

About the Ministerial Committee on Low Wage Workers

1. The Ministerial Committee on Low Wage Workers was set up in 2005 to recommend measures to improve employability and income security for low wage workers and to help families break out of the poverty cycle. The Committee released its final report in January 2006, making several recommendations under six broad spokes within the Workfare framework. Each spoke rendered specific assistance to different groups of workers and their families. The six spokes are:

- Rewarding Work;
- Social Support to Enable Work;
- Higher Skills for Better Jobs;
- Expand Job Opportunities;
- Creating Hope for the Future; and
- Sharing in the Nation's Progress.

2. The desired outcome is for all who can work to find meaningful jobs and earn adequate wages to support themselves and their children. They should be able to own their homes, educate their children, and put aside enough for their medical and retirement needs. Workfare is now a key pillar of Singapore's social compact. It has played a key role in the current economic downturn, in helping low wage workers and low-income families cope with the downturn and strengthening our nation's resilience.

3. The Committee was led by Dr Ng Eng Hen (Minister, MOE), with the following members: Mr Lim Swee Say, (Minister PMO & Sec-Gen NTUC), Dr Vivian Balakrishnan (Minister, MCYS), Mr Gan Kim Yong (Minister, MOM), Mrs Lim Hwee Hua (Minister, PMO & 2nd Minister, MOF & MOT, Mr Heng Chee How (MOS PMO & Deputy Sec-Gen, NTUC), Mdm Halimah Yacob (Deputy Sec-Gen, NTUC) and Dr Mohd Maliki Osman (Parliamentary Secretary, MND).

