

## MEDIA RELEASE

**16 May 2026**

### **SUPPORTING CARERS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES: SOUTH WEST CDC INCREASES SUPPORT TO EASE CAREGIVING COSTS THROUGH THE SOUTH WEST CAREGIVER SUPPORT FUND**

*At NUHS Carers' Day 2026, carers' lived experiences took centre stage alongside the announcement of an enhanced South West Caregiver Support Fund and a new NUHS–IPS partnership, highlighting the growing need to better recognise and support carers in Singapore*

SINGAPORE — The importance of supporting carers through their care journeys was highlighted at the National University Health System (NUHS) Carers' Day 2026, as the South West Community Development Council (CDC) announced an increase in the South West Caregiver Support Fund from \$800 to \$1,000 to help eligible households defray care-related expenses from 16 May 2026.

The enhancement was announced by Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and Mayor of South West District, at the event, which was held at Ng Teng Fong General Hospital.

Amid growing caregiving demands as Singapore enters 'super-aged' status this year, the increased support aims to ensure that assistance keeps pace with evolving needs and rising costs faced by carers.

"Caregivers shoulder heavy responsibilities, including the growth of everyday expenses, while supporting their loved ones. We recognise their contributions and their need for greater support. In addition, the caregiver journey has grown longer as life spans have increased. To ease their load, we are raising the quantum of the South West Caregiver Support Fund, which will also help sustain their wellbeing," said Mayor Low.

She added, "Soon, in super-aged Singapore, every other person we know will be a caregiver in one way or another. We need to close ranks and support caregivers as a whole of society. The work and cooperation between the community, healthcare organisations and learning institutes like South West CDC, NUH and IPS aim to weave a responsive and tight-knit system of support to ensure caregivers receive the attention, resources and assistance they need on their caregiving journey."

The enhanced South West Caregiver Support Fund reflects South West CDC's continued commitment to strengthening community-based support for carers through partnerships with healthcare institutions and community organisations. This enhancement is part of the CDC's broader efforts to recognise carers' needs, raise awareness of available resources, and build a more coordinated ecosystem of support within the community.

## **Recognising the unseen work of caregiving**

NUHS Carers' Day 2026 brought together families, healthcare professionals and community partners to honour caregivers – parents, spouses and family members of NUHS patients – whose stories reflect the strength, resilience and compassion of Singapore's caregiving community.

Among them was Mr Alan Sng, 45, a private-hire driver who has been caring for several family members for more than 13 years. He looks after his wife, who lives with a mental health condition and hoarding behaviour, visits and supports his father, who has dementia and lives in a nursing home, and helps his elderly mother when she needs him.

At the same time, Mr Sng has been undergoing twice-weekly dialysis for nearly four years. His three daughters, aged 18, 19 and 20, help keep the household running, including cleaning the family's flat on weekends.

"Don't give up easily," said Mr Sng, when asked what he would tell other carers. "Sometimes things go up and down. Don't give up easily, because it's not an easy job, I know."

For Mr Sng, the enhanced fund comes as a welcome relief that would help ease some of the ongoing costs of caregiving.

"Support like this would help ease some of the financial pressure and give me more time to care of my wife and family," he said. "As someone undergoing regular dialysis while supporting my parents and children, even a bit of extra help can make a difference."

Another carer featured was Mdm Safina binte Taufik, 40, who has been the sole carer for her husband following a serious diabetic foot injury during the pandemic, which led to multiple surgeries and amputations.

With no nursing background, Mdm Safina learnt wound care by observing nurses during her husband's five-month hospital stay. Since then, she has managed his daily needs at home, including wound care, mobility support, dialysis-related routines and stoma care.

"Yes, I was tired, but there was no one looking after him," she said. "I had to be strong."

Their stories were presented through a photo-led exhibition and dialogue segment at the event, highlighting the emotional, physical and financial realities faced by carers in Singapore.

## **Translating caregiving experiences into policy insights**

A key highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between NUHS and the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), National University of Singapore (NUS).

Titled 'Caring for the Carers', the partnership formalises a long-term collaboration on caregiving and carer-related research and advocacy. It brings together NUHS' ground-

level insights from patients, carers, and care teams with IPS' policy research expertise to strengthen dialogue, thought leadership, and collaboration across stakeholders, contributing to a more holistic, whole-of-society response to the caregiving burden in society.

Through the collaboration, NUHS and IPS aim to deepen understanding of caregiving challenges in Singapore, translate lived experiences into policy-relevant insights, and support more evidence-informed discussions around caregiving support systems.

The MOU also signals NUHS' commitment to advancing carer advocacy towards research, policy dialogue, and longer-term system support.

"The NUHS–IPS partnership reflects our shared commitment to better understand the needs of carers and contribute insights that can help shape more effective and sustainable support. By bringing together ground-level from patients, carers, and care teams with policy research expertise, we can translate lived experiences into more actionable and evidence-informed approaches to support for carers. Supporting carers extends beyond the healthcare system, it is a broader social responsibility that requires closer coordination across healthcare, community and policy partners," said Ms Soh Lai Yee, Group Chief Patient Officer, NUHS.

Dr Justin Lee, Senior Research Fellow and Head, IPS Policy Lab, added: "Supporting carers holistically requires that we bring together the right insights, stakeholders and platforms for dialogue. Through this collaboration with NUHS, we hope to contribute to the caregiving landscape in Singapore by framing critical questions, leading landscape reviews and ensuring that ground-level insights are synthesised into knowledge that informs future programme design, research or policy recommendations relating to caregiving."

Through close partnerships with community organisations such as South West CDC, NUHS will also work to strengthen support for carers beyond the hospital setting.

Ms Soh said: "Healthcare does not end at our hospitals or clinics. It continues at home, in the community, and in the everyday lives of families who shoulder the responsibility of care.

"Carers are an essential part of the care continuum. By recognising their stories and working with partners across the community and policy space, we hope to strengthen the support around them in a more sustained and meaningful way."

## Chinese Glossary

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|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| National University Health System (NUHS) | 国立大学医学组织     |
| Ng Teng Fong General Hospital (NTFGH)    | 黄廷方综合医院      |
| NUHS Carers' Day                         | 国大医学组织看护者关怀日 |
| South West Community Development Council | 西南社区发展理事会    |
| South West Caregiver Support Fund        | 西南看护者援助基金    |
| Institute of Policy Studies              | 新加坡国立大学政策研究所 |
| Ms Low Yen Ling                          | 刘燕玲女士        |

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| Senior Minister of State<br>Ministry of Trade and Industry, and<br>Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth<br>Mayor of South West District | 文化、社区及青年部兼贸工部高级政务<br>部长<br>西南区市长     |
| Ms Soh Lai Yee<br>Group Chief Patient Officer, NUHS                                                                                         | 苏丽仪女士<br>国大医学组织集团首席病患护导官             |
| Dr Justin Lee<br>Senior Research Fellow<br>Head, IPS Policy Lab<br>Institute of Policy Studies, NUS                                         | 李兴业博士<br>高级研究员<br>政策研究室主管<br>国大政策研究所 |

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### About the National University Health System (NUHS)

The National University Health System (NUHS) aims to transform how illness is prevented and managed by discovering causes of disease, development of more effective treatments through collaborative multidisciplinary research and clinical trials, and creation of better technologies and care delivery systems in partnership with others who share the same values and vision.

Institutions in the NUHS Group include the National University Hospital, Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, Jurong Community Hospital, Alexandra Hospital and the upcoming Tengah General and Community Hospital; three National Specialty Centres – National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS), National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS) and National University Centre for Oral Health, Singapore (NUCOHS); the National University Polyclinics (NUP); Jurong Medical Centre; and three NUS health sciences schools–NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (including the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies), NUS Faculty of Dentistry and NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

With member institutions under a common governance structure, NUHS creates

synergies for the advancement of health by integrating patient care, health science education and biomedical research. As a Regional Health System, NUHS works closely with health and social care partners across Singapore to develop and implement programmes that contribute to a healthy and engaged population in the Western part of Singapore.

For more information, please visit [www.nuhs.edu.sg](http://www.nuhs.edu.sg).

### **About the South West Community Development Council**

The South West Community Development Council (CDC) was formed on 24 November 2001.

Through local help programmes, the South West CDC provides assistance to help the less fortunate in our community. The South West CDC also organises projects and programmes to promote community bonding and social cohesion. The South West CDC adopts the "Many Helping Hands" approach to encourage community ownership among residents, community partners and corporations to realise its vision of "Owning Your Community".

Ms Low Yen Ling was appointed the Mayor of South West District on 27 May 2014. Ms Low is also the Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) and Adviser to Bukit Gombak SMC.

For more information, please visit: [www.southwest.cdc.gov.sg](http://www.southwest.cdc.gov.sg)

### **About the Institute of Policy Studies**

The Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) was established in 1988 as an independent think tank to study and generate public policy ideas in Singapore. IPS joined the National University of Singapore in 2008 as an autonomous research centre of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, before transitioning to an autonomous research institute within the University in 2026. Today, IPS continues to analyse public policy, build bridges between thought leaders, and communicate its findings to a wide audience. The Institute examines issues of critical national interest across a variety of fields, and studies the attitudes and aspirations of Singaporeans through surveys of public perception. It adopts a multi-disciplinary approach in its analyses and takes the long-term view in its strategic deliberation and research. It also tests policy interventions through programme pilots and evaluations. For more information about IPS, visit [ips.nus.edu.sg](http://ips.nus.edu.sg).