



People's Action Party



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Budget 2015 is “Pro-Woman”, timely recognition for International Women’s Day 2015

Kicks Off PAP Women’s Wing 2015/16 Agenda to Strengthen Women Empowerment through Accessing SkillsFuture

7, March 2015, Singapore - The common denominator underlying the Budget Debate speeches delivered by every PAP Women MP this week is the recognition that the Government’s investment in our women’s lifelong education will be the best insurance for them to build and retain financial security and the Budget 2015 is Pro-Woman because of it. The women MPs spoke out for SkillsFuture to become more flexible for women, easier for them to tap through e-learning and encouraged family members to transfer un-used credits to stay-home-moms, because they appreciate how this lifelong learning fund can raise women capacity to help them better cope with struggles in balancing family and career pursuits.

The fact there are even larger benefits built-in for those 40 and above sends a strong signal that the Government is cognizant that Singaporeans in this category, both men and women, will have greater opportunity costs. This gives women who have left the workforce to become stay home mothers greater confidence and assurance that age will be no barrier for them to return to the workforce later and it will be a *norm* for them to contribute economically in their mature years.

In this sense, this Budget gives timely recognition to women for this year’s International Women’s Day. On this premise, PAP Women’s Wing (“PAP WW”) sets its 2015/16 agenda to commit outreach resources to better communicate the scheme and actively help women on the ground connect and tap on SkillsFuture when it is launched.

Said Chair of PAP WW, Ms Grace Fu, “Women MPs have spoken out in support of SkillsFuture because we recognize that this scheme, if implemented well, will empower women and enable them to realize their potential in the multiple roles that they play in the family and the society.

We believe even as the Government has made shifts to the left and increased more welfare payouts for our elderly, Singaporean women will want to develop their capacity to earn and save for their retirement. And if there are funding opportunities for self-upgrading and continuous learning, they can avail themselves to create greater lives for themselves and their families.”

The PAP WW will do its part to be at the forefront of efforts to ensure our women, wives, mothers, aunts, sisters, daughters and girlfriends will get to know of such options and grants available to them and help them learn to make use of SkillsFuture for their lifelong benefits.

Some of the efforts will include awareness building talks and forums about SkillsFuture and how to use it, organising visits to institutional ‘open house’ and career building counselling for stay at home moms thinking of returning to the workforce.

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**Issued for & Behalf of PAP Women’s Wing
By PAP HQ**

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