

## = Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore =

MINDS ( Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore ) is a voluntary welfare organisation based in Singapore , that provides services for the intellectually disabled . They run four special schools and a centre called MINDSville @ Napiri which offers therapy and residential care . Other MINDS services include sheltered workshops , social enterprises , weekly activities , and trust fund management . Founded in 1962 , MINDS is among the largest charities in Singapore , with a staff of 420 helping 2400 beneficiaries . MINDS generates yearly expenses of 21 million Singapore dollars , as of 2005 . Two other organisations , the Association for Persons with Special Needs ( formerly the Association for the Educationally Subnormal ) and Special Olympics Singapore , originated as MINDS projects .

## = = History = =

In 1960 , the Singapore Children 's Society initiated several educational and training programmes for intellectually disabled children , leading to the formation of the Singapore Association for Retarded Children ( SARC ) in 1962 . Beginning with only two teachers and 26 students in a single classroom in Towner Road , the new association rapidly expanded over the 1960s , building special schools at Margaret Drive and Jurong , a sheltered workshop at Geylang , a residential home at Tampines as well as their main administration centre , Lee Kong Chian Centre . SARC started a subcommittee for services for those with less severe intellectual disabilities in 1971 and a youth volunteering group the year after ; the subcommittee was split into an independent organisation , the Association for the Educationally Subnormal ( AESN ) , in 1976 . In 1983 SARC launched the first early intervention programme in Singapore , prompting other organisations to follow suit and set up an adjunct subcommittee that became Special Olympics Singapore .

Since the term " retarded " had acquired negative connotations and the organisation had started services for adults , SARC changed their name to the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore ( MINDS ) in 1985 . In 1987 , the organisation benefitted by being primarily funded from The Community Chest of Singapore , and in 1993 MINDS became the largest voluntary welfare organisation in Singapore , with AESN in second place . Relocation of the MINDS special schools , from premises of closed @-@ down primary schools to new buildings with customised facilities , began in 1998 . The association started their first social enterprise , a car washing service along Pasir Panjang Road , in 2001 . Their residential homes and training centres were merged into the MINDSville @ Napiri centre , which opened in 2007 , and the relocation programme was completed two years later .

## = = Activities = =

MINDS runs four special schools for intellectually disabled students aged 4 to 18 , who are taught various life skills , such as personal grooming and money management . They are also taken on outings to learn how to handle common tasks , such as buying groceries and taking public transport . Students undergo physiotherapy , pre @-@ vocational training , as well as basic instruction in some mainstream academic subjects , including languages , mathematics , art , and science . To help the intellectually disabled gain employment , MINDS trains them for simple sorting and packing jobs at sheltered workshops , then negotiates contracts with potential employers : for example , some were hired by Singapore Airlines to recycle headsets . The organisation also manages several social enterprises , including a thrift shop , a car washing service , a food catering company , and a performing arts troupe , that increase employment opportunities for the intellectually disabled .

Under the MINDS Trusteeship Scheme , parents of the intellectually disabled can deposit their savings into a trust account , safeguarded by the public trustee , and after they die , MINDS ensures the money is used to fund caregiving of the beneficiary . Other MINDS services , including counselling , behaviour therapy and rehabilitation , are concentrated at their integrated service centre called MINDSville @ Napiri . The centre contains a nursing home for adults with high support

needs , another home for intellectually disabled children from broken families , and a hostel , which provides flexible accommodation options for clients who need less @-@ intensive care . In addition , volunteers from the MINDS Youth Group conduct weekly educational , social , and recreational activities , such as swimming classes and singing sessions , for around 170 intellectually disabled people .

= = Management = =

MINDS is one of the oldest and largest voluntary welfare organisations in Singapore , with 420 staff , 2400 beneficiaries , and yearly expenses of S \$ 21 million Singapore dollars . Their primary source of funding is the Community Chest of Singapore , with programme fees , their social enterprises , corporate sponsorships and public donations making up their secondary sources . The organisation is headed by President Conrad Campos and CEO Keh Eng Song , who lead a 15 @-@ member executive committee with four subcommittees that meet monthly to discuss problems and plan new programmes . MINDS has won several awards , including the 2001 President 's Social Service Award from the National Council of Social Service and the 2010 Singapore Health Award ( Gold ) by the Health Promotion Board .