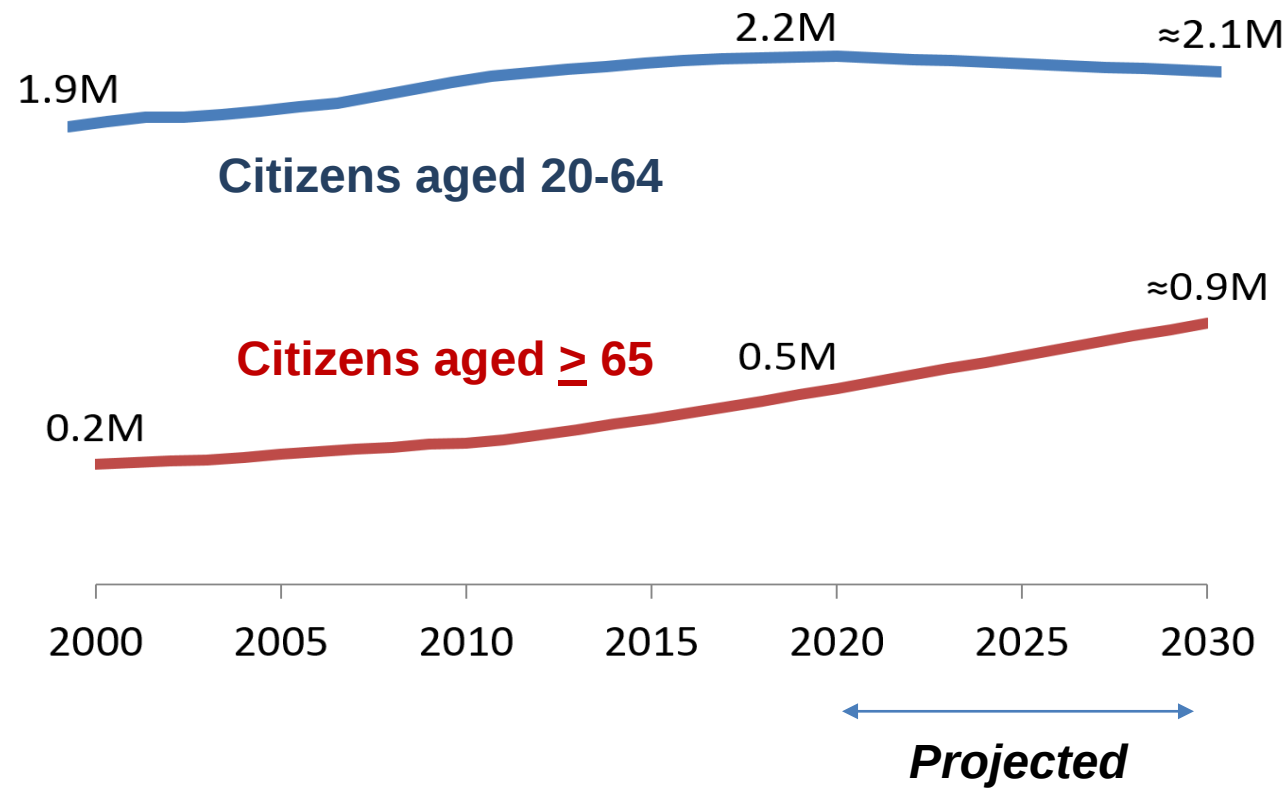


Singapore's Sharing for the Regional Conference on Promoting Decent Work for Older Persons for an Inclusive Society in ASEAN

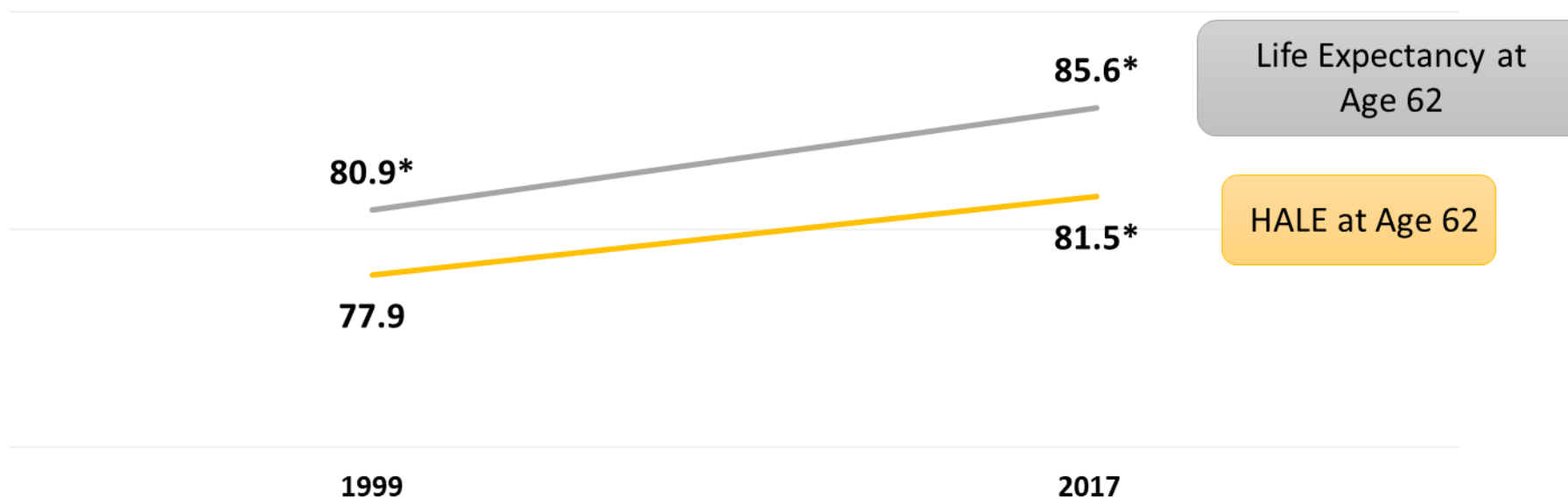
28 June 2021
SOMSWD Singapore

Our older population will double over the next 10 years



Singaporeans are living longer and spending more years in better health

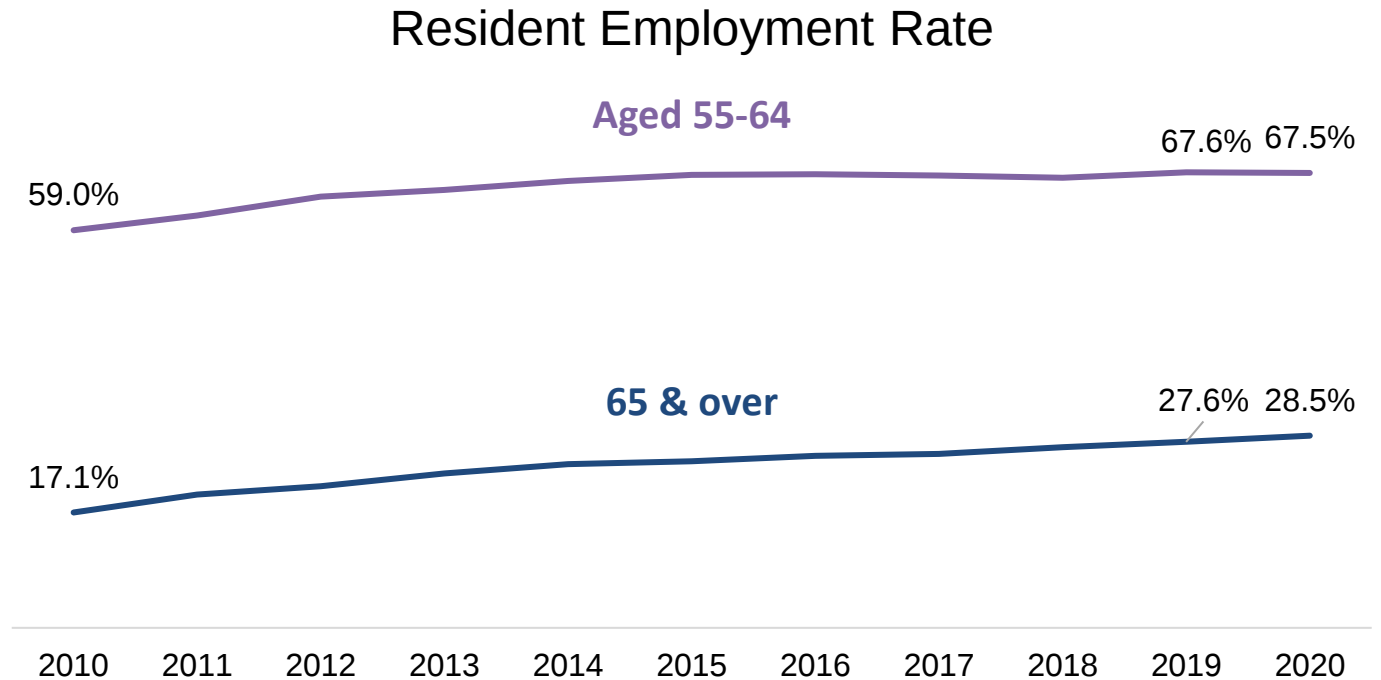
Changes in Life Expectancy / Health Adjusted Life Expectancy (HALE) at Age 62 (1999 vs. 2017)



Source: Singapore Department of Statistics. Figures marked by asterisks are Ministry of Manpower estimates using figures from Singapore Department of Statistics and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. Life expectancy figures pertain to residents, while HALE figures pertain to the total population (i.e. residents and non-residents).

Our approach is to support senior workers who wish to continue working; employment rates have improved

- Our senior workers can fulfil their aspirations to work for as long as they wish, while contributing meaningfully to a vibrant economy; COVID-19 did not significantly impact their employment rate
- Retirement and Re-employment Act protects employees from being dismissed on grounds of age before statutory retirement age



We adopt an innovative model of a Retirement Age, followed by a Re-employment Age.

The Tripartite Workgroup on Older Workers made recommendations to achieve productive longevity in Singapore

- In 2018, the Tripartite Workgroup on Older Workers was convened to prepare our employers and ageing workforce for the future.
- In 2019, it set out a comprehensive set of recommendations and provided a clear roadmap for national strategy for productive longevity over the next decade till 2030.



The Government accepted all 22 recommendations by the Workgroup at the National Day Rally 2019



Increase Retirement Age and Re-employment Age over the next decade



Encourage employers to develop inclusive workforce and progressive workplaces that value senior workers



Raise CPF contribution rates of senior workers aged 55 to 70 gradually over the years

Support for employers to implement necessary changes, including creating more age-friendly workplaces

~\$1.5bn Senior Worker Support Package

Announced at Budget 2020, topped up in Feb 2021



Senior Employment Credit

(from 1 Jan 2021)

CPF Transition Offset

(from 1 Jan 2022)

Senior Worker Early Adopter Grant

(from 1 Jul 2020)

Part-Time Re-employment Grant

(from 1 Jul 2020)

Assistance schemes for those requiring financial support

There are existing assistance schemes for Singaporeans financially impacted by COVID-19, including older persons:

COVID-19 schemes

- To mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, the Singapore Government implemented temporary schemes such as the COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG) and COVID-19 Recovery Grant – Temporary (CRG-T).
- CRG provides financial assistance to lower- to middle-income employees and Self-Employed Persons (SEPs) who experience job loss, involuntary No-Pay Leave (NPL) or significant income loss. *[Over 10,500 beneficiaries of CRG as at end-March 2021]*
- CRG is intended to provide support while individuals actively search for a new job or training opportunities. CRG applicants are required to demonstrate efforts in job search or training efforts (i.e. job applications, attending job interviews or training programmes).

ComCare

- ComCare is a key social safety net of Singapore which provides social assistance for low-income individuals and families:
 - **ComCare Short-To-Medium-Term Assistance** supports individuals and families who are temporarily unable to work, are looking for employment, or are drawing low wages and require financial assistance. *[About 28,800 households assisted in Financial Year 2019]*
 - **ComCare Long-Term Assistance** supports individuals who are permanently unable to work due to old age, illness, or disability and have limited or no family support. *[About 4,200 households assisted in Financial Year 2019. The majority of beneficiaries (80%) were elderly, from single person households]*
- Assistance includes cash assistance for basic living expenses, assistance with utility bills, medical assistance and referrals to relevant partner agencies.

Impact of COVID-19 on homelessness

- The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a rise in the number of homeless persons:
 - Economic and social impact of the pandemic, e.g. family or co-tenant conflict exacerbated due to movement restrictions during Circuit Breaker, loss of jobs/income affecting accommodation.
 - Some who are unable to return to their accommodation overseas due to travel restrictions.
 - Overall greater awareness of shelter and increased willingness to seek shelter.
- Since April 2020, we have sheltered over 900 individuals. More than 300 of them have transited from shelters to longer-term housing (e.g. public rental housing, returned home to families).
 - About 40% were seniors aged 60 and above.

Singapore

More seeking shelter during circuit breaker period; help for homeless to go beyond COVID-19: MSF



A rough sleeper is seen sleeping on chairs.

Source: The Straits Times (4 May 2020). "More seeking shelter during circuit breaker period; help for homeless to go beyond COVID-19: MSF".

Efforts to provide support to the homeless



Network to help the homeless in Singapore expands as efforts ramp up to find them shelter



Cara Wong
The Straits Times

MSF set up the **Partners Engaging and Empowering Rough Sleepers (PEERS) Network** with community partners in 2019 – *Conducts regular night walks to reach out and befriend homeless people, and refer them to appropriate help agencies.*

MSF worked with PEERS partners to set up **Safe Sound Sleeping Places (S3Ps)** in community premises (e.g. mosques, churches) to provide safe overnight shelters to rough sleepers.

MSF set up two new Transitional Shelters for Individuals in Jan 2021 to provide continual shelter and social work intervention to homeless individuals while they work towards obtaining longer term housing.

With this expansion of about 400 spaces, it brings the total TS spaces for individuals to around 500.



Shared common space in a unit at the new TS



SSAs mobilized volunteers for the move

Thank You