



MEDIA RELEASE

SG YOUTH PLAN SETS OUT FIVE-YEAR ROADMAP TO HELP YOUTHS THRIVE IN A CHANGING WORLD

More than 20 wide-ranging initiatives provide thousands of opportunities for youths to build confidence, deepen connection and contribute to Singapore's future

Saturday, 25 July 2026 – President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Mr David Neo, Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Senior Minister of State for Education unveiled the SG Youth Plan at the SG Youth Forum today. Over 20 initiatives will be implemented over the next five years to help young Singaporeans navigate an increasingly complex world.

Youth Voices Uncertainty in a Changing World

2 MCCY and NYC engaged more than 60,000 youths and gathered more than 415,000 responses from youths and stakeholders between November 2024 and March 2026.

3 **Youths in Singapore are optimistic and desire to contribute to the community, but they are feeling uncertain in a changing world. Yet, bonds with friends and family, which are key support systems for youths, may be weakened in a highly digital world.**

- Overall, 76% of youths are confident about Singapore's future, but only 66% feel confident about their own future.
- On **careers and well-being**, 91% aspire to have meaningful careers but 52% worry that they lack the skills to keep pace with a fast-changing economy. About 40% view AI as a threat to opportunities rather than an enabler. These pressures have contributed to rising mental health concerns, with 30% of youths reporting related issues.
- On **friendships and family**, youths report shrinking social circles, in today's hyperconnected environment. 8% say they have no close friends. Youths continue to view family relations as important, with 93% citing strong family relationship as an important life goal.

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- On **community action**, youths are eager to contribute: 82% want to participate in discussions about Singapore's future, and 80% express a strong desire to serve their communities.

SG Youth Plan: A Whole-of-Nation effort to nurture youths as Confident, Connected and Contributing citizens.

4 The challenges facing Singapore's youth are not unique. Across the world, young people are navigating an unprecedented convergence of economic, social and technological pressures. **The Youth Plan is a co-creation among the public, people, and private sectors to positively support our youths and help them thrive in an uncertain world.**

Pillar 1: Building Confidence and Resilience

5 **In a fast-changing world, confidence comes from keeping abreast of the changes as industries and jobs evolve.** The SG Youth Plan seeks to democratise opportunities for youths to get closer to careers and workplaces and provide ongoing support so that they do not feel alone and unsure when having to make key decisions or navigate life transitions. Key moves under the plan include:

- **Up to 30,000 job tasters annually by 2030** – NYC will be partnering corporates in both the public and private sectors to significantly ramp up the provision of job tasters, which are “light” bite-sized exposure and insights into different jobs, careers, and workplaces. Youths find these useful to help them better think about what courses they should choose at different points of their educational and career journey. The expansion allows us to meaningfully democratise these opportunities to youths at large, regardless of their backgrounds.
- **Up to 20,000 mentoring opportunities annually by 2030** – NYC will work with the people and private sectors to provide a diverse range of mentoring opportunities – from one-to-many, to one-to-one mentoring sessions – so that youths can have access to people who can give them insights that help them in deciding their learning and career paths.
- **Additional 9,500 annual overseas exposure opportunities by 2030** – Being able to see opportunities in the region and the world is critical to employability. Both NYC and MOE will be expanding the number of overseas exposure opportunities for youths, ranging from short-term programmes to internships in the region.
- **Democratising AI** – AI will reshape jobs but can also be a great boost for employability and a social leveller if youths master it. Under the SG Youth Plan, NYC will partner a number of private and people sector organisations to democratise exposure to AI, especially among youths who come from less advantaged backgrounds.

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- **Adulting 101** – Many youths feel that transiting to adulthood is daunting. MCCY/NYC and MOE will introduce more topics relating to adulting to IHL students in the next few years.
- **Mental Health Support at Life Transitions** – Youths feel the most stressed during key transitions in life, such as from secondary to post-secondary education, and from education to work. NYC is partnering a number of social service agencies and community partners to introduce new mental well-being programmes targeted at addressing the stressors at life transitions.

Pillar 2: Rebuilding Human Connections

6 Good friends and strong family support are important pillars of strength for our youths, as they navigate an uncertain world. However, these bonds risk being eroded in a highly digitalised world. The SG Youth Plan seeks to create opportunities for youths to come together and bond physically with friends and family. Key moves include:

- **A network of 12 new “third spaces” where youths can access, come together, and have fun** – These will be in addition to a brand-new Somerset Belt that will be remade for youths by 2028.
- **Up to 20,000 opportunities for youths to access and bond over interest activities and hobbies** – NYC will work with different organisations to organise and offer hobbies and interest-based activities.
- **A “Curiosity Credit” programme with the Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** – Youths aged 13-17 years old in the SHGs will receive \$500 in credits to enable them to learn a skill in their areas of interest.
- **Private operators to offer affordable, flexible accommodation units for youths** – Two private operators will set aside over 100 units at a discounted rate for Singapore youths, aged 21 to 35.
- **Up to 50,000 youths to access programmes for stronger families annually by 2030** – MSF and NYC will work with people and social sector organisations to expand the programmes that help youths connect better with their families.
- **New effort to develop youth community builders** – A new SUSS course will be established to train youth community builders who will focus on helping youths build friendships and bonds.

Pillar 3: Contributing back to society

7 In a rapidly ageing society, it is critical to ensure that youths continue to have a voice and to shape our nation’s development. The SG Youth Plan seeks to give youths more opportunities to voice their views and empower them to materialise their ideas. Key moves include:

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- **Commit \$20 million to support up to 3,000 youth-led projects over the next 5 years through a new Microgrant and Youth Action Marketplace**
- **Create 16,000 volunteering opportunities and 2,000 youth leadership development opportunities annually by 2030 through Youth Corps**
- **Convene a new SG Youth Policy Network to bring together youth civic groups**
- **Convene the next run of Youth Panels in 2026 on building a youth-friendly city**
- **Set up the Somerset Belt Youth CoLab, giving youths real ownership over Somerset Belt programming.**

8 **The SG Youth Plan reflects a democracy of deeds in action.** As of July 2026, more than 200 partners have committed to the initiatives, and we encourage more organisations to play their part. More details on the initiatives can be found in the accompanying factsheet.

9 A new one-stop digital platform has also been launched at www.discover.nyc.gov.sg, giving youths easy access to activities across career exploration, mentoring, social connection and volunteering. The platform offers personalised recommendations based on individual preferences and interests, with a focus on supporting youths through key life transitions.

10 The full SG Youth Plan Report and more information on the SG Youth Plan can be found at www.youthplan.gov.sg on 25 July 2026.

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About the National Youth Council

At NYC we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard and have the ability to influence and make a difference in the world. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience and an enterprising spirit.

About the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth seeks to inspire Singaporeans through the arts and sports, strengthen community bonds, and promote volunteerism and philanthropy. Since its inception in November 2012, MCCY has been actively engaging the arts, heritage, sports, community and youth sectors. The Ministry aims to bring into sharper focus the efforts to build a more cohesive and vibrant society, and to deepen

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a sense of identity and belonging to the nation. MCCY will work with its stakeholders to create an environment where Singaporeans can pursue their aspirations for a better quality of life and together, build a gracious and caring society that we are proud to call home.