



PRESS RELEASE
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HCA Hospice Care Relocates, Enhances Day Hospice Service

HCA Hospice Care (HCA), Singapore's largest home hospice provider, officially opened its doors at the Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH) today, in a ceremony graced by Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong. The 30-year-old hospice relocated its headquarters and Day Hospice service from its previous premises at Jalan Tan Tock Seng. Currently serving more than half of the home hospice patients in Singapore, HCA has been offering holistic palliative care to patients, as well as psychosocial and bereavement support to families, since its establishment in 1989.

President of HCA Hospice Care, Dr Tan Poh Kiang said, "From our new space, we continue to be close to our patients and their families, delivering care directly to their homes. We have transformed ourselves in the last three decades: the pioneering spirit of our founders who were determined to relieve suffering is now imbued in a professional organisation that provides holistic palliative care and support to patients and their families in the last leg of life's journey. Our mission remains unchanged."

Improving Accessibility to Day Hospice Service

Following the move, HCA now offers return transport to the Day Hospice right from the patient's doorstep. This encourages more wheelchair-bound patients to access and benefit from the activities and therapeutic programmes at the Day Hospice. Ten to 12 patients on wheels now attend the Day Hospice each day. Patients were previously required to be ambulant to visit the centre.

Filled with much warmth and camaraderie, the day hospice is often abuzz with life and laughter. "I was unable to walk due to a spinal tumour when I first came to the day hospice in 2016," says day hospice patient Mr Eric Ong. "I was very depressed then, but the day hospice staff never gave up on me – they constantly encouraged me to participate in the activities and physiotherapy exercises."

"We aim to continue extending our services to more patients in need, in particular, patients who are physically weaker and have fewer opportunities to leave the confines of their homes," says Ms Angeline Wee, CEO of HCA. "We are also improving the quality and variety of our programmes, in order to enhance patients' experience."

Unveiling the Heritage Murals

In conjunction with the opening ceremony, HCA also unveiled its heritage area, featuring a series of murals painted by local artist Yip Yew Chong. Providing a bird's eye view of the hospice and palliative movement in Singapore, the murals adopt a micro-journalism approach, using a myriad of little visual stories to tell a simple yet powerful tale about the movement. It also reflects the important roles that each hospice



provider in Singapore plays in fulfilling the collective mission of adding life to days.

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ABOUT HCA HOSPICE CARE

HCA Hospice Care (HCA) is Singapore's largest home hospice provider and has been a registered charity since 1989. The organisation provides comfort and support to patients with life-limiting illnesses regardless of age, religion, ethnicity, nationality and financial status.

HCA's core service, home hospice care, is provided at no charge to about 3,500 patients annually. Besides medical care for patients, this service also entails psychosocial support for patients and caregivers. A 24/7 hotline ensures help is available round-the-clock.

HCA is a NCSS Centre of Specialisation for palliative care, and conducts palliative care training for its patients' caregivers. Its other services and programmes include day hospice care, paediatric palliative care (Star PALS), bereavement support, and outreach programmes such as the Young Caregivers Programme.

Find out more at www.hca.org.sg.