



## About Workfare

Introduced in 2007, the Workfare Income Supplement Scheme is a broad-based measure that tops up the salaries of our lower-income workers and helps them save for retirement.



Workfare is targeted at Singaporean workers whose earnings are in the bottom 20%, with some support for those slightly above.



Since Workfare started in 2007, \$6.8 billion has been paid to about 890,000 recipients.



Workfare is paid in the form of CPF top-ups for their retirement and cash to supplement their incomes.

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### Read More

- [Workfare Factsheet \(English\) \(160KB\)](#)
- [Workfare Factsheet \(Chinese\) \(276KB\)](#)
- [Workfare Factsheet \(Malay\) \(160KB\)](#)
- [Workfare Factsheet \(Tamil\) \(832KB\)](#)

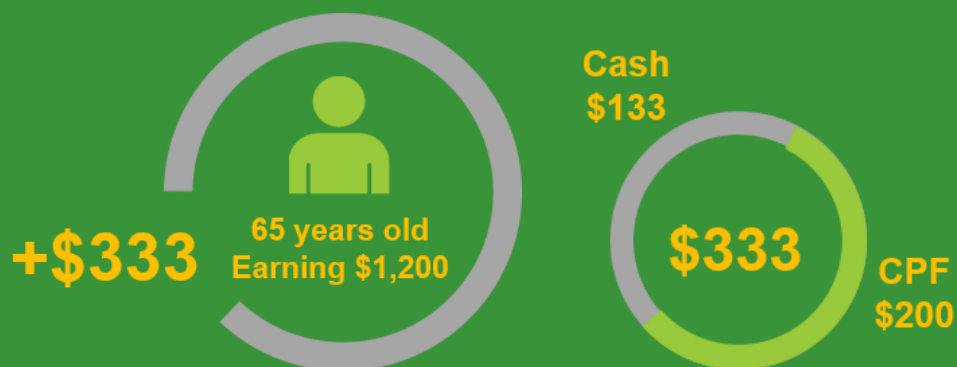
# Intent of Workfare

Workfare payouts are targeted at lower-income workers with less household support, with higher payouts for older workers. Workfare can comprise up to an extra 30 per cent of the worker's monthly income.



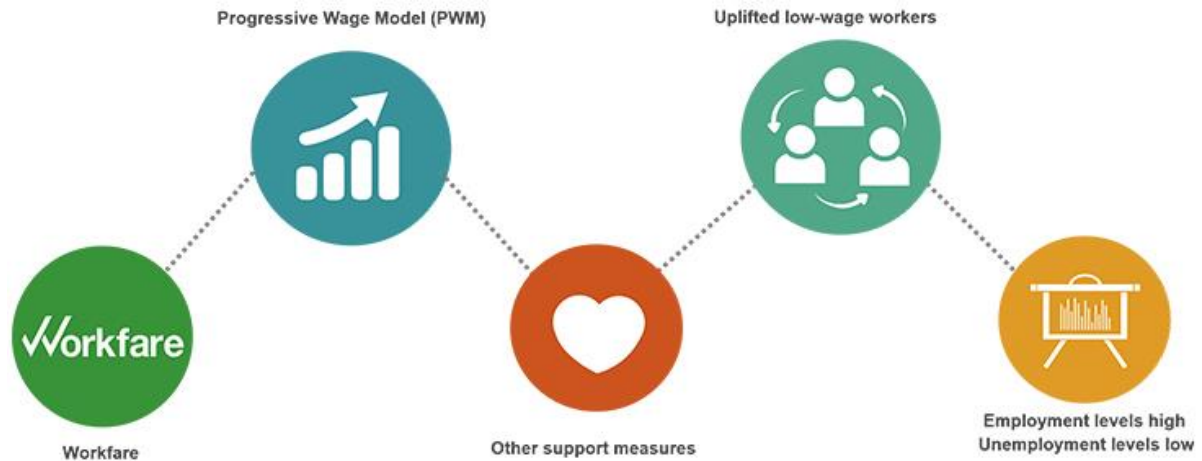
## For example

From 2020, a 65-year-old worker earning \$1,200 a month would receive \$333 more through Workfare monthly, of which \$200 goes into his Central Provident Fund (CPF).



# Workfare and Progressive Wage Model (PWM)

Workfare and Progressive Wage Model (PWM), together with many other support measures, have uplifted low-wage workers while keeping employment levels high and unemployment levels low. They are a clear expression of our social solidarity and by no means inferior to a minimum wage.



## Read More

- ➔ **7 November 2018**  
Minister for Manpower, Josephine Teo's Op-Ed on Workfare
- ➔ **18 December 2018**  
MOM's Letter on Workfare

# Workfare, The Fourth Pillar of Singapore's Social Security System

The 4 pillars of Singapore's social security system



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## **Silver Support and Workfare**

are the fourth pillar of our social security system. They aim at supplementing incomes so as to mitigate inequalities.

**DPM Tharman Shanmugaratnam at  
Budget Round-Up Speech 2015**

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# Outcomes of Workfare

## Impact of Workfare

For Singaporean households at the 20th percentile, **real incomes grew by about 40% cumulatively.**

In comparison, key OECD countries experience low or negative income growth.



Employment rate for residents rose **From 76.5% in 2007 to 80.7% in 2017**

**Since Workfare was introduced in 2007**



Real gross monthly income growth of workers at the 20th percentile **kept pace with the median income growth over the past decade.**

## Read More

➔ **Minister of State for Manpower, Zaqy Mohamad's Speech on Workfare**

➔ **MTI's Study on Workfare**

Workfare has been one of the most effective schemes in encouraging work, especially for older workers. A Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) study done in 2014 found that WIS led to an increase in employment rates of up to 7.3 percentage points, with the highest increases seen among older workers.

# Holistic Support for Workers

Most Workfare recipients also receive holistic support from Government to help meet their living needs.



Government pays for Workfare and the above supplements. Employers and consumers do not pay for these.

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 [Read More](#)

[Infographic on Workfare and Holistic Government Support \(2.74MB\)](#)

# Workfare Works



**Workfare works** better than a minimum wage because it helps Singaporean workers stay employed and have a chance to upgrade to better-skilled jobs with higher pay rather than compete with foreign workers.



**Dr Chew Soon Beng**

Senior Fellow at S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University



**Mdm Norjahan**

Workfare Recipient



The Workfare cash supplement helps with my daily costs of living, and the CPF contribution helps me save for my healthcare and retirement needs.



**Mr Tony Seet**

Workfare Recipient



Workfare encourages me to continue working and helps me with my family's expenses.



**Mdm Goh Geok Kee (Auntie Geok)**

Workfare Recipient



Workfare motivates me to work and tops up my income. I can buy more ingredients and cook a better meal for my family!

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**Mr Jason Lee (Auntie Geok's employer)**

Operations Manager of NAFA System Services Pte Ltd



Workfare encourages my workers to work hard. It gives my older workers extra reason to continue working as the Government tops up their income through Workfare.