

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5-YEAR ENABLING MASTERPLAN 2007-2011 FOR THE DISABILITY SECTOR**

1. The vision of the Steering Committee for the Enabling Masterplan for the Disability Sector is for Singapore to be an inclusive society where persons with disabilities are viewed as equal and contributing members of society. The vision is for children with special needs to receive effective intervention services and education to maximize their potential; persons with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities and be self-reliant through work; families to be empowered to care for their dependents who are disabled, and parents to be assured that the well-being of their children are taken care of after they pass on.

2. The Committee believes that early intervention, education and employment are core developmental areas that must be addressed to enable more persons with disabilities to lead independent lives as contributing members of society. Given appropriate intervention services and education, children with special needs can become independent and employable adults.

3. The Steering Committee has submitted 31 recommendations to the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and the key recommendations are:

- a. Strengthen the inter-ministry approach to disability issues by setting up a national office on disability. The office is to be supported by a panel on early intervention and education co-led by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education; and a panel on employment co-led by the Ministry of Manpower/Workforce Development Agency and Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.
- b. Achieve better child outcomes with a holistic and integrated early intervention and education system, including systematic assessment and placement in special education or mainstream schools, and the

development of a curriculum framework and quality curricula for both academic and life skills.

- c. Allow persons with disabilities to be gainfully employed with an employment paradigm based on industry needs and business case. Vocational training based on industry needs will begin at school, followed by systematic assessment and placement to ensure job fit and support for employers through the Open Door Fund.
- d. Empower families to look after their disabled members through caregiver training and extension of foreign domestic worker levy concession for disabled persons who need caregiving assistance.

4. The people, private and public sector, together with the families and persons with disabilities, can work together to achieve this vision. The Steering Committee would also like to encourage greater individual and corporate philanthropy to bring in more resources for the sector.

5. The Steering Committee of the Enabling Masterplan 2007-2011, was chaired by Prof Lee Eng Hin, President of Rainbow Centre, with Prof Tommy Koh as the Advisor. The Chairpersons of the Sub-Committees were Ms Denise Phua for Early Intervention and Education; Mr David Wong for Employment; and Prof Tan Ser Kiat for Community, Residential and Caregiving Support with Mr Lee Kim Siang as the Advisor. The composition of the Steering Committee is at Annex A.

6. The executive summary of the report and list of recommendations is at Annex B. The full report of the Enabling Masterplan is available at <http://www.mcys.gov.sg/enablingmasterplan>.

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**Issued by:**  
**Enabling Masterplan Steering Committee**  
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