

# NDR 2019: Eight things to know

Grace Ho sums up the highlights from PM Lee Hsien Loong's speech.

## 1 More affordable pre-school education

- Monthly household income ceiling to qualify for pre-school means-tested subsidies will be \$12,000, up from \$7,500.

- Full-day pre-school expenses to come down to about \$300 a month in the medium term.
- Proportion of government-backed pre-school places to go up to 80 per cent, from 50 per cent.
- KidStart for the lower income to include another 5,000 children in next three years.

## 2 Lower tertiary education fees, bigger bursaries

- Annual fees for Singapore Institute of Technology and Singapore University of Social Sciences students to be lowered to \$7,500, from \$8,000.

- Bursaries to cover up to 75 per cent of fees for general degrees at local universities, from 50 per cent now, and up to 95 per cent of polytechnic fees, from 80 per cent now.
- Enhanced bursaries also for courses at ITE, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and Lasalle College of the Arts.
- Bursaries for medical students will be significantly more than for other university courses. For lower-income medical students, fees will be capped at \$5,000 a year.



## 3 Retirement and re-employment ages to go up from 2022

- Retirement age to be raised from 62 to 63 in 2022, then gradually to 65 by 2030.
- Re-employment age to go up from 67 to 68, then to 70 by 2030.

## 4 Higher CPF contribution rates for older workers

- CPF rates for workers older than 55 to be raised from 2021.
- By around 2030, those 60 and younger will get full rates.
- Businesses to get help to adjust. Support package will be announced in next year's Budget.
- No changes to CPF withdrawal policies or withdrawal ages.



## 5 Government to help businesses and workers in downturn

- Current situation does not warrant immediate stimulus measures.
- If it gets much worse, the Government will respond with interventions to sustain workers' livelihood.

## 6 Greater Southern Waterfront to be a 'Punggol by the Bay'

- 9,000 public and private homes to be built at the site of Keppel Club.
- New offices, waterfront promenades, greenery and open spaces along southern coastline.
- Greater Southern Waterfront to link up with other green areas: West Coast Park to East Coast Park, and the Rail Corridor with Sentosa.

## 7 New resort on Pulau Brani, attractions

- Pulau Brani and Sentosa to be developed, with new attractions.
- "Downtown South" resort may be built on Pulau Brani.
- Sentosa's beaches to be revitalised, and nature and heritage trails expanded.
- Two old power stations in Pasir Panjang could be nightlife destinations.



## 8 Measures to tackle climate change

- Protecting Singapore against rising sea levels estimated to cost \$100 billion or more.
- Second pump house to be built at opposite end of Marina Barrage.
- A series of new offshore islands from Marina East to Changi could be reclaimed and connected with barrages to create a reservoir.
- Polders and dykes could be built along the coastline to help protect Singapore from rising sea levels.