

## **EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY**

### **Speech by Ms Ellen Lee, MP for Sembawang GRC and Chairman of Celebrate Wellness at “Celebrate Wellness” Roadshow, Toa Payoh HDB Hub (Mall) on 22 May 2011**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Good morning, it gives me great pleasure to be here with you today and to support the community leaders of Central District in hosting this Celebrate Wellness event for our women. Good health contributes to a better quality of life, allowing us to enjoy time with our family, enjoy our work and to engage in hobbies that we enjoy.
- Since Project Celebrate Wellness started in January last year about 11,000 women who had either never had a mammogram in their life or who had not been screening regularly for breast cancer took up the offer to get screened. I applaud the joint efforts of our women MPs, grassroots and various partners who have come together to organize Project Celebrate Wellness with a common goal – To stay healthy as a community. This year, we aim to screen at least 12,000 women.
- To make screening more affordable, Singaporeans will be able to use their Medisave accounts to pay for mammograms and colonoscopies at Medisave accredited centres with effect from 1 July 2011. This will allow you to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses for screening. Besides screening, Celebrate Wellness also wants to equip women with the knowledge and skills related to diverse topics such as financial management,

and nutrition to ensure she takes care of herself, her loved ones and her home.

- The month of May is also Cervical Cancer Awareness month. About 200 new cases of cervical cancer are reported each year in Singapore (Singapore Cancer Registry Interim Report Trends in Cancer Incidence in Singapore 2004 to 2008), and about 70 women die from this cancer annually. Cervical cancer can be treated effectively if detected early through regular Pap smear screening. You may have seen the Pap smear bus parked outside – do take this opportunity to get your Pap smear today, if you haven't had one in the last 3 years.
- We women tend to neglect our health as we go about caring for our families. Our women MPs, community leaders, activists and volunteers will continue to step forward and bring interesting health and social activities to you. Whether you are young or old, we are calling women to make health your top priority.
- Last but not least, let me thank our community partners, Singapore Cancer Society, Health Promotion Board, Great Eastern Life, KKH Women's & Children's Hospital, Tsao Foundation, Khoo Foundation and the Totalisator Board who have provided their constant and unwavering support to this project, Wishing all of you an enjoyable today as we Celebrate Wellness.
- Thank you.