

MCYS 22-01A-01

3 February 2006

Prime Minister

### **Report on the Ageing Population, Five-Year Masterplan**

1. The Committee on Ageing Issues (CAI) was set up in December 2004 to prepare for an ageing society.
2. Significant progress has been made in the past five years, following the recommendations by the Report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on the Ageing Population in 1999, and the Eldercare Masterplan 2001-2005 by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports in 2001. The CAI builds on the work of previous committees on preparing for an ageing population. The CAI, together with various government agencies, has completed its work for the inaugural year. We are submitting our Report for your consideration.
3. The CAI recognises that the demographic transformation presents as many opportunities as there are challenges for Singapore. We need to change the erroneous view that an ageing society means increased dependency. We believe that Singapore will be able to harness the economic and social possibilities, and at the same time, be prepared to tackle the challenges arising from the ageing population. The CAI also affirms that the family must continue to be the first line of support for our seniors.
4. The Report takes a long term view and puts forth our vision of the ageing experience in 2030. However, we recognise that the next five years present a window of opportunity to put in place the recommendations before the baby boomers reach 65 years old in 2012. Being prepared will ensure

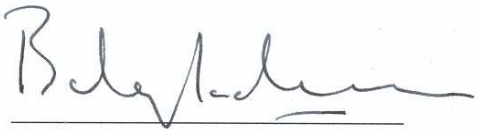
that Singaporeans, especially our seniors, will be ready to reap the benefits of this social transformation.

5. The recommendations of this Report are based on the following four thrusts.

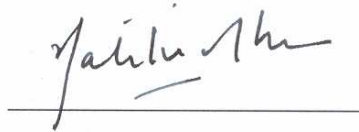
- a. *Housing for Seniors. Singapore will be an elder-friendly place, one that allows and encourages older persons to live as part of the family and community. There will be a comprehensive range of housing options to meet the needs of seniors, complemented by good support care services. Singapore should be the best home of all ages.*
- b. *Accessibility for Seniors. Singapore will be an inclusive elder-friendly place, one that allows older persons to integrate with the wider community and lead active lives. Starting from the home, flats and buildings will be elder-friendly. Coming out of their homes, the built environment and transport system will be barrier-free. They will afford seniors a safe and unhindered travel passage; via accessible lifts, walkways and transport pick-up points, complemented by a user-friendly transportation system to their destinations.*
- c. *Caring for Seniors. Older Singaporeans in need of care have access to a seamless continuum of healthcare and eldercare services addressing a diversity of needs, ensuring the dignity and quality of life of seniors are maintained. Healthcare and eldercare services in Singapore are efficient, cost-effective and easily accessible to seniors living in the community.*
- d. *Opportunities for Seniors. Older Singaporeans will lead healthy and active lifestyles. They will have fulfilling relationships within their families, across generations. They will also have many friends, and are involved in community groups and activities. Singaporeans, both young and old, will have positive attitudes towards ageing and seniors.*

6. In addition, the CAI notes that the issue of Employability of Seniors has been addressed in the Report by the Tripartite Committee on Employability of Older Workers.

7. We are grateful to the individuals and organisations who have contributed towards this Report. We believe the recommendations in the Report will help make Singapore a society for all ages, in which elderly Singaporeans would have a significant role to play.



**DR BALAJI SADASIVAN**  
**Co-Chairman**  
**Committee on Ageing Issues**



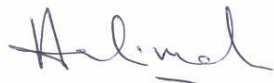
**DR MOHAMAD MALIKI OSMAN**  
**Co-Chairman**  
**Committee on Ageing Issues**



DR BALAJI SADASIVAN  
(CO-CHAIRMAN)



DR MOHAMAD MALIKI  
OSMAN  
(CO-CHAIRMAN)



MDM HALIMAH YACOB



DR WARREN LEE



MR CHARLES CHONG



ASSOC. PROF. CHIN TET  
YUNG



MRS OW FOONG PHENG



MR TAY KIM POH



MR LIM BOON WEE



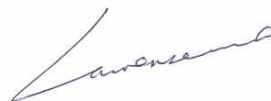
MR LAM PIN WOON



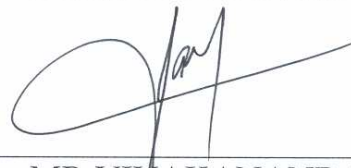
MR GERARD EE



DR MARY ANN TSAO



MR LAURENCE WEE



MR VIVAKANANDAN  
SINNIAH



---

MR LEE KIM SIANG



---

DR EE CHYE HUA



---

MR ONG AH HENG



---

MR ONG CHU POH



---

MRS HELEN KO




---

DR IVY NG



---

MR DAVID ANG



---

MS CHUA LEE HOONG



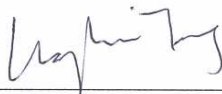
---

MR MOHD RAMAN DAUD



---

MR YEE KONG HWA



---

DR YAP MUI TENG