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Media Release

Providing more to meet the growing demands of the aging population

After faithfully serving the community in caring for the sick, needy and elderly for the last 103 years, Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH) is well poised to meet the rising demand for nursing home beds in the central region of Singapore. Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health, thanked KWSH for doing its part to expand and strengthen its eldercare capabilities in support of the needs of our ageing population.

2 Built from scratch by generous and selfless forefathers, the hospital has been committed to caring for many elderly patients of all races who need intermediate and long term care, especially those from low income families. With the expansion plan to increase the number of nursing beds from 350 to about 600, housed within a new 12-storey building, KWSH will be the largest single-site nursing home operator in Singapore in 2017. Besides the expanded inpatient facility, senior residents living in the surrounding estates can also look forward to a “one-stop” centre providing a holistic and comprehensive suite of care services for the elderly, such as outpatient services, day rehabilitation and traditional Chinese medicine.

3 Mr Patrick Lee, Chairman of KWSH, shared, “We not only hope to meet the rising demand of nursing care in Singapore, but also to see more patients discharged into the community after being cared for in our hospital. Hence, we will also do more in terms of community outreach to educate the elderly at large through more health-related programmes. These would include public education on healthy lifestyle and diet, early health screening and even health fitness. We envisage Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital transforming into a vibrant community hub of integrated healthcare services for seniors in 2017!”

4 The redevelopment project, which also includes the renovation works on the heritage buildings, would cost an estimate of \$96 million. With the support of the government, KWSH will be required to contribute \$20 million towards the total redevelopment cost. The hospital

will also incur higher operating expenses from the doubling of capacity. Thus, we would need the steadfast support from our valued donors as well as more philanthropic individuals and organisations.”

5 Before joining the residents at the carnival, Mr Gan viewed the exhibition on the KWSH redevelopment project and was presented with an overview of the pilot programme on the Neurology-care Differentiation Ward. The latter has recently been implemented in the hospital to help those patients who have a neurological disability and also rehabilitation potential to improve their functional ability.

6 On behalf of the hospital, Mr Lee expressed his heartfelt appreciation for all the donors and volunteers for their continued support and hoped for more philanthropists to come forward to be a part of this meaningful journey of serving the community.

About Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH)

Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH) is a 103 year-old charitable organisation and Institution of Public Character, committed to looking after the sick and needy. In the last century, it has evolved from a basic inpatient and outpatient establishment to a modern medical institution recognised in Singapore for its nursing and geriatric care.

The Hospital presently has a 350-bed nursing home, a Rehabilitation Centre and a Traditional Chinese Medicine Centre. Many of its patients are from the lower-income group and their hospital charges are heavily subsidised.

KWSH is heavily dependent on the support and generous donations of the public to cover its operating expenses. It has recently embarked on a redevelopment plan which will transform it into Singapore’s largest nursing home operator in 2017. For more information, please refer to <http://www.kwsh.org.sg>

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(For more information about the KWSH Redevelopment project, please refer to the brochure encl.)