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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

RETIRED NURSES OPT FOR RE-EMPLOYMENT AT IMH

Some stayed long enough to develop special bonds with the patients while others carved 30-year long career paths at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH). These highly-valued nurses are likely to continue spending their post-retirement years sharing their wealth of experience with the launch of the Everglow Nurses' Programme today.

Offering retired nurses creative job options and an opportunity to remain in the workforce under a flexi-hour work scheme, Everglow Nurses' Programme by IMH aims to re-employ retired nurses. Their responsibilities include training, promoting patient safety as well as maintaining clinical standards of care.

Dr Premarani K who heads the nursing department, views these nurses as an asset to IMH. *"Their vast experience and deep understanding of our patients assist us in providing quality care and ultimately improving patient outcomes. They are also helping us to mentor younger nurses, shorten their learning curve and increase their adaptation to the work environment. The mere fact that they have come back to IMH underscores their passion for nursing and compassion towards our patients".*

As the life expectancy rises to 80, up from 60 when the Central Provident Fund system was first implemented, the government is legislating re-employment till 65, encouraging people to work into their 60s until 65. With the 2012 Re-employment Act expected to kick in, that is when the Draw Down Age under the Central Provident Fund system will be raised by one year for every two years until it reaches 65 by 2018.

Ms Peggy Ong, Human Resource Deputy Director: *"Kicking off our Everglow programme would set the momentum for hospital staff to accept the mature staff as partners and mentors. For 62-year-old nurses planning to retire, this programme offers them an avenue to continue contributing to IMH. We treasure their wealth of experience and believe that the strong passion they have for nursing will make a difference in the lives of our patients."*

Depending on the job responsibility of the re-employed nurses, adequate training will be conducted for them to keep abreast of the latest developments in nursing. The

customised training offered can include Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) certification as well as familiarisation with new tools and computer systems.

On being recently re-employed as a Community Psychiatric Nurse, Mdm Dora Yeo says, "Coming back to work is like homecoming for me because I've been with IMH for more than three decades. I have grown so attached to this place, and of course I yearn to apply my skills and knowledge in psychiatric nursing, especially so after I obtained my Master Degree in Social Science (Counselling) this April."

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About the Institute of Mental Health

The Institute of Mental Health/Woodbridge Hospital (IMH/WH) is a leading mental health centres in Asia offering a multi-faceted and comprehensive range of psychiatric, rehabilitative and counselling services designed to meet the needs of namely (i) children & adolescents, (ii) adults and (iii) the elderly. IMH/WH's multi-disciplinary approach to patient care is supported by the departments of Nursing, Clinical Psychology, Occupational Therapy, and Medical Social Work. Offering inpatient care and outpatient care, it has also established various satellite clinics around Singapore. IMH/WH provides community education and supports corporations in the promotion of mental health and wellness. As a specialist centre, it integrates research in the best interest of patient-care. Equipped with modern facilities, it is the first mental health institution in Asia to receive the Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation, an award that represents a worldwide consensus on quality patient care and international best practices.