

MEDIA RELEASE

Launch of Training Network Model (TNM) 2.0 to Bolster Training Capabilities in the Social Service Sector

Singapore, 12 November 2022 – The Training Network Model (TNM) 2.0, a five-year strategic initiative that aims to transform social service agencies (SSAs) into Centres of Excellence equipped to offer training services to the social service sector, was launched today.

2 The launch was held in conjunction with the Social Service Institute's (SSI) Graduation and Awards Ceremony, which was graced by Minister for Education, Mr Chan Chun Sing. This year's ceremony recognizes the hard work and achievements of 99 graduands. The graduands comprise new entrants, mid-careerists and existing sector professionals who have shown steadfast commitment in their pursuit of lifelong learning and skills mastery. For example, this year majority of the graduands have been conferred with a WSQ Diploma in Social Service (DSS) and the WSQ Advanced Certificate in Social Service (ACSS).

Building a Sustainable Learning Ecosystem within the Social Service Sector

3 The launch of TNM 2.0 lays the foundations towards ensuring that learning in the social service sector will continue to be sustainable similar to an ecosystem that is self-sufficient. For example, instead of SSI being the main training provider in the social service sector, learners may look forward to receive training from the seven selected SSA partners. The seven SSA partners selected are domain experts in their respective care sectors and will receive funding and resource support to build up their training capabilities, in the areas of courseware development, training administration, outreach and publicity as well as learning facilities and infrastructure. TNM 2.0 aims to train an additional 6,000 learners by FY26.

4 "SSI is committed to work with partners to develop a professional and skilled workforce for the social service sector. Through TNM 2.0, social service professionals will be able to tap on a comprehensive suite of courses offered by our SSA partners, augmenting the training programmes conducted at SSI. TNM 2.0 SSA partners will be empowered to not only provide services to their clientele but train their workforce and the larger talent pool. TNM2.0 aims to create a sustainable learning ecosystem that provides accessible, quality training to social service professionals," said A/P Kevin Lim, Vice President, National Council of Social Service.

5 SSA partners were selected through a rigorous screening process, based on their track record, domain expertise, ability to demonstrate strong buy-in from their Management and Board as well as readiness to conduct training. The seven SSAs are: Academy of Human Development, APSN, Dyslexia Association of Singapore Academy, Rainbow Centre Training and Consultancy, Samaritans of Singapore, SHINE Children and Youth Services, and The Salvation Army. The 7 SSA partners will develop and roll out courses in their area of expertise, under the primary care areas of: Children and Youth, Family, Mental Health and Wellness, Disability and Eldercare.

6 Ms Tan Sze Wee, Executive Director of Rainbow Centre, said, "We are proud to be selected as a partner for this training initiative and as a Centre of Excellence. An inclusive society is built by the greater adoption of inclusive practices. With funding support from the TNM 2.0 initiative, Rainbow Centre Training and Consultancy aims to amplify its work to share inclusive practices with the wider community and enable persons with disabilities to lead empowered and thriving lives."

7 Dr June Siew, Head of DAS Academy, said, "This is a milestone for Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) Academy, the professional training arm of DAS, in providing a vibrant support network for those with dyslexia and other specific learning differences. DAS Academy is excited to be a TNM 2.0 Training Partner. Together with the Professional Capability Grant offered by NCSS, these subsidies and support pave the way for more individuals to join the special educational needs profession. The enhanced accessibility to special educational needs knowledge and skills also affirms that our society has adopted a much bigger definition of disabilities – we are now caring for people with disabilities not evident to the naked eye such as mental illnesses and hidden learning disabilities. It is symbolic of Singapore's progression on the journey to be an inclusive society."

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About the 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 and Social Service Institute (SSI) are part of NCSS. For more information, visit www.ncss.gov.sg.

About the Social Service Institute (SSI)

SSI is a key division under the Sector Capability and Transformation Group of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and is appointed by SkillsFuture Singapore as the Continuing Education and Training (CET) centre for Social Services. It works closely with social service and non-profit organisations to help increase capacity and manpower capabilities for better delivery of social services. SSI develops talents through training programmes, practice and networking events, learning events and a resource hub portal. For more information, visit www.ssi.gov.sg.