

5 November 2007



Dear Residents

The past months have seen many things happening around Nee Soon South and more so around Singapore. There was certainly no lack of topics for discussion but this month let me focus on our workers.

There is concern in some quarters how can families look after themselves when they are older. Let me assure you, my dear constituents, that indeed there are many schemes and programmes in place to help everyone to earn enough for both the CPF active and retirement accounts.

I have in mind the unique Workfare Income Supplement Scheme (WIS), a long-term programme targeting at older lower wages workers. This scheme will complement changes to CPF employer and employee contribution rates that came into effect on 1 July 2007.

The WIS is especially designed to get older lower wages workers to find work and to stay on the job. This will in turn mean helping them to save for their old age.

The current maximum WIS is \$100 a month (or \$1,200 a year). This amount is increased for older workers. Those who are 55-60 years, the maximum payout is up by 50 per cent to \$150 a month.

For above 60, the maximum payment is up by 100 per cent to \$200 a month. Therefore, a worker who earns \$1,000 a month gets a 20 per cent top up on his wages through the WIS. The self-employed above 55 will similarly get higher WIS.

The changes are implemented immediately. Those above 55 will receive higher WIS payments in January 2008 for work already done in the first half of 2007. More than 50 per cent of older workers are expected to get WIS. All this will cost the Government over \$400m per year!

If you are self-employed or informally employed, you need to contribute to your CPF Medisave Account in order to qualify for the WIS.

If you are self-employed, Medisave contributions for the first payment for work done in 2007 will also see attractive Medisave contribution rates.

To be eligible for WIS for work done in 2007, you must be:

- A Singapore Citizen
- Have a monthly income of up to \$1,500
- Be above 35 years of age as at 1 Jan 2008
- Stay in a property with an Annual Value of \$10,000 or less as at 30 Dec 2006 and
- Work at least three months in any six months period in the calendar year for half the payout, or at least six months in the calendar year for the full payout.

I urge those of you who are interested in the scheme to come forward and register by 30th November 2007, if you wish to receive the first payment in January 2008.

If you have any doubts, why not come and see me at my Meet-the-People Session? I will be more than happy to listen to you and assist you.

Let's grow together and prosper.

Er Lee Bee Wah

MP for Ang Mo Kio GRC and Adviser to Nee Soon South GROs

亲爱的居民，

过去数月，我们的身边环绕了不少热门话题。在此，我想谈一谈一个工友们关心的课题。

政府一向来都非常关注低薪工友所面对的难题，多年来推出了多项辅助计划，想方设法地帮助低薪工友们填补公积金及退休户头，为他们的乐龄生活做好准备。

就业入息补助计划(WIS)是政府特别为年纪较大的低薪工友而设的另一项长期计划。该计划和低薪工友的新公积金缴交率，于今年7月1日同时进行。政府补贴合格工友们的工资和公积金，除了能加强年长工友的受雇能力外，也协助他们储蓄防老。

在这项补助计划下，月入1000元或以下的合格工友每月将获得最多100元的补助（相等于一年1千200元）。政府将以渐进的方式为55岁以上的工友增加入息补助，55至60岁的工友，每月将获得最多150元的补助。同样的，60岁以上工友每月将获得最多200元的补助。55岁以上的低薪自雇人士也将从这计划中受惠。

有关计划已经生效。因此，在2007年上半年工作至少3个月的55岁合格工友将在2008年1月获取第一笔就业入息补助。据估计，这项就业入息补助计划将让超过50%的连长工友受益，每年耗资约4亿新元。

至于低收入的自雇人士与散工，他们无须缴交全率的保健储蓄，就可享有部分的就业入息补助津贴。不过，与其他低薪雇员不同，这些目前没缴交全额公积金的人，可获得的就业入息补助津贴将拨入他们的保健储蓄户头。

就业入息补助计划已公开给公众申请。合格的申请人，必须符合以下条件：

- 新加坡公民
- 每月收入1500元或以下
- 35岁以上 (1 Jan 2008)
- 居住的房屋年值 (Annual value) 不能超过一万元 (30 Dec 2006)
- 在历年 (Calendar year) 的6个月内工作至少3个月，或在历年内工作至少6个月。

有兴趣的申请者，请在2007年11月30日前登记。如有任何疑问，欢迎您到每星期四的议员接见民众时间查询，我将非常乐意地从旁协助。

让我们同舟共济，一同打造更美好的明天。谢谢。

李美花工程师

洪茂桥集选区议员及

义顺南基层组织顾问