

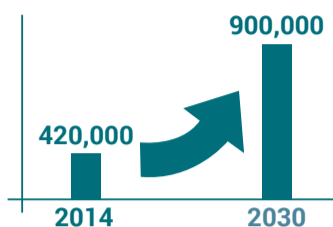
# PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## ON DRAFT VULNERABLE ADULTS BILL 2016

The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) invites members of the public to give their views on the draft Vulnerable Adults Bill. The proposed Bill allows the State to step in for high risk cases where state intervention is necessary to protect and ensure the safety of the vulnerable adult, and repeated family, community and/or social work interventions have been exhausted.

### SINGAPORE'S POPULATION IS AGEING RAPIDLY

#### Elderly residents in Singapore



- ▶ By 2030, there will be over 900,000 residents aged 65 and above.
- ▶ Persons with disabilities are also living longer, and many are expected to outlive their parents.

### WE ALL PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN PROTECTING VULNERABLE ADULTS



#### FAMILY

Family members serve as the first line of protection



#### COMMUNITY

Network of community and social service agencies supports families in providing care and protection



#### STATE

State steps in for high risk cases where state intervention is necessary to protect and ensure the safety of the vulnerable adult, and repeated family, community and/or social work interventions have been exhausted

### KEY AREAS PROPOSED IN THE VULNERABLE ADULTS BILL



#### WHO IS A VULNERABLE ADULT?

- ▶ An individual aged 18 or older
- ▶ Has a physical or mental infirmity
- ▶ Is incapable of protecting himself from abuse, neglect or self-neglect



#### ABUSE

Refers to abuse of a physical, sexual or emotional/psychological nature.



#### NEGLECT

Refers to the failure of an individual to provide essential care to the vulnerable adult.



#### SELF-NEGLECT

Refers to a vulnerable adult's inability to care for himself. May be associated with behaviours such as severe hoarding.

### SUPPORT FAMILIES IN PROVIDING CARE AND PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS

#### Guiding Principles

- 01 Protect the vulnerable adult from abuse, neglect and self-neglect
- 02 A vulnerable adult with mental capacity is best placed to decide how to live and whether to accept any assistance
- 03 If the vulnerable adult lacks mental capacity, his past and present views, wishes, feelings, values and beliefs should be considered
- 04 To have regard for intervention that is less restrictive of the vulnerable adult's rights and freedom of action



Empower Director and Protectors to:

- get information about suspected vulnerable adults
- enter private premises to assess the person's well-being
- temporarily re-locate vulnerable adults to places of care and protection



Protect public officers and other professionals charged with protecting a vulnerable adult from personal liability when performing their duties.



Allow application to court for orders to protect the vulnerable adult (e.g. orders to restrict access or restrain abuse to the vulnerable adult).



Prevent the publishing of information that identifies the vulnerable adult, while protecting persons involved in protecting him (including whistle-blowers).



Designate certain care facilities as places of temporary care and protection or long-term places of safety for vulnerable adults.



Enhance penalties for relevant offences under Penal Code and Protection from Harassment Act committed against vulnerable adults, e.g. causing hurt, sexual offences.

More information on the draft Bill can be found on [www.reach.gov.sg/VAA2016](http://www.reach.gov.sg/VAA2016)  
The public can submit their views on the draft Bill via the following channels.

Email: [consultations@msf.gov.sg](mailto:consultations@msf.gov.sg)  
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