

ntuc

MAY DAY

AWARDS

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FRIEND OF LABOUR

Mary Ann Tsao

Chairwoman
Tsao Foundation

Nominated by NTUC Strategy

Dr Mary Ann Tsao has served at the Tsao Foundation for 31 years, including 12 years as Chairwoman. She has been instrumental in transforming the ageing experience in Singapore and is a pioneer in community-based eldercare. She has long advocated for older individuals, driving significant advancements in community care, training, and education. Under her leadership, the Tsao Foundation has gained a good reputation for elder-centric services and innovative practices in aged care.

A notable initiative is the Community for Successful Ageing (ComSA) in Whampoa. Launched in 2014, it promotes good health through self-care and community action while providing effective biopsychosocial healthcare for elders. This initiative is particularly critical given Singapore's rapidly ageing population, with research completed in 2014 for a community-wide approach to healthy longevity.

To support older workers, Sister Mary Ann spearheaded a five-year memorandum of understanding with NTUC, establishing a foundation for impactful research and sandbox projects aimed at enhancing older workers' lives and livelihoods. A groundbreaking national study titled, "Population Ageing and Slowing Workforce Growth," jointly conducted by NTUC and the Tsao Foundation, led to policy recommendations such as flexible work arrangements and job redesign, and bridged training gaps to improve wages, welfare, and work prospects.

In February 2024, NTUC and the Tsao Foundation organised the "Silver Talent: Strategies for Empowering and Retaining Mature Workers" symposium, which attracted over 100 employers, HR professionals, policymakers, unions, and industry partners. The event highlighted the value of mature workers, sparking meaningful discussions and offering key takeaways for stakeholders.

Given her significant contributions to the ageing sector, Sister Mary Ann is a highly deserving candidate for the NTUC Friend of Labour Award.