



Fund-2-Work Scheme Boosts Patients' Employability

From February, persons who have recovered or are recovering from a mental illness will get added support when they seek employment. IMH's new Fund-2-Work scheme provides financial incentives for employers to employ eligible persons by paying up to 50% of the person's salary for two months, capped at \$350 per month.

continued on page 2

highlights

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 Bringing Mental Health Care to the Homebound Elderly | 4 Going Home, Going to Work – Thanks to Occupational Therapy |
| 3 Expert Advice – Professor Graham Thornicroft Visits IMH | 6 A Doctor's Learning Never Stops |

02 feature

continued from front page

"Employers have the perception that a mentally ill person cannot hold down a job, are unpredictable and can't tolerate stress. In reality, with compliance to medication and careful monitoring of symptoms, the person can return to work and be productive," said Ms Tan Bhing Leet, Head of Occupational Therapy at IMH. "This scheme will make it more attractive for employers to hire those suffering from mental illness," she added.

The Fund-2-Work scheme was announced on 4 February at the launch of Silver Ribbon Singapore (SRS), a non-profit organisation whose mission is to combat stigma associated with mental illness.

The scheme is the first of its kind in Singapore and is an extension of IMH's existing Vocational Rehabilitation Programme. Besides the financial incentive for employers, persons on the scheme will receive support from IMH. They will be assisted with their job search and placement, and even receive on-site job coaching by our mental health professionals. On-site coaching involves going to the person's job site, analysing the job tasks and devising ways to help

the person to maximise his abilities to meet the job needs.

Our staff will provide the person with the necessary support to cope with stress at work and to get along with co-workers. In addition, occupational therapists will work with the employer to set clear targets and expected work behaviour so that the progress of the person can be objectively tracked.

An initial sum of \$50,000 from the Woodbridge Hospital Endowment Fund, managed by IMH, has been set aside for this scheme. An estimated 70 persons will be able to benefit from this scheme in a year.

"If the scheme proves to be successful, we will raise more funds so that we can extend the scheme to benefit more persons," said IMH CEO Mr Leong Yew Meng, who is also Vice-President of SRS.

For more information, please contact IMH's Occupational Therapy Department at 6389 2904.

Cover picture features President SR Nathan, who was the Guest-of-Honour, smashing blocks that surrounded the word STIGMA at the SRS launch.