



World Drug Day: Our Vision for a Drug-Free Singapore 26 June 2024

Dear Parents,

You may not be aware that **drug abuse is an unrelenting problem globally**. Singapore has been actively combating the drug problem since early years of our nation building. The demand for and supply of drugs within our shores remains relatively low. But the world is not so small a place as it was when we were growing up. Singaporeans are not confined to our borders today as we become more travelled and increasingly study and work overseas. Based on projections from the United Nations, **in the next decade, our children will graduate and experience the drug issue on a far wider scale**.

Already in the 2020s, the global drug situation has reached epidemic levels in some countries. Unsure of how to manage the problem, many countries waver between relaxing and tightening drug policies. The world now operates in much more confusion than before. Obviously, Singapore is not impervious to these challenges. Beyond our borders, the situation is starkly different.

How does the drug situation affect our children? Our borders, while protected, are porous. Besides our physical world, technology has enabled an open online world, where the harms of drug abuse may no longer be as clear and apparent to those born in more recent history. Our children access

volumes of conflicting narratives and content in media today. They encounter far more diverse acquaintances and people with various life experiences than we ever did growing up. Is it surprising that youths have told us they would find it difficult to reject drugs, if they are confronted with it in a permissive environment? **How do we prepare our children for such a dissimilar reality from ours?**

Every year on 26 June, the international community marks the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as 'World Drug Day'. In the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA), we stand united, resolved in a mission against drug abuse, which continues to impact millions of lives worldwide. **We hope to partner parents in Singapore to realise our vision of a Drug-Free Society for our Children.**

NCADA will be conducting a Parents Seminar on 3 August 2024 with a panel of experts to share views on what parents need to know, in dealing with the increasing permissiveness towards drug abuse today. Do look out for details of this event and we hope to see you there! As concerned parents, let us do what we can to set our children up for success.

Mr Tan Chong Huat

Chairman, National Council Against Drug Abuse