

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The world today is rife with change and uncertainty. With this comes new challenges, and ensuring everyone in the community has an equal chance to keep pace with one another becomes even more critical, so that we can move forward together as a community and nation. This is the very purpose of AMP, which is to identify gaps where the community is underserved and develop solutions to meet their needs, so no group is left behind.

A persistent challenge in the community is drug abuse. These offenders, if not supported, may see a high rate of recidivism, and limit their ability to move forward together with the community in the long run. Although there had been a brief respite between 2001 and 2005 when the number of Malay drug offenders arrested decreased significantly through the community's effort to spread the message of the dangers of drug abuse, recent statistics have shown that the number of Malay drug offenders has increased between 2010 and 2015. According to statistics, the number of Malay drug abusers arrested increased from 1,376 (2010) to 1,738 (2015), which reflects a 26% increase. Based on these statistics, they make up about 52% of the total number of drug abusers in Singapore in 2015.

In response to this, AMP has piloted a new programme, the Development and Reintegration Programme (DRP), in March this year to curtail the rise in the number of drug offenders in the

community as well as offer a holistic and structured approach in assisting these offenders and their families. AMP is collaborating with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Singapore Prison Service on the DRP, which provides continuity of care and supervision, as well as a network of positive support to the inmates throughout their time spent in prison and after they are released. Our officers also work with the families of these inmates to develop and review an individualised intervention plan for them based on areas such as financial assistance and management, economic empowerment, socio-educational development and other support. A total of 96 inmates and 465 family members are currently being assisted under the DRP. Given the positive feedback the programme has received thus far, we have plans to extend the programme to a new batch of inmates in February 2018 so that more of them can benefit from the DRP.

As a Malay/Muslim organisation, a significant proportion of our beneficiaries is from the Malay/Muslim community. However, this does not mean that we limit our reach to just our community. In fact, there is much value in collaborations with other organisations, agencies and corporations that operate at the national level. In April this year, AMP collaborated with the Fei Siong Group, parent company of the Encik Tan chain of restaurants, to hold the Bazaar Beli-Belah, a social enterprise fair consisting of booths featuring local

businesses as well as graduates from AMP's Micro Business Programme. It was a valuable opportunity for the graduates of our programme to gain real-life knowledge and experience in running a stall, such as setting the right price point for their products and product display techniques as well as marketing their goods while interacting with customers. It was also a good avenue for them to garner new leads for future business.

AMP also collaborated with community groups serving Singaporeans at large, such as Free Food for All and The Morning Greeters through our CommaCon campaign, in various events held throughout the year to extend our reach to Singaporeans from other communities. The CommaCon campaign also continued its series of discussion and engagement sessions with youths of all races and religions to promote, maintain and strengthen social cohesion and harmony.

These are but some of our efforts at making an impact beyond the community. Through these activities, we have seen an increase of more than 60% in the number of individuals who have benefited from our programmes and services this year compared to last year. It is our hope that these same individuals will one day give back to the community and nation in the near future, as some of them have done. One such example is Mdm Sjuffriani Abdul Khalid, who graduated from the AMP Micro Business Programme in 2014. She returned to the

programme as a trainer in March 2015 and recently opened her own baking studio in August this year to support other aspiring food business owners from less privileged households. She intends to help them by imparting her knowledge and experience so that they too can enjoy the same successes that she has had. Stories like Mdm Sjuffriani's inspire and encourage us in our work for the community. We hope they will also inspire and encourage others in the community to also contribute in their own way to the community because only then can we ensure no one is left behind and that we can move forward together as one into the future.

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AMP