

Easing their autumn years

Are the needs of Singapore's older generation being sufficiently addressed in policy and practice? What more needs to be done?

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GREYING needs are constantly changing and likewise, policies will have to be monitored and calibrated periodically to adjust suitably to changes. Medishield Life is a good enhancement to current health policies where private insurance policies with age caps may not adequately cover the older generation. The motion should start from minimising needs rather than addressing them, by way of encouraging personal health ownership and management.

Senior citizens, especially those who were former civil servants, would have retired at a relatively young age in accordance with previous retirement policies, and they form a good pool of resources with their wealth of knowledge and experience to contribute to the younger generations. We should engage them actively in consultative roles to keep them mentally and physically challenged. By being gainfully employed, we keep the older generation socially mindful and at the same time, allow new generations to benefit from their sharing. Creating employment opportunities to welcome the older generation helps to provide them with a stable stream of income and at the same time, makes them feel useful and wanted.

In addition to government policies, we do see more corporations and individuals adopting charitable activities involving the seniors and this is certainly a healthy trend in sharing the good and lessening social burdens.