

SPEECH BY KELVIN NG AT THE OPENING OF PACIFIC ACTIVITY CENTRE & PACIFIC ADVANCE RENAL CARE AT FAJAR SPRING – 17 SEPTEMBER 2016

Opening Address

Dr Teo Ho Pin, Mayor for North West District, Member of Parliament for Bukit Panjang Constituency, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Dr William Chong, Founder and Director of Pacific Healthcare Group sends his greetings and apologises for not being here with us today as he is away on an overseas trip. I am Kelvin, Group General Manager for Pacific Healthcare.

Thank you for taking the time to attend the official opening of Pacific Activity Centre & Pacific Advanced Renal Care at Fajar Spring. This is the 9th of 11 senior activity centres that we have committed to operate as part of Pacific Healthcare's Eldercare Services, which also includes our nursing homes at Senja Road and Lengkok Bahru

We are also proud to officially launch Pacific Advanced Renal Care's 5th kidney dialysis centre. Together with our Centres in Woodlands, Punggol, Sengkang and Tampines, we now have 32 treatment stations with another 30 to be added within next 6 months

Public-private " Partnership"

In 2012, when we were first informed of the Ministry of Social and Family Development's concept of senior activity Centre, many people were sceptical and believed that such Centres should be run and fully funded by the Government.

I am pleased to say that Dr Chong felt differently and challenged my management team to create businesses that were commercially viable, yet socially meaningful to partially support the cost of running the Centres - and that he would underwrite the shortfalls. With that strong support, we have now established our 9th centre here as well as at Woodlands, Sengkang, Tampines, Punggol, Yishun and Tiong Bahru.

Our Senior Activity Centres

Each day more than 300 seniors come to our Centres. Our daily activities include morning exercises, conversational English lessons, arts and crafts, table games and even cooking sessions. The feedback has been very positive. These sessions enable our seniors to remain physically fit, mentally active and socially connected with friends and neighbours. Research has shown that by doing so, we can delay or manage the onset of many age-related health issues, including dementia and depression. In addition, activities such as these build and foster bonds within the community.

Our Dialysis Centres

Singapore has one of the highest incidences of Kidney Disease in the world. Each day 4 new patients require dialysis. To this end, we have worked with a team of outstanding renal physicians from Pacific Advanced Renal Care to bring dialysis to the heart of the community. Our team of medical Advisors, Dr Loh Ping Tyug, Dr Roger Tan and Dr Pary Sivaraman. (Dr Loh is here with us today) and our nursing staff help look after the well-being of our patients in a comfortable and safe environment close to their homes. We are pleased that we now care for more than 110 patients each month and am proud to say that our partners, Advanced Renal Care have shown that you can deliver high quality and cost effective healthcare to the community without compromising standards.

Our Other Partners

I will like at this point also to thank our other partners who have contributed in one way or other towards Pacific Activity Centre. While space constraints limit our ability to offer the same services at every centre, residents are welcome to join in the activities, as well as utilise the services available at our other Centres. We are indebted to our doctors and dentists from Pacific Healthcare as well as our allied healthcare partners, True Chiropractic Clinic and Life Hub TCM clinic. Special mention also to the National Council of Social Services and Hour Glass Limited for their part in creating a Hour Glass Kitchen Programme at Yishun Greenwalk.

Paying It Forward - Singapore Today

The last 51 years of Singapore's history has been nothing short of an economic miracle. While we are fortunate to live in a clean and safe environment with one of the best housing and healthcare systems in the world, no system is perfect.

Even though the Government has put in place different programmes for the alleviation of poverty, each one of us has a part to play to help build an inclusive Society that cares and shares with our fellow citizens and residents

And with the world moving forwards at gigabyte speed, it is even more important for all of us to try and help ensure that no one falls through the cracks or are left behind.

My colleagues and I remain committed to working together with the various community partners to achieve our mission of making each activity centre the Heart of a Healthy, Happy and Harmonious Community. In so doing, we hope that we can engage, enrich and empower our seniors to live actively and age joyfully.

Thank you for being a part of our opening.

About Pacific Activity Centres

Pacific Activity Centres was set up as part of our goal of providing comprehensive and holistic care for the elderly. While our custom-built nursing homes provide optimal residential care, the availability of facilities within the neighbourhood will help our seniors remain physically fit, mentally active and socially connected with their friends and family. By engaging & empowering our seniors to live actively, we hope to fulfil our vision of making Pacific Activity Centres the heart of a happy, healthy & harmonious community.

Our centres are linked to the Alert Alarm System in the studio apartment units, and will monitor and respond to emergency calls during office hours. We will also help provide further information or referrals if necessary. Fajar Spring is one of our 9 centres already operational with 2 other centres ready within the next 4 months.

About Pacific Healthcare Nursing Homes

Pacific Healthcare Nursing Homes was established in 2004 with the goal of providing professional round-the-clock nursing care for the elderly within a comfortable, safe and serene environment. Today our homes, which are located at Lengkok Bahru and Senja Road, care for more than 350 residents.

Our homes provide both short and long term convalescent, respite and rehabilitative care, including physiotherapy and group activities. We have a team of dedicated, friendly and experienced nursing staff to provide round-the-clock care. We have also collaborated with the National University Hospital, who have established a rehab ward with 39 beds and a day facility.