

MEDIA RELEASE

NCSS Convenes Inaugural Social Service Summit with Leaders To Enable Dignified Lives for the Vulnerable

- *Close to 600 leaders and partners from the Community, Corporate and Public sectors gather to develop strategic thrusts for the next five years and beyond*
- *Need to develop an innovative culture is among key findings from an NCSS sectoral survey that will help to shape the discussions at the Summit*

SINGAPORE 19 July 2016 – The **National Council of Social Service (NCSS)** will convene the inaugural **Social Service Summit** this morning with close to 600 leaders and partners from the community, corporate and public sectors. Led by a high level **Steering Committee** through an inclusive and collaborative approach, the goal is to chart strategic thrusts to achieve a more impactful sector that will enable dignified lives for the vulnerable in the next five years and beyond.

Refer to Appendix for list of Steering Committee members, Moderators and Panellists at the Summit.

Minister for Social and Family Development, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin will reiterate this key objective in his opening address at the Summit : “Indeed, all of us can play a part in enabling every individual to lead a dignified life and realise their potential and it is something that we should strive to do at every stage of our lives.

“All of us wear multiple hats in our personal and professional lives. These roles present us with the opportunity of growing, nurturing and rooting the values of caring and compassion in our family, and to shape the beliefs, values and actions of those we interact with.”

NCSS President Mr Hsieh Fu Hua will elaborate that current efforts within the social service sector have been driven in a ground up manner by individual partners. To take the sector forward, it needs a common vision among partners and agreement on key priorities so as to build a more robust and sustainable eco-system.

For deeper insights into some of the priority areas that need to be addressed, and to spur Summit partners to co-create ideas and solutions to build a more impactful sector, key findings from a recent NCSS sectoral survey of close to 350 stakeholders will be shared. These include a need for growing an innovative culture; better planning for leadership capabilities; and building organisational capability in the area of attracting donors and distinguishing its brand.

On innovation for example – 7 in 10 respondents feel innovation is central to the success of social service organisations, and agree that innovative ways to meet clients’ needs will make an impactful sector, however, 8 in 10 responded more needs to be done to grow an innovative culture in their organisations. Findings from this sectoral survey will help to guide the discussions and build greater consensus.

Three topics emerged consistently from these insights, together with observations during **key informant interviews** with sector leaders. These themes - **Community Engagement, Capacity Building** and **Innovation** will guide panel discussions during the Summit.

Summit discussions will be among panellists and partners from the community, corporate and public sectors. Points drawn from these discussions will then be further drilled down at breakout table discussions. NCSS anticipates that a significant number of ideas and solutions will be generated from these conversations, which will then form the basis for focus group discussions to be conducted after the Summit. The findings will contribute towards a **Sector Strategic Thrusts Report** to be drawn up in 2017, to guide the sector for the next five years and beyond.

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About National Council of Social Service (NCSS)

NCSS is the umbrella body for over 450 member social service organisations in Singapore. Its mission is to provide leadership and direction in enhancing the capabilities and capacity of our members, advocating for social service needs and strengthening strategic partnerships, for an effective social service ecosystem. Community Chest is the fundraising and engagement arm of NCSS and Social Service Institute (SSI) is the human capital development arm of NCSS. For more information, please visit: www.ncss.gov.sg

APPENDIX

SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR STRATEGIC THRUSTS STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr Hsieh Fu Hua	President, NCSS & Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Ms Anita Fam	Board Member, NCSS & Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Ms Agnes Chia	President, Singapore Association of Social Workers
Mr Cyril Chua	Chairman, AMKFSC Community Services
Mr Nicholas Lee	Chief Executive Officer, Trybe
Mr Lee Poh Wah	Chief Executive Officer, Lien Foundation
Ms Tuminah Sapawi	Chief Executive Officer, Yayasan Mendaki
Mr Eugene Seow	Board Director & Special Adviser to Leadership Team, Touch Community Services & Vice Chairman, National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre
Mr Peter Tan	Chief Psychologist, Community Psychology Hub
Ms Chan Chia Lin	EXCO Member, NCSS
Mr Girija Pande	EXCO Member, NCSS
Mr Richard Sim	EXCO Member, NCSS
Ms Janet Ang	Vice President, IBM Asia-Pacific & Chairperson, Caritas Singapore
Mr Gautam Banerjee	Vice Chairman, Singapore Business Federation & Chairman, raiSE
Mr Willie Cheng	Chairman, Singapore Institute of Directors
Mr Fong Yong Kian	Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Totalisator Board
Mr Augustin Lee	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Manpower
Dr Lee Tung Jean	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development
Ms Tan Li San	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Information
Ms Teoh Zsin Woon	Deputy Secretary (Development), Ministry of Health

SUMMIT MODERATORS

Mr Hsieh Fu Hua	President, NCSS & Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Ms Anita Fam	Board Member, NCSS & Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Mr Sim Gim Guan	Chief Executive Officer, NCSS

SUMMIT PANELISTS

Ms Melissa Kwee	Chief Executive Officer, National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre
Mr Terence Quek	CEO, Emergenetics International-Asia Pacific District Councillor, South West CDC Founding Member, Project Happy Feet
Mr Eugene Seow	Board Director & Special Advisor to Leadership Team, TOUCH Community Services Vice Chairman, National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre
Mr Ronald Wong	Advocate & Solicitor and Volunteer at Healthserve
Ms Chia Yong Yong	President, SPD & Nominated Member of Parliament
Mr Gerard Ee	President, Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants
Dr Kanwaljit Soin	Founding Member, AWARE & Former Nominated Member of Parliament
Ms Teoh Zsin Woon	Deputy Secretary (Development), MOH
Mr Tim Oei	Chief Executive Officer, AWWA
Mr Tong Yee	Director, The Thought Collective
Dr Victor Tong	Director, Social and Cognitive Computing Department, Institute of High Performance Computing
Mr Wong Kim Yin	Group Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Power Limited
Dr Wong Meng Ee	Assistant Professor, Early Childhood & Special Needs Education, NIE