

CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

9 April 2021

Statement on Integrated Shield Plans

The Consumers Association of Singapore ("CASE") welcomes the Ministry of Health ("MOH")'s decision to formally appoint a committee to look into issues related to Integrated Shield Plans ("IP") and propose recommendations. CASE hopes that the Life Insurance Association, Singapore ("LIA") and the Singapore Medical Association ("SMA") can find a sustainable solution which protects consumers' interests and keeps health insurance premiums affordable in the long run.

When the Health Insurance Task Force ("HITF") convened in 2016, CASE was part of the HITF and had supported its recommendation to maintain the affordability of health insurance premiums and sustain the accessibility of quality healthcare for all Singapore Residents.

It is in the interests of all consumers that healthcare costs and insurance premiums remain affordable. As such, CASE is of the view that there should be more healthcare providers/doctors on the insurers' panels, so as to give consumers more choices. Insurers and healthcare providers/doctors should also commit to fair trading and ensure that patients are not overcharged, as this would result in insurance premiums being increased.

CASE has been invited by MOH to be part of the committee appointed by the Minister for Health, and look forward to working with its members to ensure that consumers' interests are protected.

Lim Biow Chuan President Consumers Association of Singapore

About the Consumers Association of Singapore:

The Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) is an independent, non-profit organisation that is committed towards protecting consumers' interest through information and education, and promoting an environment of fair and ethical trade practices. One of its key achievements is in advocating for the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act (CPFTA) which came into effect on 1 March 2004.

For more information, please visit the CASE website at <u>www.case.org.sg</u> or follow us on: Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/casesg</u> Twitter: <u>www.twitter.com/casesg</u>