

## GEG Community Nursing Scheme Supports Needs of Elderly

As increasing numbers of Macau's residents maintain active lives long into their golden years, our city's need for community nurses continues to grow. In order to elevate the standard of nursing care and to make community nursing a more attractive career choice in Macau's tight labor market, the Galaxy Entertainment Group Foundation launched the "GEG Community Nursing Scheme" in 2016, in line with the relevant policies of the Macau government.

The Scheme has three components: awarding scholarships to distinguished nursing students in Macau, funding research and training collaborations between universities in Macau and Hong Kong, and establishing a professional network for practising nurses and nursing students in Macau.



### Scholarships for Nursing Students

In the last two academic years, in addition to receiving scholarships that pay for full tuition for their Years 3 & 4 studies, scholarship recipients paid study visits to the University of Newcastle, north of Sydney, where they learned about the state of community nursing in Australia.

Scholarship recipient, Un Chek Fei, said that she felt

inspired by the quality of services at elderly care centers in Australia, as well as the joy she saw in the elderly residents there. Through the scholarship overseas study visit program, she gained valuable insight into care for patients with cognitive decline, and exposure to gears developed for elderly for use at home. "In Australia, they have developed a lot of innovative products that elderly can install at home, which help improve their quality of life and well-being."

Scholarship recipient, Lam Ka Ieng, said that this overseas study visit component of the scholarship had broadened her vision regarding what community nurses can offer; she hopes that the profession can attract more young people. "The quality of community nursing is very important, and it is important that there are more nurses who are willing to join this profession."

Through its various initiatives, the Foundation seeks to nurture the professional development of young people and promote Macau's development as an inclusive and harmonious society. Since its launch in April 2015, GEG Foundation had launched various in-depth and sustainable projects to support the development of the community.



### Why the Shortage of Community Nurses?



*Professor Van Iat Kio*

Professor Van Iat Kio, President of Kiang Wu Nursing College, explains why Macau's need for community nurses is so great and how charitable efforts are helping.

"Hospitals, as bigger-scale entities, provide systematic training and promotion opportunities for nurses. For community nurses, the opportunities may not be comparable." However, community nursing is a challenging but perhaps a more rewarding career, she says. "We need more nurses to serve in the community; it is a more demanding profession as community nurses need to be more independent and will require a broader skill set."

"Community nursing requires the attention and support of the whole Macau society to carry out its function, which is why we truly appreciate the Galaxy Entertainment Group Foundation's initiative in supporting the community nursing profession."

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