

## **Effect of the Work Support Programme on Well-being: Understanding Successes and Failures**

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Time: 3pm to 5pm

Venue: AS3, 03-05

This presentation discusses findings from the evaluation of the ComCare Work Support Programme (WSP) administered by the Ministry of Social and Family Development in Singapore. The programme is needs-based, and provides non-permanent assistance to participants while providing case management for those who need it to overcome barriers to employment and improve participants' financial situation.

With data of 689 beneficiaries at entry and exit of WSP, programme effects on economic and psychosocial well-being will be presented. The economic outcomes were related to employment, earnings and income. The social outcomes were likert-scale measures of psychological well-being such as self-efficacy, and general well-being such as happiness and satisfaction. The presentation offers several layers of analytical rigour. First, difference-in-difference regressions were used to study the effects of additional cash assistance and longer duration of assistance. Second, effects of cash amount and duration were analyzed by comparing the effects from groups that were randomly assigned with the effects of actual assistance as reflected in administrative data. Third, the quantitative findings are corroborated with findings from in-depth interviews with 56 of the beneficiaries.

The findings indicate that the programme improved family earnings somewhat, and that a longer duration of assistance and economic improvements lead to improved psychosocial well-being. However, psychosocial well-being generally declined. Implications of the findings on larger policy intervention as well as service design and delivery will be discussed.