

About the Ministry of Social and Family Development:

Currently under the helm of Minister Desmond Lee and Minister-of-State Sam Tan, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) is the central pillar of the Singapore social safety net strategy.

MSF's mission statement is "*To Nurture-Resilient Individuals, Strong Families And A Caring Society*".

This ministry serves the population as whole as well as in a targeted manner.

At the community-wide level, MSF aims to promote strong families by encouraging businesses to adopt strategies that cater to families. Couples are supported in their decision to have more children. Families with parents who work full time are supported by the availability of child care centres, and financial subsidies for infant-care and child care.

At the segment-based level, MSF casts its attention towards various segments of the population that require assistance or protection. This ranges from juveniles and youths-at-risk, the unemployed requiring job placement assistance, to abused children/women, the physically or mentally disabled and the destitute.

Notable is MSF's support of its appointed social service agencies that manage the Family Service Centres. Currently there are 47 centres island-wide. These Family Service Centres serve as the important touchpoint for low-income families and individuals in need, through which MSF dispenses a variety of assistance schemes.

Towards its mission to nurture resilient individuals, MSF provide funding to the specialist agencies appointed to give support to fractured families. MSF's appointed agencies here are known as Divorce Support Specialist Agencies. These agencies' services and programmes are offered at a selection of specific centres. The programmes are targeted to address the needs of families undergoing divorce, ranging from parenting courses, counselling for domestic violence, divorce counselling and family dispute management. These agencies aim to be the one-stop community touch point for divorce-related issues.

To the aid of the destitute, MSF's has within its portfolio homes gazetted as welfare homes under the Destitute Persons Act. There are currently 10 homes gazetted as such welfare homes under the Destitute and Shelter Support Branch of the MSF. These homes are run are run by social agencies serving as managing agents for the Ministry.

The social service agencies and homes, being the stakeholders in the social network framework, are supported by MSF in a variety of ways. For example, the social agencies that run the Family Services Centres may apply for grants to maintain their premises. Financial assistance is provide to help defray the cost of repainting, repairs, replacement of fixed fittings and equipment. The agencies that offer transport services to the elderly or persons with disabilities who are unable to use public transport unassisted, may apply for financial support in maintaining their vehicles or other transport options.

The diversified approach in which this Ministry supports the society may be gleaned from the revenue expenditure figures released by the government, the latest of which can be found in this link https://www.singaporebudget.gov.sg/docs/default source/budget_2020/download/pdf/23-msf-2020.pdf.

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