

# A GREAT PLACE FOR FAMILIES

## Details of Key Initiatives to Support Singaporean Families

### HOUSING



Helping families own homes

#### More flats available sooner:

- 115,000 BTO flats launched from 2011-2015; another 18,000 to be launched in 2016
- Parenthood Provisional Housing Scheme for families awaiting completion of new flats. Benefitted 1,800 families; 270 babies born

#### Helping families to live closer together:

- Proximity Housing Grant has helped 2,000 families buy a resale flat closer to their parents/married child

#### Affordable home ownership:

- Over 80% of new flat buyers in non-mature estates do not pay cash for monthly instalments
- HDB income ceiling increased to \$12,000
- Special CPF Housing Grant helps lower and middle-income households own 1<sup>st</sup> flat
- **NEW** Fresh Start Housing Scheme to help second-timer families with children move from public rental to home ownership

### FAMILY-FRIENDLY CULTURE



Helping Dads and Mums to manage work and family

#### Parental Leave:

- 16 weeks maternity leave
- **NEW** 2<sup>nd</sup> week of paternity leave legislated, from 1 Jan 2017
- **NEW** 4 weeks shared parental leave (within 16 weeks maternity leave) up from 1 week, from 1 Jul 2017
- **NEW** Adoption leave increased to 12 weeks from 4 weeks, from 1 Jul 2017
- Childcare leave:

Parents with children under 7 years	6 days
Parents with children 7-12 years	2 days

#### Flexible Work Arrangements (FWA):

- Work-Life Grant provides up to \$160,000 for companies to implement and sustain FWAs
- Tripartite Committee (TriCom) on Work-Life Strategy: continued multi-pronged approach of raising awareness, building capabilities and developing an ecosystem to foster workplace cultures that support and sustain FWAs
- BCA's Accessibility Fund covers up to 40% of construction costs to upgrade private buildings with accessibility features, including nursing rooms

#### Family Bonding:

- Through ActiveSG's sports programmes
- Family-friendly arts and heritage activities at our national museums and attractions

### QUALITY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION



Providing conducive learning opportunities for our children

#### Expanding childcare capacity, especially in young estates:

- 30,000 childcare places added since 2013; 10,000 more places by 2017
- 15 MOE kindergartens in HDB heartlands

#### Making childcare/infant care more affordable:

- Basic subsidies for all Singaporean children enrolled in childcare/infant care
- With additional subsidies, median income families can receive total subsidies of up to \$400 a month for childcare and \$800 a month for infant care. Lower-income families can receive more help
- Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS): Fee assistance of up to 99% of the monthly kindergarten fees at Anchor Operators or MOE kindergartens, to help lower and middle income families

#### Quality early childhood education:

- **NEW** Early Childhood Development Centres Act in 2016 for higher and more consistent quality
- **NEW** Extension of FLAiR programme to more pre-school centres to help K2 children who have difficulties in learning English
- **NEW** KidSTART to give low income and vulnerable children early access to appropriate learning, developmental, and health support. About 1,000 children are expected to benefit.

#### Quality national education system:

- Significant education subsidies throughout national education system
- MOE Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) provides additional support for lower-income families
- Expansion of after-school care in all primary schools by 2020. With increased subsidies, lower-income families can receive total subsidies of up to \$285 a month; revised income criteria to benefit more families

## BETTER HEALTH



For all ages

### For newborns:

- \$4,000 Medisave Grant for Newborns
- MediShield Life coverage from birth
- Medisave Maternity Package - use Medisave to help pay for delivery and pre-delivery care:
  - **NEW** Up to \$900 for pre-delivery care, from \$450 previously
  - Between \$750 and \$2,150 for delivery medical expenses depending on type of procedure
  - \$450 for each day's stay in hospital

### MediShield Life:

- For every Singaporean, for life

### **NEW** The NurtureSG Taskforce:

- To enhance the health outcomes of our young and create a conducive environment to embrace healthy living, which will carry them through life

### Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS):

- About 1.4 million Singaporeans (including Pioneers and children) can receive subsidies for medical and dental care at participating GPs and dental clinics

### Pioneer Generation Package:

- \$9 billion Package to help 450,000 Pioneers with healthcare costs for life

### Action Plan for Successful Ageing:

- To help Singaporeans age well and confidently, in caring and enabling communities

## CARING FOR OUR CHILDREN



Supporting parents in child-raising

### Baby Bonus Cash Gift:

- \$8,000 per child for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> child, and \$10,000 per child for the 3<sup>rd</sup> child onwards

### Child Development Account (CDA)<sup>2</sup>:

- **NEW** CDA First Step of \$3,000 (Part of total Government contribution cap of up to \$6,000 per child for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> child, \$12,000 per child for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> child, and \$18,000 per child for the 5<sup>th</sup> child and beyond)
- Parents should WAIT until 1 Jul 2016 to start saving into the CDA to enjoy the CDA First Step



<sup>2</sup> CDA funds can be used for educational and healthcare expenses at approved institutions such as childcare centres, kindergartens and healthcare institutions.

(All information updated as at 13 Apr 2016)