

MEDIA STATEMENT

Saturday, 19 February 2022

PPIS responds to Budget 2022: 'Charting Our New Way Forward Together'

1. The Singapore Muslim Women's Association (PPIS) appreciates Budget 2022's focus on investing in people, uplifting lower wage workers, boosting retirement adequacy, and building a caring and inclusive society. Such efforts, which are geared towards strengthening our social compact post-pandemic, is in line with PPIS' concerted efforts in supporting women and strengthening families.
 2. PPIS also welcomes the added support offered to charities, including the \$26 million top-up to the VWOs-Charities Capability Fund. We plan to utilise this funding to further strengthen the organisation's governance, management and digital capabilities. Additionally, the \$100 million top-up to the Enhanced Fund-Raising Programme will enable us to fund programmes to better serve the needs of women and their families.
 3. The Enhanced \$6.6 billion Assurance Package, which aims to cushion the effects of the staggered GST increase, especially for the more vulnerable segments, is a step in the right direction. As is the \$560 million Household Support Package which will help families cope with higher prices from the rising global inflation. PPIS is supportive of such targeted measures that address the challenges faced by vulnerable segments including lower-income families, low-wage workers and the elderly.
 4. Beyond supporting the vulnerable groups, the Budget stresses on investing in our children to provide them equal access and opportunities, and in education as a social leveller. As a partner of the KidStart Programme, we are also pleased by the nationwide expansion of the Uplift Community Network. Under this scheme, befrienders and social service agencies like PPIS are able to better support school-going children in disadvantaged families, check-in with them regularly and provide mentorship.
 5. Equally heartening is the move to step up efforts to help companies train workers and help individuals upskill, especially mid-career workers, many of whom may be women who have left the workforce due to caregiving responsibilities. PPIS is also excited to learn that the government is committing resources and working with partners to bring ideas, which stemmed from the Conversations on Singapore Women's Development e.g. better support for caregivers, stronger measures against workplace discrimination etc, to fruition.
 6. PPIS remains committed to working with the community, public agencies and like-minded partners to ensure no gaps in our service areas. #OnePPIS is also dedicated to galvanising resources, building capabilities, digitalising processes and pushing boundaries to provide enhanced support to clients and beneficiaries through our 17 centres islandwide.
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About PPIS

Founded in 1952, PPIS (*Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura* or Singapore Muslim Women's Association) is a social service organisation focused on services for women, family and children. Our focus is on working with women of all ages in carrying out their multiple roles in society. PPIS runs three core community services namely; Family Services, Student Care and Early Childhood Education (ECE). With 17 centres islandwide, the services work together to provide quality and holistic support as well as developmental programmes for women and their families across the different phases of their lives.

For more information, please visit: <https://ppis.sg/>.