

COMMUNITY SERVICES



22 COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) aims to build a cohesive and resilient society by fostering socially responsible individuals; inspired and committed youth, strong and stable families; a caring and active community; and a sporting people. MCYS envisages a caring nation that is close-knit and united, pulling together not only in good times but also in times of adversity.

The Ministry is responsible for developing public policies on social assistance, social services, youth, family, seniors, disability, community relations and engagement, management of problem gambling and sports issues. It has a developmental, regulatory and promotional role. It also provides direct services including protection and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents, registration of civil and Muslim marriages, regulation of charities, licensing of child care centres and public education on family matters. Using the Many Helping Hands approach, MCYS partners non-government organisations such as the Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) and National Sports Associations to address these social challenges.

People's Association

The People's Association (PA) is a statutory board set up on 1 July 1960 to promote racial harmony and social cohesion. PA also connects the people and the Government for consultation and feedback.

The PA achieves its mission through its network of about 1,800 Grassroots Organisations (GROs) and five Community Development Councils (CDCs). The grassroots network comprises the Citizens' Consultative Committees, Community Club Management Committees, Residents' Committees, Neighbourhood Committees, Malay Activity Executive Committees, Indian Activity Executive Committees, Senior Citizens' Executive Committees, Youth Executive Committees, Women's Executive

Committees, Civil Defence Executive Committees, Constituency Sports Clubs, Teens Network Clubs, Area Sub Committees and Community Club Building Fund Committees.

Community Development Councils

The CDCs, under the charge of PA, were set up in 1997. There are five CDCs, each headed by a Mayor. The CDCs promote community bonding, civic consciousness, active citizenry and self-reliance within the community. They do so through "ABC", namely: *Assisting the Needy* through job matching and social assistance schemes; *Bonding the People* by bringing them closer to one another through activities and programmes; and *Connecting the Community* by developing strategic partnerships with corporate and community agencies to better serve the residents.

Volunteers

"Volunteers", in the MCYS context, refer to individuals who are providing services in community and welfare programmes without receiving full market rates of remuneration or allowances.

Services for Senior Citizens

MCYS and MOH undertake the planning, development and regulation of eldercare services for senior citizens. Services which are primarily health-oriented in nature are under the purview of MOH, whilst services with social components such as day care centres come under MCYS. These services range from community-based services to residential care services. MCYS also works with the Council for Third Age (C3A), and various agencies to promote wellness and active ageing programmes so as to keep senior citizens physically and mentally active and socially engaged.

Child Care Centres

The MCYS regulates and licenses all child care centres in Singapore under the Child Care Centres Act (Cap 37A) and Child Care Centres Regulations.

The MCYS works with HDB to plan and develop child care centres in void decks, as well as encourage individuals, organisations and employers in the public and private sectors to set up child care facilities.

Child care centres provide regular full-day and half-day programmes to meet the child care needs of both working and non-working parents. Some centres offer flexible child care programmes to cater to the diverse work arrangements of parents who work part-time or flexible hours.

There are childcare centres that also provide care programmes for infants and toddlers (aged between 2 months and 18 months).

For parents who want an alternative child care option in the form of home-based care by caregivers, MCYS promotes and facilitates the implementation of the Family Day Care Service (FDCCS) at community level through selected child care centres. The FDCCS is a formalised version of the conventional nanny and baby-sitting services.

Student Care Centres

Student Care Centres (previously named as Before and After School Care Centres or BASC) provide care arrangements for children aged 7 to 14 years old outside school hours. There are currently over 320 Student Care Centres. These centres were initiated by the Inter-Ministry Committee (IMC) on Dysfunctional Families, Juvenile Delinquency and Drug Abuse in 1995. MCYS is working with MOE to set up more student care centres within primary school premises.

Youth

MCYS strives to create an environment in which youths have a say in national and community issues, plant a stake in society and receive support to realise their potential and pursue their dreams. In this way, MCYS hopes to achieve its vision of Youth who are Inspired and Committed.

Dialogues and forums such as the National Youth Forum give youths opportunities to speak their minds and act on national policies, especially those that impact young people. Initiatives such as Youth Expedition Project (YEP) provide youths with avenues to apply their energies and idealism to community improvement projects, thereby planting a stake in the community. To support young people to realise their full potential, MCYS partners VWOs in working with youths at risk through programmes such as STEP-UP and Youth Link.

MCYS also works closely with other parties, such as the Ministry of Education (MOE), the National Youth Council (NYC) and youth organisations to serve the youths in Singapore.

Public Assistance

The Public Assistance scheme is meant to assist Singapore citizens who, owing to old age, illness, disability or unfavourable family circumstances, are unable to work, have no means of subsistence and little or no family support. It is not intended as a form of unemployment, retirement or disability support. Under the scheme, each recipient receives a monthly allowance to meet their basic needs. They also receive free medical treatment and heavily subsidised rental housing. On top of this, PA recipients also receive extensive community support, such as befriending programmes, daily activities at senior activity centres, food rations, free meals, *hong baos* (red packets of cash gifts), and other support.

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Family Service Centres

Family Service Centres (FSCs) are key community-based social service providers for families in Singapore. These agencies are staffed with professional social workers, who provide professional intervention to strengthen family functioning and well-being.

As of 2008, there are 36 FSCs. The core services provided by FSCs are Information & Referral and Casework & Counselling. The FSCs may also offer programmes including developmental programmes and outreach programmes, or develop specialized services that serve specific client groups.

22.1 GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS

(End of Period)

	Number						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Community Development Councils ¹	9	5	5	5	5	5	5
Residents' Committees	490	536	544	545	549	551	551
Citizens' Consultative Committees (CCCs)-Main	83	84	84	84	84	84	84
CCC-Area Sub Committees	63	40	43	41	42	43	45
Community Centres/Club Management Committees	104	108	106	104	105	105	105
Women's Executive Committees	97	103	104	104	103	103	104
Neighbourhood Committees	14	88	97	102	105	106	109
Youth Executive Committees	93	89	92	94	96	98	98
Civil Defence Executive Committees	82	84	84	84	83	84	84
Senior Citizens' Executive Committees	252	378	370	361	347	336	329
T-Net Club Management Committees	13	8	8	8	8	8	8
Building Fund Committees	81	53	49	39	39	34	24
Malay Activity Executive Committees	74	95	95	97	97	98	98
Indian Activity Executive Committees	68	86	89	91	92	94	94
Constituency Sports Clubs	83	84	84	84	84	84	84

Source : People's Association

¹ Community Development Councils were formed in 1997. They were re-structured into 5 CDCs on 24 November 2001.

22.2 VOLUNTEERS AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS

(End of Period)

							Number
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Community Service							
Total (Volunteers)	30,310	34,623	35,273	35,948	36,717	38,038	39,746
Community Development Councils ¹	227	254	291	309	298	298	294
RC/Block Representatives	11,202	11,343	11,453	11,643	11,709	11,951	12,585
CCC-Main/CCC-Area Sub Committees	3,586	3,595	3,743	3,774	3,892	4,135	4,415
Community Centre/Club Management Committees	2,742	2,879	2,861	2,964	3,092	3,198	3,389
Women's Executive Committees	1,502	1,594	1,668	1,738	1,778	1,903	2,091
Neighbourhood Committees	227	1,277	1,404	1,490	1,554	1,624	1,745
Civil Defence Executive Committees	1,357	1,593	1,646	1,734	1,820	1,902	1,951
Senior Citizens' Executive Committees	3,792	5,604	5,510	5,423	5,394	5,504	5,595
T-Net Club Management Committees	191	104	98	99	103	103	103
Building Fund Committees	1,473	1,075	974	722	673	630	452
Malay Activity Executive Committees	507	1,223	1,323	1,431	1,564	1,602	1,703
Indian Activity Executive Committees	715	1,078	1,169	1,242	1,389	1,448	1,556
Youth Executive Committees	1,516	1,461	1,517	1,666	1,723	1,872	1,934
Constituency Sports Clubs	1,273	1,543	1,616	1,713	1,728	1,868	1,933
Welfare Service							
Total (Volunteers)	509	661	678	616	533	537	516
Welfare Service Boards/Committees	31	11	10	11	11	10	10
Befrienders for the Aged Destitutes ²	127	-	-	-	-	-	-
Volunteer Probation Officers	316	393	414	450	355	350	335
Volunteers in Children Homes/Hostels	136	190	199	103	116	119	102
Enable-A-Family (EAF) Volunteer Scheme ³	-	67	55	52	51	58	69
Total (Groups) ⁴	40	20	15	14	15	14	15
Groups of Befrienders for the Aged Scheme ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Groups of Volunteers in Children Homes/Hostels	11	20	15	14	15	14	15

Source : Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports
People's Association

Note : RC = Residents' Committees CCC = Citizens' Consultative Committees

1 Community Development Councils were formed in 1997. They were restructured into 5 CDCs on 24 November 2001.

2 The two homes which contributed to the number of volunteers were closed in 2002.

3 Enable-A-Family (EAF) Volunteer Scheme was launched in 2002.

4 "Groups" refers to volunteering services provided on a group basis.

22.3 ENROLMENT IN CHILD CARE CENTRES BY TYPE OF PROGRAMME AND ORGANISATION

(End of Period)

	Number						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	33,001	41,094	44,315	44,224	45,409	50,290	52,945
Full-Day Programme	29,804	33,287	35,123	34,653	34,987	38,311	41,502
People's Association ¹	1,322	81	-	-	-	-	-
NTUC	2,472	3,300	3,380	3,008	3,010	3,487	3,682
Voluntary	9,082	9,880	10,283	9,794	9,628	10,146	10,752
Workplace	2,373	2,695	2,743	2,501	2,546	2,906	3,035
Private	14,555	17,331	18,717	19,350	19,803	21,772	24,033
Half-Day Programme	3,197	6,972	7,556	7,551	8,521	9,552	9,115
Flexicare Programme ²	-	835	1,636	2,020	1,901	2,427	2,328

Source : Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports

NTUC refers to National Trades Union Congress.

1 People's Association has stopped providing child care facilities with effect from 31 Dec 2003.

2 Flexicare Programme was implemented in Jan 2003.

22.4 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS BY CATEGORY

(End of Period)

	Number						
	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	2,070	2,551	2,714	2,772	2,772	2,754	2,714
Aged Destitutes	1,687	2,191	2,331	2,369	2,390	2,346	2,281
Medically Unfit for Work	150	169	192	202	185	188	160
Abandoned/Distressed Wives & Orphans	63	31	35	33	25	23	20
Disabled Persons Under 60 years	147	152	146	161	165	190	250
Widows with Children under 12 years	23	8	10	7	7	7	3

Source : Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports
People's Association

22.5 RESIDENTS IN OLD FOLKS' HOMES BY TYPE OF ORGANISATION AND SEX

(End of Period)

	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Number 2008
Total	5,393	7,552	7,924	8,329	8,600	9,031	9,278
Males	2,297	3,390	3,543	3,754	3,898	4,071	4,218
Females	3,096	4,162	4,381	4,575	4,702	4,960	5,060
Government Welfare Homes ¹	805	982	955	956	976	1,006	1,065
Males	672	771	746	749	755	774	830
Females	133	211	209	207	221	232	235
Sheltered Housing / Community Homes	510	615	635	628	640	673	695
Males	191	271	271	275	279	298	315
Females	319	344	364	353	361	375	380
Voluntary Nursing Homes	2,688	4,367	4,533	4,727	4,746	4,869	4,829
Males	952	1,751	1,845	1,951	1,962	2,029	2,009
Females	1,736	2,616	2,688	2,776	2,784	2,840	2,820
Commercial Nursing Homes	1,390	1,588	1,801	2,018	2,238	2,483	2,689
Males	482	597	681	779	902	970	1,064
Females	908	991	1,120	1,239	1,336	1,513	1,625

Source : Government Welfare Homes and Sheltered Housing/Community Homes - Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sport
Voluntary Nursing Homes and Commercial Nursing Homes - Ministry of Health

¹ Includes only those aged 60 years and above.

22.6 FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES

	Unit	2007	2008
Casework and Counselling	Cases	18,303	20,934
Information and Referral	Number	40,000	39,545

Source : Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports

Note : Data refer to the financial year which begins in April of the current year and ends in March of the following year.