Excess of receipts over expenditure

	Note	2018	2017
		S\$	S\$
Capital Contribution from the Government	(a)	1,650,000,000	1,450,000,000
Transfer from Community Assistance Fund	(b)	246,641,688	246,641,688
Net income from investments	(c)	28,652,878	27,288,626
Donations		20,792	19,542
		<u>1,925,315,358</u>	<u>1,723,949,856</u>

(a) The capital contribution from the Government relates to capital money paid into the Fund by the Government. Under Section 5 (4) of the Act, this amount shall not be used for any purpose other than for investment.

(b) The transfer from Community Assistance Fund relates to the balance of the monies injected in February 2006 as capital money to the Fund upon termination of the Community Assistance Fund. Under Section 5 (4) of the Act, this amount shall not be used for any purposes other than for investment.

(c) This relates to investment income earned on the Fund balance. The net investment income is arrived at after deducting grants made and other expenses as approved under the Act.

	Note	2018	2017
		S\$	S\$
Net income from investments		28,652,878	27,288,626
Past reserves protected	(d)	<u>(16,213,092)</u>	<u>(16,213,092)</u>
Net income from investments available for expenditure	(e)	<u>12,439,786</u>	<u>11,075,534</u>

**4. Excess of receipts over expenditure (continued)**

- (d) The balance shown relates to reserves which are protected as a result of Government requirements.

Investment income earned from the Fund previously will be protected when there is a change-over in government. This would ensure that the present government would spend only what it has earned in its term of office.

- (e) The income from investments available for distribution represents investment income earned on the fund balance. The net income from investments is arrived at after deducting expenditure including:

- grants given to individuals or families through organisations;
- grants given to organisations to carry out programmes consistent with the objects of the Fund;
- such other purposes consistent with the objects of the Fund; and
- all expenses incurred in connection with the administration of the Fund as approved under the Act.

**5. Funds with Accountant-General**

This represents funds held by the Accountant-General on behalf of the Fund.

The Fund is allocated an investment income at the rate of 4.00% (FY16: 4.00%) per annum. The endowment interest rate has remained the same for FY18.

**6. Authorisation of financial statements**

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Ministry of Social and Family Development on the date of Statement by Management.



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512 Thomson Road, Singapore 298136

<http://www.MSF.gov.sg/Comcare>