

# Handout for Roundtable Discussion on Demand Reduction: Singapore's Comprehensive and Balanced Approach to Tackling Drugs

- **Targeted prevention**
  - We run preventive drug education, together with the community-led National Council Against Drug Abuse, to educate youths, parents and educators on the harms and consequences of drug abuse.
  
- **Strong deterrence through tough laws and effective enforcement**
  - Our tough laws and effective enforcement measures help keep both drug supply and demand under control.
  - We take firm measures against drug traffickers.
  - Repeat drug abusers are sentenced to imprisonment. This prevents them from taking drugs, and protects society from being influenced by hardened drug addicts into consuming drugs. It also prevents abusers from committing crimes as a result of their drug habit.
  
- **Upstream intervention for young abusers**
  - We intervene early when youths abuse drugs. These interventions are differentiated based on their risks of relapse:
    - Low-risk youths receive counselling and undergo urine supervision.
    - Moderate-risk youths undergo residential rehabilitation, where they can continue with their education or work during the day.
    - High-risk youths are sent to Drug Rehabilitation Centres, removing them from an environment where they could influence others or be influenced to take drugs.
  
- **Rehabilitation and supervision to prevent relapse**
  - First- and second-time abusers are referred for compulsory rehabilitation in a drug rehabilitation centre.
    - They undergo programmes to help them overcome their addiction and start them on the path to recovery.
    - Thereafter, they are placed on aftercare programmes, which include counselling and supervision, to facilitate their reintegration into society.
  - Repeat drug abusers in prison also continue to receive rehabilitation and aftercare.
  
- **Active engagement of families and the community**
  - Families are a key part of our rehabilitation programmes. This motivates abusers to stay drug-free and helps strengthen family ties.
  - We are also supported by NGOs in Singapore such as the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association. They offer counselling and workshops to abusers and their families, as well as run befriending services and support groups.

# Towards a Drug-Free Singapore

