

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **EIPIC will continue to be Affordable for Children with Disabilities**

Means testing will be implemented from 1 April 2006 for Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC) and Community Integration Services (CIS). The purpose of means testing is to focus government subsidies on lower income families. It will be implemented in phases over four years.

2 The government's contribution to these 2 services is expected to increase from \$4.5m in 2006 to \$6.7m in 2010. The government will subsidize as much as \$690 and \$450 per child for children from low income families who are using EIPIC and CIS services respectively in 2010 (please see [Annex 1](#)).

3 Besides means-tested funding from the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) will provide a block grant of about \$4.8 m in 2006 to voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs) providing EIPIC and CIS services. The funding for subsequent years could be adjusted, subject to NCSS/Community Chest's ability to fund-raise. NCSS' grant would help to make EIPIC and CIS affordable. VWOs may also chip in to further help families in genuine need.

4 Means testing has been implemented in step-down services in the healthcare sector, elderly services and residential based disability services, such as Homes and Hostels.

5 From 1 April 2006, low income parents can expect to pay about \$10 -\$30 for EIPIC and about \$10-\$20 for CIS. Actual fees will be determined by the VWOs and can be expected to vary depending on the intensity of the programme and the needs of the child with disability.

**Attachments:**

Annex 1 – MCYS' Means Tested Subsidy per Child in EIPIC and CIS

Annex 2 – Background Information on EIPIC and CIS

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Feisal Abdul Rahman

Manager

DID : 6354 8147

HP : 9675 1517

Email : [feisal\\_abdul\\_rahman@mcys.gov.sg](mailto:feisal_abdul_rahman@mcys.gov.sg)

Communications and International Relations Division

Ministry of Community Development Youth and Sports

This press release and its annexes comprises **07** printed pages.

**MCYS' Means Tested Subsidy Per Child (\$) in EIPIC and CIS**

<b>EIPIC</b>					
Monthly Family Income *	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10
<\$1000	\$506	\$552	\$598	\$644	\$690
\$1000 - \$2500	\$460	\$460	\$460	\$460	\$460
\$2500 - \$3500	\$414	\$368	\$322	\$276	\$230
>\$3500	\$368	\$276	\$184	\$92	\$0

<b>CIS</b>					
Monthly Family Income *	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10
<\$1000	\$330	\$360	\$390	\$420	\$450
\$1000 - \$2500	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
\$2500 - \$3500	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150
>\$3500	\$240	\$180	\$120	\$60	\$0

*\*The means testing framework is actually based on per capita income to better capture the financial circumstances of the family. The family income shown above is based on an average household size of 3.5 persons.*

**Notes:**

1) These figures do not take into account the contributions by NCSS and VWOs which would further increase the subsidy amount given per child.

2) Over and above the family income criterion, there would be flexibility to consider exceptional family circumstances such as when more than 1 child is disabled in the family (as in Sally's case shown below), or when the family is in genuine need for other reasons.

### **Sally's Child will pay less than \$50**

The Straits Times featured an article ("Subsidy Blues for mum with kids hit by palsy", 7 January 2006) about Sally, a mother of 2 children with cerebral palsy, who would have to pay \$920 per month for her younger child to attend early intervention services.

Under the means testing framework, with her family income of \$4,500 per month, Sally would not be eligible for any subsidy based strictly on income alone. However, given that she has two disabled children and would incur much higher expenses than a typical household, she would be eligible for MCYS subsidy. The Spastic Children's Association of Singapore (SCAS) has confirmed that with MCYS, NCSS and VWO funding, Sally would only have to pay about \$50 per month when means testing kicks in on 1 April 2006.

## **1. Early intervention programme for infants and children (EIPIC)**

### ***Objective***

The programme aims to increase the developmental growth potential of the child with disability and minimise the development of secondary disabilities through therapeutic and educational support services for the child and the parent.

### ***Target group***

Children up to 6 years who are medically certified by a qualified doctor on their disability and functional status.

### ***Programme description***

EIPIC is a centre-based programme that provides social, educational and rehabilitative services for children aged up to 6 years who are diagnosed to be at risk of having a handicapping condition or special need that will affect his or her development.

The programme covers the following areas:

- a) fine and gross motor skills;
- b) cognition;
- c) communication;
- d) social adaptation;
- e) self-help skills; and
- f) adaptation to and use of assistive equipment.

A child's progress will be monitored through an Individual Education Plan developed jointly by the EIPIC centre and the parents. A joint disciplinary team of doctors, therapists, special education teachers and social workers is involved in the assessment and treatment of the child.

Training is also provided to the parents or caregivers to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and help the child.

**Centres running EIPIC**

- a) Society of Moral Charities  
1 North Bridge Rd  
High Street Centre  
Singapore 179094  
Contact person: Mr Wong Kwong Sing  
Tel: 6270 6711
  
- b) Fei Yue Community Services  
604 Choa Chu Kang St. 64 #01-53  
Singapore 680604  
Contact person: Mr Leng Ching Fai  
Tel: 6416 2188
  
- c) Autism Association (Clementi)  
Block 381 Clementi Avenue 5  
#01-398 Singapore 120381
  
- d) Autism Association (Simei)  
Blk 148 Simei St 1 #01-121  
Singapore 520148
  
- e) AWWA Special School  
11 Lorong Napiri  
Singapore 547532
  
- f) Autism Resource Centre (WeCan)  
6 Ang Mo Kio St 44  
Singapore 569253
  
- g) Rainbow Centre  
Margaret Drive Special School  
501 Margaret Drive  
Singapore 149306
  
- h) Rainbow Centre  
Balestier Special School  
8 McNair Road  
Singapore 328517
  
- i) Spastic Children's Association of Singapore (SCAS)  
65 Pasir Ris Drive 1  
Singapore 519529

## **2. Community Integration Support (CIS)**

### **Objective**

Community Integration Support (CIS) programme for persons with disabilities aims to instil in them appropriate skills to adjust to the demands in mainstream education and meet their individual developmental milestones. They need a supportive emotional environment at school and at home to develop and sustain their self-confidence.

### **Target group**

Students with disabilities in mainstream education from pre-school to tertiary institutions.

### **Programme description**

Community Integration Support (CIS) programmes are social therapy and learning support services provided to children who are attending mainstream schools from pre-school to tertiary institutions.

The programme requires collaborative efforts among the parents, school and the professionals.

The programme covers the following areas:

- Physiotherapy, occupational, speech, language therapy
- Educational intervention
- Home and school based consultancy services
- Parent support programmes and workshops
- Career guidance
- Promotion of recreation and sports
- Befriending
- Technical support to and advice on equipment

### **Centres running CIS**

- a. AWWA Teach Me Services  
Blk 619 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4, #01-1073  
Singapore 560617
- b. Itinerant Support Services  
SADeaf  
227 Mountbatten Road  
Singapore 397998