

## Peacehaven nursing home gets nod

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Plans for a nursing home that will have single and twin rooms with en suite toilets, alongside other facilities that promote independence and self-reliance, have been revived.

The failure to secure government subsidies had led to the plans, by the Salvation Army Peacehaven Nursing Home, Lien Foundation and Khoo Chwee Neo Foundation, being shelved in 2015.

But now, Jade Circle, a four-storey facility that will cater to dementia patients, is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) gave its support when Peacehaven agreed to add multi-bedded rooms in its existing building as part of the overall development of the nursing home.

Plans for the extension were halted in December 2015, when MOH said it could not provide subsidies to residents in the proposed single or double-bedded rooms.

It had said "such parameters will be hard to scale or be financially sustainable if applied to the rest of the aged-care sector".

But an MOH spokesman said yesterday: "Taken as a whole, Peacehaven Nursing Home's development project will now meet the ministry's requirements for an increased capacity in nursing home beds providing a good mix of bed options for patients, as well as in day-care services."

The Jade Circle extension to



Senior staff nurse Khin Phone Tint, 33, showing how low the new nursing home's bed can go. The bed is designed to prevent a user from getting hurt if he or she falls out of it.  
ST PHOTO: KUA CHEE SIONG

Peacehaven Nursing Home in Changi will cost \$14 million to build, with the two foundations committing \$9 million. They hope to get the rest of the funds through the Community Silver Trust – a dollar-for-dollar donation matching grant provided by the Government.

The new nursing home will be the first here to operate without physical restraints, which are sometimes used to keep dementia patients in bed to prevent mishaps, and as far as possible, diapers as well, the organisations said yesterday.

Beds that can be lowered and which have sensors that can detect when their users get out of bed

have been specially imported to reduce the risk of falls.

Non-nurses will be trained as senior care associates, who will give the caregiving manpower at the nursing home a boost.

The extension will have 22 beds in eight single rooms and seven twin-share rooms, down from the 60 initially planned.

There will also be a daycare centre that can accommodate 120 elderly people a day.

Six four-bedded rooms, along with a single-bed isolation room, will be built as well.

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