

# Community Care Endowment Fund

Annual Report for Financial Year 2018





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### **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 2018, about \$127 million was disbursed under the various ComCare programmes. \$77 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 workcapable but need assistance while they seek employment
- To assist those who are temporarily unable to work to tide over difficult periods



### 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

### **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.

- **27,122 unique households** assisted with ComCare Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance in FY2018
- **61,447 unique individuals** assisted with ComCare Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance in FY2018
- \$83.12 million disbursed in FY2018



### 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.

- 4,261 unique households assisted with ComCare Long-Term Assistance in FY2018
- **4,495 unique individuals** assisted with ComCare Long-Term Assistance in FY2018
- \$22.92 million disbursed in FY2018

### **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.

- **7,349 unique households** assisted with ComCare Student Care Fee Assistance in FY2018
- 9,071 unique children assisted with ComCare Student Care Fee Assistance in FY2018
- \$18.87 million disbursed in FY2018

### **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)
  - o 3,361 individuals assisted with CCF in FY2018
  - o \$1.41 million disbursed in FY2018
- Family Service Centre ComCare Fund (FCF)
  - o **1,995 individuals** assisted with FCF in FY2018
  - o **\$252,361** disbursed in FY2018
- Interim Assistance Fund (IAF)
  - o 1.546 individuals assisted with IAF in FY2018
  - \$60,321 disbursed in FY2018
- Community Justice Centre ComCare Fund (CJCCF)
  - 52 individuals assisted with CJCCF in FY2018
  - \$7,250 disbursed in FY2018

In all, there were **6,656** unique individuals assisted through ComCare Interim Assistance schemes in FY2018 with a total disbursement of **\$1.73** million.

### **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 FY2018, ComCare Call attended to 39,835 calls.



### **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, MSF has been working closely with government agencies and community partners to strengthen social service delivery on the ground, and provide more Comprehensive, Convenient and Coordinated support.

This year, we announced the Community Link (ComLink) initiative, which will offer proactive case support and coordination to families with children living in rental housing. Families can conveniently access social services and community programmes at or near their homes, customised to their needs. Through this, we seek to support these families towards long-term stability. We are starting with four sites at Jalan Kukoh, Marsiling, Kembangan-Chai Chee, and Boon Lay.

We have also been working with our partners to integrate service delivery and strengthen last-mile support. For example, we have worked out information-and data-sharing arrangements across agencies to reduce the administrative load on clients who require assistance from different agencies. Clients can also access a range of services at the SSOs, which saves them additional trips to other agencies. By end-2019, all 24 SSOs will offer access to financial, employment and housing services, either through physical co-location of services or video-conferencing.

Providing more integrated support for the low-income and vulnerable goes beyond systems, technology and data-sharing. The community continues to play a crucial role in helping those in need. MSF would like to express our appreciation to our community partners for co-leading efforts to support low-income and vulnerable individuals and families in Singapore. There is more we can do together. We welcome all partners to join us to build and strengthen SG Cares Community Networks in every town, and fulfil our mission of nurturing resilient individuals, strong families and a caring society.

### **COMCARE STATISTICS**

In FY2018, the overall number of unique households assisted under ComCare remained fairly stable at about 37,436. There was a 5.4% decrease (79,470 to 75,206) in the overall number of unique individuals assisted, as compared to FY2017. The decrease occurred across all ComCare assistance schemes.

The number of households and individuals receiving Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance decreased by 3.1% (27,986 to 27,122) and 4.3% respectively (64,191 to 61,447). The number of households receiving Long-Term Assistance decreased by 3.4% (4,409 to 4,261), as compared to FY2017. There was also a 12.6% decrease in the number of households with children receiving Student Care Fee Assistance in FY2018 (8,413 to 7,349). The number of individuals receiving Interim Assistance registered a 6.1% decrease (7,090 to 6,656).

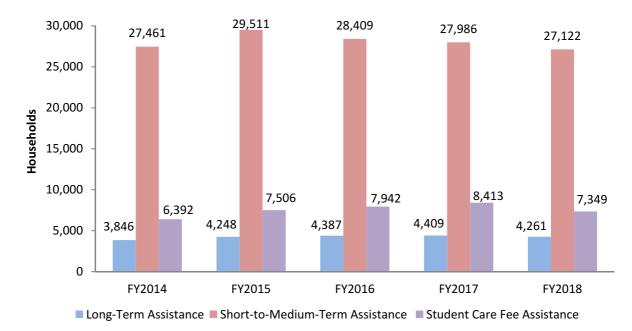


Figure 1: Number of Unique Households Assisted, by ComCare Scheme

#### Notes:

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.

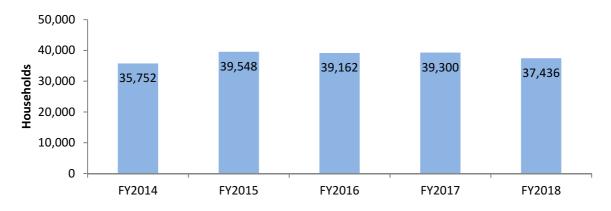


Figure 2: Number of Unique Households Assisted Across ComCare Schemes

### Notes:

- ComCare schemes include the Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance, Long-Term Assistance and Student Care
  Fee Assistance. There is no household-level info for Interim Schemes as the schemes are 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.

70,407 67,926 70,000 65,910 64,191 61,447 60,000 50,000 40,000 30,000 20,000 14,316 12,228 10,170 10,331 9.071 8,339 9,605 9,778 10,000 **7**,090 4,495 4,788 6,656 4,134 4.675 4,540 0 FY2014 FY2015 FY2016 FY2017 FY2018 ■ Long-Term Assistance ■ Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance ■ Student Care Fee Assistance Interim Assistance

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

#### Notes:

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.

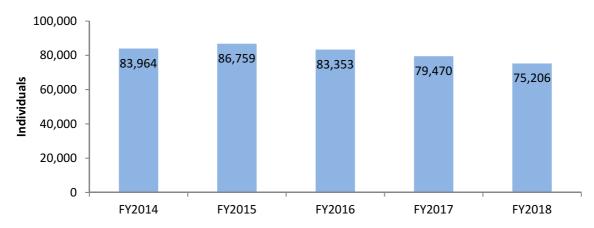
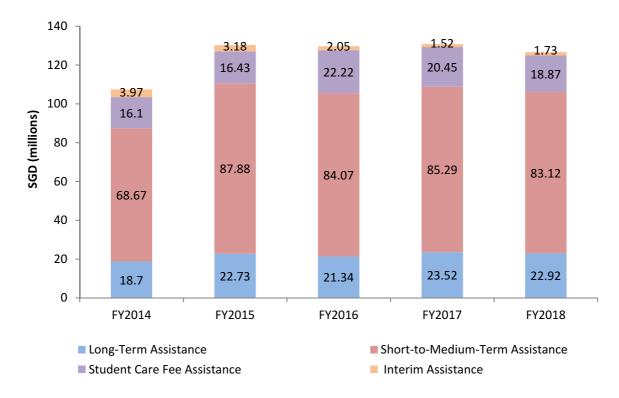


Figure 4: Number of Unique Individuals Assisted Across ComCare Schemes

### Notes:

- ComCare schemes include the Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance, Long-Term 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.





### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY CARE ENDOWMENT FUND

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

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In our opinion,

- a) the accompanying financial statements of the Community Care Endowment Fund (the "Fund") are drawn up so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the state of affairs of the Fund as at 31 March 2019 and the results for the financial year then ended in accordance with the provisions of the Community Care Endowment Fund Act;
- b) proper accounting and other records have been kept, including records of all assets of the Fund, in accordance with the provisions of the Act; and
- c) the receipts, expenditure, investment of moneys and the acquisition and disposal of assets by the Fund during the financial year have been in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

**Chew Hock Yong Permanent Secretary** 

Ministry of Social and Family Development

Kong Kum Peck

Director -

Comcare and Social Support Division Ministry of Social and Family Development

Singapore, 17 MAY 2019

13A MacKenzie Road Singapore 228676

Tel: (65) 6227 4180 konglim@klp.com.sg www.klp.com.sg



### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

### Report on 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 2019 ("FY 2018"), and the statement of receipts and expenditure for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

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 Cash Basis of Accounting so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the state of affairs of the Fund as at 31 March 2019 and 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 ACRA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Other matter

The financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 31 March 2018 were audited by another firm of auditors who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on 17 May 2018.

### Other information

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

Responsibilities of Management's for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Cash Basis of Accounting, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Fund is constituted based on the Act and is administered by Ministry of Social and Family Development. In preparing the financial statements, the management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to wind up the Fund or for the Fund to cease operations.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.





13A MacKenzie Road Singapore 228676 Tel: (65) 6227 4180 konglim@klp.com.sg

www.klp.com.sg



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019 (CONTINUED)

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.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- 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.

We communicate with those charged with governance 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.





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konglim@klp.com.sg www.klp.com.sg



### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019 (CONTINUED)

### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Opinion

In our opinion:

- a) the financial statements show fairly the financial transactions and the state of affairs of the Fund:
- b) proper accounting and other records have been kept, including records of all assets of the Fund; and
- the receipts, expenditure, investment of moneys and the acquisition and disposal of assets on account of the Fund during the financial year were in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with SSAs. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Compliance Audit section of our report. We are independent of the Board in accordance with the 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 on management's compliance.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Management is responsible for ensuring that the receipts, expenditure, investment of moneys and the acquisition and disposal of assets, are in accordance with the provisions of the Act. This responsibility includes implementing accounting and internal controls as management determines are necessary to enable compliance with the requirements.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Compliance Audit

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's compliance based on our audit of the financial statements. We planned and performed the compliance audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the receipts, expenditure, investment of moneys and the acquisition and disposal of assets, are in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Our compliance audit includes obtaining an understanding of the internal control relevant to the receipts, expenditure, investment of moneys and the acquisition and disposal of assets; and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from non-compliance, if any, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control. Because of the inherent limitations in any internal control system, non-compliances may nevertheless occur and not be detected.

KONG, LIM & PARTNERS LLP

Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants

Singapore, 17 MAY 2019





### Ministry of Social and Family Development Community Care Endowment Fund Statement of Financial Position As at 31 March 2019

	Note	2018 S\$	2017 S\$
Accumulated surplus Total surplus	3	1,925,324,947 1,925,324,947	1,925,315,358 1,925,315,358
Represented by:			
Balance held by Accountant-General Total assets	4	1,925,324,947 1,925,324,947	1,925,315,358 1,925,315,358

	Note	2018	2017
		S\$	S\$
Receipts			
Capital Contribution from the Government		-	200,000,000
Donation		760	1,250
Income from investments		77,012,614	76,300,460
		77,013,374	276,301,710
Expenditure Grants disbursed Audit fees	5	(77,000,485) (3,300) (77,003,785)	(74,932,708) (3,500) (74,936,208)
		(17,1000,100)	
Surplus for the year		9,589	201,365,502
Accumulated surplus brought forward		1,925,315,358	1,723,949,856
Accumulated surplus carried forward	3	1,925,324,947	1,925,315,358

These notes form an integral part 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:

	Capital Contribution S\$	Transfer from Community Assistance Fund S\$
24 October 2005	250,000,000	-
February 2006	-	246,641,688
25 July 2006	100,000,000	<b>↔</b>
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	_
Total	1,650,000,000	246,641,688

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.

### 3. Excess of receipts over expenditure

	_Note_	2019 S\$	2018 S\$
Capital Contribution from the Government Transfer from Community Assistance Fund Net income from investments Donations	(a) (b) (c)	1,650,000,000 246,641,688 28,661,707 21,552 1,925,324,947	1,650,000,000 246,641,688 28,652,878 20,792 1,925,315,358

- (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	2019 S\$	2018 S\$
Net income from investments Past reserves protected Net income from investments available	(d)	28,661,707 (16,213,092)	28,652,878 (16,213,092)
for expenditure	(e)	12,448,615	12,439,786

(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
  - 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.

### 4. 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% (FY17: 4.00%) per annum. The endowment interest rate for FY19 will be reduced to 3.50%.

### 5. Grants disbursed

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

	2019	2018
	S\$	S\$
Student Care Fee Assistance Scheme (SCFA)	1,887,150	1,969,037
Public Assistance Scheme (PAS)	9,413,947	6,387,662
Special Grant (SG)	75,930	86,800
Short-Medium Term Assistance (SMTA)	65,623,458	66,489,209
	77,000,485	74,932,708

### 6. Authorisation of financial statements for issue

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



MSF Building 512 Thomson Road, Singapore 298136

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