

Three more areas designated as Age Well Neighbourhoods

Move to help seniors age independently, comfortably, with a sense of purpose

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Bedok, Bukit Panjang, and Tiong Bahru-Redhill have been designated as Age Well Neighbourhoods (AWNs), where seniors can access enhanced care services and senior-friendly infrastructure to help them age independently and comfortably, with a sense of purpose.

AWN features will be rolled out progressively from 2026 in towns with a higher proportion of seniors.

This follows the announcement of the first AWN in Toa Payoh by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong at the National Day Rally in August 2025.

The four AWNs will benefit more than 10,000 seniors, a joint statement by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Transport said on May 7.

The three ministries lead the AWN national initiative, which builds on ongoing Age Well SG efforts aimed at enabling seniors to age independently within their communities.

This is the start of an effort to make every neighbourhood a place to age well in – by strengthening the outreach to seniors to keep them active and socially connected; coordinating the work across different care providers to offer seniors one touchpoint in the community; and bringing healthcare closer to where they live.

Mr Ong Ye Keng, Singapore's Coordinating Minister for Social Policies and Health Minister, said on



The first Age Well Neighbourhood in Toa Payoh (left) was announced in 2025. Together with Bedok, Bukit Panjang and Tiong Bahru-Redhill, the four designated areas will benefit over 10,000 seniors with enhanced care services and senior-friendly infrastructure, such as Friendly Streets. ST PHOTO: JASEL POH

May 7 that the AWNs will be supported by healthcare clusters.

NHG Health is supporting the Toa Payoh AWN. SingHealth will be supporting the Bedok and Tiong Bahru-Redhill ones, and the National University Health System will support Bukit Panjang.

"That way, our healthcare clusters can quickly build up the experience and capabilities to support AWNs, and work with the community care sector, and then once they learn the ropes, (the clusters) can scale up (AWNs)' work even further," he said during the Agency for Integrated Care's (AIC) Community Care Work Plan Seminar 2026 at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre.

AWNs are designed to bolster community-based support for seniors. They will feature improvements across the four main Age Well SG components: active ageing centres (AACs), enhanced Home Personal Care (HPC+), community health posts (CHPs) and senior-friendly infrastructure.

The AWNs will offer more active ageing programmes and open satellite centres, or so-called AAC touchpoints, to bring services closer to seniors' homes. There are more than 230 AACs today. They are no longer just centres that run activities for seniors, but to place where seniors step out to lead.

"In many AACs, seniors are the ones who open and close the (centre). They help to keep it going, even after office hours. They deliver meals. They serve as medical escorts and befriended those who need extra help," he said.

"Volunteering to help others... is one of the best forms of active ageing, and a key focus area for us."

At home, frail seniors can benefit from the expanded suite of services available through HPC+. New features include care staff based within AWNs, who can assist eligible seniors with activities relating to daily living needs.

Mr Eugene Yuen, deputy group head of TOUCH Elderly Group at TOUCH Community Services, which provides HPC+ services in Toa Payoh, said the new service will be piloted in Toa Payoh, with a team of four staff working in shifts.

"Seniors in Toa Payoh will have the added benefit of receiving 24/7 unscheduled personal care support, which might include diaper changes or bathing. They will also receive timely help," he added.

Seniors in AWNs can also access health services like chronic disease management and medication reviews at CHPs, which are manned by health teams led by nurses and often located at or near an AAC.

Selected CHPs will be enhanced to better serve residents by opening weekly, instead of fortnightly or

monthly, and offering an expanded scope of health services.

Mr Ong said that in this initial phase, the CHPs' work is focused on population and preventive health. The healthcare clusters are trying out different initiatives, such as delivering health talks, giving general health advice, providing medication management support, and conducting geriatric assessments like frailty tests.

Residents can schedule an appointment or walk in for basic health assessments, health advice, or assistance with accessing healthcare schemes and services.

AWNs will undergo infrastructure upgrades to ensure environments are more senior-friendly and accessible for older residents.

Within AWNs, roads that are near key amenities will be transformed into "Friendly Streets" to make them safer and more convenient for seniors. Such roads will have 40kmh speed limits and road humps, be narrower to slow vehicles down, and even have longer "green man" pedestrian crossing times.

The three ministries also highlighted the enhancements to the Toa Payoh AWN, such as expanded HPC+ offerings like more timely support from the second half of 2026.

Active Ageing Group at Care Corner operates the majority of the

AACs in Toa Payoh and is adding six satellite locations or touchpoints there.

Ms Sharon Tang, the group's deputy director, said it aims to add the first AAC touchpoint by December, while working on drawing seniors to the AACs.

"We want to get like-minded seniors with similar interests to form micro-communities at the AACs. They can also invite their friends to grow the group, and then we can guide them to run the group on their own," she said.

One centre has already started a brisk walking group, which attracted 30 seniors earlier in 2026, she added.

The three ministries said the features for the Bedok, Bukit Panjang and Tiong Bahru-Redhill AWNs will be implemented progressively from 2026. For instance, enhanced CHPs have started operations in Bedok and Tiong Bahru-Redhill, with Bukit Panjang to follow in September.

Additional AAC touchpoints will open in the next two years, and expanded HPC+ offerings will be available from the first half of 2027 in Bukit Panjang and Tiong Bahru-Redhill, and from the second half of 2027 in Bedok.

In his speech, Mr Ong said that the Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Health will slow down the launch of community care apartments (CCAs) because of reduced demand for these purpose-built HDB apartments that are paired with care services and social activities. Previously, there were plans to launch up to 30 such projects across Singapore by 2030.

"When they were first launched, (CCAs) were very popular, with many applications. However, over the years, with more assisted living options and improvements to community care for seniors, the demand has come down and moderated very significantly," he said.

HDB has launched five CCA projects in Bukit Batok, Queenstown, Bedok, Geylang and Serangoon, and the next CCA in Toa Payoh will be launched in October.

Currently, CCA residents pay a fee for a basic service package comprising curated active ageing programmes and on-site care services.

As there are similarities between subsidised long-term care services and this package, the subsidies will be aligned, which will make this package more affordable for eligible CCA residents. More details will be shared when ready, Mr Ong said.

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Enhancements for Toa Payoh Age Well Neighbourhood

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The Government has designated three more Age Well Neighbourhoods (AWNs) in Bedok, Bukit Panjang and Tiong Bahru-Redhill, in addition to the current one in Toa Payoh.

AWNs come under the Age Well SG national programme, which supports seniors to age well in their homes and their communities and is led by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of National Development (MND) and the Ministry of Transport.

The AWNs will have a range of enhancements to four key Age Well SG components: active ageing centres (AACs), enhanced Home Personal Care (HPC+), community health posts (CHPs) and senior-friendly infrastructure, said the three ministries in a joint statement.

Toa Payoh, one of Singapore's oldest towns, was named an AWN in August 2025.

Here is a look at the key enhancements for this AWN:

- Three new AAC touchpoints – smaller satellite locations – will be added by December, with another four by March 2027. This will bring the total number of AACs and AAC touchpoints in Toa Payoh to 16.
- More comprehensive and timely community care service for frail seniors living at home under the expanded HPC+ offerings by Touch Community Services, from the second half of 2026.
- Three enhanced CHPs operated by NHG Health began services



The Age Well Neighbourhoods will have a range of enhancements to four key Age Well SG components: active ageing centres, enhanced Home Personal Care, community health posts and senior-friendly infrastructure. ST FILE PHOTO

in January. Manned by health teams led by nurses, they offer services like chronic disease management and medication reviews.

- Physical infrastructural improvements by the second half of 2028.
- An additional "Friendly Street" to be completed by 2028. At Friendly Streets, speed limits are lowered to 40kmh and complemented with measures such as road humps and

narrower roads to slow down vehicles. There are also pedestrian-friendly features such as more frequent and longer "green man" crossing times and raised zebra crossings.

- Lifts at the three pedestrian overhead bridges that connect to the upcoming Toa Payoh Integrated Development, a mega community, sports and entertainment project that is expected to be completed by

2030.

- Households in 37 Housing Board blocks can opt for subsidised senior-friendly fittings under MND's Enhancement for Active Seniors programme, when undergoing the Home Improvement Programme.
- Upcoming sensory garden at Block 149 Lorong 1 Toa Payoh to be completed in 2027.

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Age Well Neighbourhood initiatives

Various enhancements will be implemented gradually in Toa Payoh from 2026 to make the town more senior-friendly.



- Active ageing centre (AAC) touchpoint
- Upcoming AAC touchpoint
- ▲ Community health post (CHP)
- ▲ Enhanced CHP
- Silver Upgrading Programme
- Neighbourhood Renewal Programme
- ◆ Upcoming sensory garden
- ◆ Rejuvenation of Toa Payoh Town Park, which includes a therapeutic garden
- Existing Friendly Street/ Silver Zone
- Upcoming Friendly Street (subject to engagement with local community)
- Home Improvement Programme
- ★ Lift enhancement at pedestrian overhead bridge

Sources: MND, PHD, HQT, STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS