



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **NEW EDUCATION AND TRAINING RESOURCES FOR YOUTH WORKERS TO HELP YOUTHS NAVIGATE A COMPLEX WORLD**

#### **Youth Work Day 2022 – Celebrating Youth Work and Beyond**

At Youth Work Day 2022 today, four new partnerships were announced to provide education and training to youth work professionals, including an onboarding course for youth workers, introduction of legal resources for those who work with youths, a youth work-focussed academy and the development of youth work-related training courses.

2 YWD 2022 was organised by the Youth Work Association (Singapore) (YWAS) and Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), with support from the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). Organised annually, YWD celebrates the contributions of youth work professionals as well as initiatives to build the sector's capabilities to better serve our youths. Held at NP this year, in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of YWAS, the event was originally mooted by the Social Service SkillsFuture Tripartite Taskforce (STT) Youth Work Sub-Team.

3 Mr Eric Chua (Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Social and Family Development and Community, Culture and Youth) was the guest-of-honour at YWD 2022. Mr Chua was joined by 300 guests comprising youth work professionals from social service agencies, schools, community groups, social work students, and partners.

#### **Youth Work Sector - Initiatives and Partnerships to Build Capabilities**

4 To ensure that our youth workers are well-equipped to support our youths and their families, MSF continues to leverage partnerships with academia, professional associations and social service agencies to build the sector's competencies. MSF, in partnership with NP, will be launching a Youth Work Onboarding Course that will introduce foundational training for new entrants to the sector, based on feedback from youth workers. The course is slated for implementation in early 2023.

5 In its continued effort to promote professional development in the youth work sector, YWAS has partnered the Singapore Association of Women Lawyers (SAWL) and Allen & Gledhill (A&G). This collaboration will jointly aim to provide advancement

and protection for youths and their families with legal knowledge and insights through workshops, legal clinics, and online question-and-answer sessions.

6 NP also announced a new Youth Development Academy (YODA) which will provide training, conduct research on youth development and youth mental wellness and promote collaborative partnerships within the sector. YWAS will partner NP in developing courses offered at the Academy.

7 The event also included masterclasses on pertinent areas of youth work, which were conducted by experienced practitioners from partnering agencies to educate participants on how to provide holistic support to youths. The synopses of the masterclasses, as well as more information on the new initiatives announced, can be found in **Appendix A**.

8 Mr Chua said in his Guest-Of-Honour address, "Youths play an important part in Singapore's future. Under the Forward Singapore exercise, we are committed to refresh our social compact and work together with our community partners like the youth work sector and our youths to build a Singapore that leaves no one behind."

9 Mr Nicholas Gabriel Lim, President of YWAS added, "We are glad to have the support of our partners Singapore Association of Women Lawyers and Allen & Gledhill to provide legal expertise and resources for youth workers and our youths. It is encouraging to see everyone come together to augment one another's efforts, skills, talents and resources for the overall well-being of our youths, and in turn, their families, communities and our society."

10 Mr Lim Kok Kiang, Principal & CEO of NP said: "We are excited to be a catalyst for positive youth development through our Youth Development Academy (YODA). As Youth Work Association (Singapore)'s official training partner, we look forward to jointly shape the future of youth work by empowering sector professionals and ensuring they remain adaptive to address emerging needs of youths."

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**Annex A:** Profiles for Media Interviews

**Annex B:** Glossary of Translated Terms

**Appendix A:** Media Factsheet - Questions and Answers and Synopses on Masterclasses (please see separate attachment)

**For media queries and interviews, please contact:**

**MSF**

Karine Chua

Karine\_CHUA@msf.gov.sg

Ng Rui Sin

ngrs@RuderFinnAsia.com

**Ngee Ann Polytechnic**

Sangeetha Naidu (Ms)

Media & Content

Tel: 6460 6232

Email: Sangeetha\_NAIDU@np.edu.sg

**Youth Work Association (Singapore)**

Nicholas Gabriel Lim

President

info@youthwork.sg

## **ABOUT SOCIAL SERVICE SKILLSFUTURE TRIPARTITE TASKFORCE (STT)**

The Social Service SkillsFuture Tripartite Taskforce (STT) was formed in April 2019 to:

- i. Drive, coordinate and implement tripartite collaborations for manpower development initiatives in the social service sector; and
- ii. Provide advice, expertise and input in curriculum, training pathways and professional practice to enhance capabilities and effectiveness of manpower in the social service sector.

The STT comprises representatives from Social Service Agencies (SSAs), professional associations, academia and the Government. In its first term, the STT played an important role in providing feedback to MSF and the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) to support the social service sector in coping with manpower challenges arising from the pandemic. The STT initiated new entry pathways, such as the Learning Support Educator specialist track in the early intervention sector, and partnered with National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) to support the demand for psychologists. Currently in its second term, the STT will further enhance our efforts on manpower and talent development to increase the capabilities of our SSAs.

## **ABOUT YOUTH WORK ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE**

The Youth Work Association Singapore (YWAS) was started by a band of veteran youth work practitioners who felt the need to distinguish youth work as a distinctive practice, in the late 2000s. YWAS was formally registered as a society with the Registry of Societies in March 2012. The founding committee comprised veteran youth work practitioners from various youth-serving organisations, including social service agencies, self-help groups as well as faith-based organisations.

YWAS' mission is to advocate for, set benchmarks, and celebrate the cause of youth work in Singapore. Membership is open to all involved in engaging or reaching out to youth, regardless of setting. YWAS is also actively engaged in harnessing regional and international collaboration possibilities with other youth serving organisations. It is a key member of the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Worker Associations (CAYWA). For more information on YWAS, please visit <https://www.youthwork.sg>

## **ABOUT Ngee ANN POLYTECHNIC**

Ngee Ann Polytechnic started in 1963 and is today one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning with over 13,000 enrolled students and an alumni network of more than 160,000. The polytechnic offers more than 40 full-time courses through its 9 academic schools in Business & Accountancy, Design & Environment, Engineering, Film & Media Studies, Health Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences,

Infocomm Technology, Life Sciences & Chemical Technology, and Interdisciplinary Studies.

It seeks to develop students with a passion for learning, values for life, and competencies to thrive in a global workplace. The polytechnic also supports Continuing Education and Training (CET) through its CET Academy, which offers a wide range of part-time programmes and short courses. It works closely with industry partners to curate programmes to develop talent pipeline for the industries and help adult learners stay agile in today's rapidly changing global economy.

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

## **ABOUT SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS**

Since 1974, the association of women lawyers have been serving women and children of Singapore through legal counselling and consultation at various community centres. Today, they continue...

- To spread knowledge of the laws of Singapore
- To enhance and promote the welfare of the community particularly the women and children
- To advance opportunities for women in industry, business, education and the profession
- To press for laws for the advancement and protection of women and children

For more information on SAWL, please visit <https://sawlsqp.org/>

## **ABOUT ALLEN & GLEDHILL LLP**

Allen & Gledhill is an award-winning full-service South-east Asian law firm providing legal services to a wide range of premier clients, including local and multinational corporations and financial institutions. The Firm is consistently ranked as a market leader in Singapore and South-east Asia by leading publications, and has been involved in a number of challenging, complex and significant deals, many of which were the first of its kind. With a growing network of associate firms and offices, it is well-placed to advise clients on their business interests in Singapore and beyond, on matters involving South-east Asia and the Asian region.

Allen & Gledhill runs an active pro bono programme to provide legal assistance to the needy and those with difficulties seeking access to justice. To further impact the community at large, Allen & Gledhill launched its "A&G in the Community" initiative in 2022, which aims to build a culture throughout the Firm of giving back to society. As part of this, the Firm hopes to make an impact directly at the grassroots and community level by pledging for every lawyer to do at least 24 hours of pro bono work or, in the wider sense, community service, in a year.

For more information on Allen & Gledhill, please visit [www.allenandgledhill.com](http://www.allenandgledhill.com)

### Profiles for Media Interviews

For interview requests, please reach out to:

Ng Rui Sin

Consultant, RuderFinn

[ngrs@RuderFinnAsia.com](mailto:ngrs@RuderFinnAsia.com)

	<b>Profile</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>Interview Details</b>
1.	<p>Santhiran Ezhavarasan</p> <p>Assistant Lead, Shelter Residential Unit, Boys' Town</p> <p>[Youth Worker]</p>	<p>As a teenager, Santhiran was rebellious and disliked figures in authority. Along the way, he met volunteers and community leaders who guided and steered him along the right path. He decided to become a youth worker because he wanted to give back to the community. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Social Work at the Singapore University of Social Studies (SUSS).</p> <p>As the Assistant Lead of the shelter at Boys' Town, where he oversees 20 youth workers and over 35 residents. He will be able to share on his motivations working in this sector and the impact on the youths he has mentored.</p>	<p>Santhiran is willing to be interviewed/filmed in English.</p>
2.	<p>Yu Shengyang</p> <p>Youth Worker, New Life Community Services</p> <p>[Youth Worker]</p>	<p>Shengyang was a student care teacher and served in the youth ministry in his church. He transitioned into working in the youth work sector and is now a youth worker at the Fajar Youth Hub. He finds satisfaction in mentoring and helping youths through their life transitions.</p> <p>As a Bachelor of Marketing graduate, Shengyang will be pursuing his Graduate Diploma in Social Work with SUSS. He will be able to share on his motivations working in this sector and the impact on the youths he has mentored.</p>	<p>Shengyang is willing to be interviewed/filmed in English.</p>
3.	<p>Ms Andria Choo</p>	<p>Andria has 10 years of experience working with at-risk youths and families. She oversees the Integrated Service Provider team that provides</p>	<p>Andria is willing to be</p>

	<p>Assistant Senior Social Worker, Fei Yue Community Services</p> <p>[Masterclass Speaker]</p>	<p>interventions and services to at-risk youths and youth offenders below 21 years of age. She also runs a parent support group for parents whose youths hang out frequently on the streets. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Narrative Therapy and Community Work with University of Melbourne.</p> <p>As a speaker for the Masterclass on Partnering with Families for Youth Development, Andria will be able to share on her experience working with families to create change in the lives of the youths she works with.</p>	<p>interviewed/filmed in English and/or Mandarin.</p>
4.	<p>Ms Celynn Chang</p> <p>Manager, Clinical Intervention Centre, Boys' Town</p> <p>[Masterclass Speaker]</p>	<p>Celynn heads the Clinical Intervention Centre, which is the counselling and therapy arm of Boys' Town. She has 12 years of clinical experience working with children, youths and their families who have experienced a wide range of mental health and psycho-social issues, including depression, anxiety, trauma, socio-emotional and behavioural challenges. Besides working with children and youths, she strongly believes in engaging parents as well as other stakeholders in the child's system for the best therapeutic outcome.</p> <p>Celynn will be able to share about her experience in working with youths and their families in the area of mental health and specifically on how nature and adventure programmes can build resilience in youths.</p>	<p>Celynn is willing to be interviewed in English and/or Mandarin.</p>
5.	<p>Mr Nicholas Gabriel Lim</p> <p>President, Youth Work Association (Singapore)</p> <p>[YWAS' President]</p>	<p>Nicholas is a psychologist with 20 years of experiencing helping youths and families. He believes that as long as a youth has an adult who believes in him/her, he/she has a good chance to succeed in life.</p> <p>As YWAS' President, Nicholas will be able to share on YWAS' vision for the youth work sector, as well as the new partnerships with the Singapore Association of Women Lawyers and Allen &amp; Gledhill, and with Ngee Ann Polytechnic.</p>	<p>Nicholas is willing to be interviewed/filmed in English.</p>

6.	<p>Dr Glen Ng</p> <p>Programme Lead, Youth Development Academy (YODA), Ngee Ann Polytechnic</p> <p>[NP Lecturer and Programme Lead]</p>	<p>Glen has over two decades of experience in youth counselling, mentoring and working with youths with special needs. In his role as Programme Lead for Youth Engagement &amp; Development, Glen has partnered with agencies such as Youth Work Association Singapore, TOUCH Cyber Wellness and Halogen Foundation Singapore for short courses which includes “Knowing &amp; Engaging Youth”, “Youth &amp; Technology” and “Group Dynamics &amp; Facilitation.”</p> <p>Glen will be able to share the objectives of the Youth Development Academy (YODA) and the Academy's developmental plans of youth work courses.</p>	<p>Glen is willing to be interviewed/filmed in English.</p>
7.	<p>Shafik Bin Mohd Said</p> <p>Lead Youth Worker, Manager of Youth Services, CARE Singapore</p> <p>[Supervisee]</p>	<p>A former beneficiary of CARE Singapore, Shafik is now giving back to the same organisation which had helped him years ago. He is now a Lead Youth Worker and has been mentoring and journeying with youths for the last 12 years. He is also a supervisee under the Youth Work Supervision Scheme launched in May last year.</p> <p>Shafik will be able to share about how he has benefitted from the Youth Work Supervision Scheme, and what he looks forward to in terms of professional development.</p>	<p>Shafik is willing to be interviewed/filmed in English and Malay.</p>
8.	<p>Ms Elis Wong Wai Yan</p> <p>Full-time Educator in Eden School, Part-time student pursuing Bachelors in Social Work at SUSS</p> <p>[Youth]</p>	<p>Elis has a keen interest to pursue social work. A former youth-at-risk, she is grateful for the support she received from her then-social worker. Currently, she is pursuing a social work degree in SUSS and she hopes to positively encourage and support other struggling teenagers.</p> <p>Elis will be able to share on her past experiences as a former youth-at-risk and her interest in working with youth and their caregivers.</p>	<p>Elis is willing to be interviewed/filmed in English and Mandarin.</p>



9.	<p>Mr Muhammad Mustafa Bin Abdullah</p> <p>ITE Higher Nitec Graduate, awaiting Army Enlistment</p> <p>[Youth]</p>	<p>When Mustafa was 12 years old, his grandmother and mother passed away, and his father was imprisoned. He had trouble regulating his emotions because of the struggles and missing adult figures in his life. He met his youth worker, Shafik (profile above), when he was 14, and managed to turn his life around.</p> <p>Mustafa will be able to share on how he was able to overcome his struggles with the help of his youth worker and the opportunities and achievements he has gained since.</p>	<p>Mustafa is willing to be interviewed/filmed in English and Malay.</p>
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## Glossary of Translated Terms

S/N	Term	Chinese
1	Social Service SkillsFuture Tripartite Taskforce	社会服务技能创前三方工作小组
2	Social Service SkillsFuture Tripartite Taskforce Youth Work Sub-Team	社会服务技能创前三方工作小组 (青少年工作小组)
3	Youth Work Day	青年服务日
4	Youth Work Association Singapore (YWAS)	青少年专业工作协会 (新加坡)
5	Youth Work Mentorship Scheme	青年服务导师计划
6	Youth Work Supervision Scheme	青年服务督导计划
7	Youth Development Academy	发展青年培训学会
8	Singapore Association of Women Lawyers	新加坡女律师协会
9	Allen & Gledhill	艾伦格禧律师事务所