

## #LifeHacks: Kick-Off & Policymaking Workshop

Session details: Saturday, 18 November 2023, 3pm – 4pm

S/N	Summary of Discussion	Action by
1	<b>Overview of youth panels by NYC</b>	
1.1	<p><u>Recap of youth panels and timeline</u></p> <p>Gracia Ong (NYC) shared that each youth panel comprised two advisors, four leads and approximately thirty members. The panels will address issues that youths expressed concern about and will be supported by relevant supporting agencies. Part of the youth panels process includes policymaking and design innovation workshops, to support youths to better understand how policies are crafted, and would better enable them to carry out tasks such as stakeholder mapping and designing problem statements.</p> <p>The panels also have the option to embark on learning journeys and interact with political office holders. The final outcomes of each panel may include policy recommendations, charters, and questions to be tabled at Parliament or in published reports.</p> <p>A Youth Policy Forum is also being planned for the second half of 2024, where recommendations from all panels will be shared to the broader youth population. Thereafter, the panel's policy recommendations will be submitted to the respective supporting agency.</p>	
1.2	<p><u>Clarifications</u></p> <p>The panel raised several queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="288 1285 1262 1420">(i) Deadline for policy recommendations to be submitted by the panel. Gracia noted that while each panel is expected to run for 9 to 12 months, each panel's timeline will likely defer, and there is flexibility to change or extend the duration as needed.</li><li data-bbox="288 1458 1262 1727">(ii) The difference between panel-level discussions and panel-led engagements. Gracia noted that panel-level discussions referred to discussions within the panel, such as discussions on the frequency of their regular check-in meetings and how they would like to divide work among the panel (e.g., subgroups looking at different tasks such as research, policy writing, engagement etc.). Panel-led engagements refer to platforms for the panel to reach out to a larger group of youths to gather more data or test their hypothesis.</li><li data-bbox="288 1765 1262 1928">(iii) Scope of recommendations from the panel, in relation to Government-led initiatives. Gracia noted that in addition to recommendations submitted to Government, the panel may also lead ground-up projects to address identified gaps, and execute such projects in partnership with NYC or other relevant agencies.</li><li data-bbox="288 1966 1262 2020">(iv) Examples of confidential information shared with the panels. Gracia noted that this included restricted information shared by agencies</li></ul>	

	that are intended to serve as a resource to the panel for the purposes of research only.	
1.3	<p><u>Follow-up actions</u></p> <p>Materials used at the workshop to be shared with the panels post-meeting. Panel also agreed to set-up a Telegram chat for communication purposes.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Panel Discussion led by panel leads</b>	
2.1	<p>Marie Teo (Lead) set the context and goals for the panel discussion segment. Broadly, the segment aimed to (i) co-create the role and experience that the panel would like for their youth panel journey, and principles they wanted to be governed by, and (ii) get a sense of what panel members were interested in and their concerns regarding Cost of Living (COL). A Mentimeter survey was used to gather sentiments on (i) the principles that the panel wished to adhere to and (ii) interest areas within the panel.</p>	
2.2	<p><u>Principles the panel wished to adhere to</u></p> <p>The panel voted “Take everyone seriously regardless of age and experience.”</p> <p>He Ruiming (Advisor) highlighted that it was important for the older members to remember what it was like when they were younger, and for the younger ones to consider how the older members could bring their wisdom to the table. One panel member shared that age should not be used as a reason to override the voice of the younger members.</p> <p>The panel also agreed to create a safe space to share diverse perspectives and opinions. One panel member suggested taking any conflict/disagreement offline as the morale of the group could be affected when conflict/disagreement arise. The panel agreed to keep an open mind, and to agree to disagree.</p> <p>Amalina Nasir (Lead) said that it was important to respect different working styles and appreciate the different roles each member can play in the team.</p> <p>The panel agreed that it was important to have some structure to avoid potential problems arising from having ‘too many chefs in the kitchen’. A panel member was concerned how the leads would manage a group of 30 members and moderate discussions. Marie and Toh Guan Ru (leads) assured that the leads would have more concrete plans down the road after getting to know the members better.</p>	
2.3	<p><u>Interest areas within the panel</u></p> <p><u>Housing (5 votes):</u> Ruiming said that he observed that Singaporeans who rushed to get married to secure BTO flats could face potential financial issues. He also observed that lower income groups were more vulnerable in falling for scams. He said that one possible action to take was to change behaviors instead of just giving monetary aid.</p>	

	<p>Teng Kaixin (member) shared her observations during her volunteering experience at Meet-the-People Session (MPS), where most residents' concerns revolved around BTO flats and costs of housing. She hoped to be able to zoom in on some areas and tackle the root of the problem.</p> <p><u>Financial literacy (4 votes):</u> Gao Xian (member) said that financial literacy was an important issue, especially with the prevalence of Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) services. While one-off cash payouts could help alleviate cost-of-living pressures in the short run, they would be insufficient in the long term and structural solutions to encourage behavioral changes were required.</p> <p>Alicia (member) said that some elderly may struggle to support themselves if they did not receive financial support from their children, and suggested expanding financial literacy to Singaporeans of all ages.</p> <p><u>Cooked food affordability (3 votes):</u> A panel member said that the affordability of healthy food should be tied in with cooked food affordability.</p> <p><u>Businesses (3 votes):</u> Alicia was concerned about business costs in Singapore and cited increasing costs of labour (foreign worker quota and levy translate to higher costs) and difficulty in hiring suitable workers (skilled workers are hard to find and Singaporeans do not want to take up undesirable jobs).</p> <p><u>Lower wage workers (3 votes)</u></p> <p><u>Education (2 votes):</u> One panel member said that she hoped more could be done to increase access to quality education for students from lesser privileged backgrounds. Another panel member mentioned that universities provided subsidised tuition fees based on citizenship. He suggested redistributing tuition according to those who need it, so as to prevent the exploitation of resources.</p> <p><u>Others (Healthcare):</u> Members who were concerned about healthcare suggested looking at citizens undergoing major illnesses and did not have insurance, which could affect their access to treatment.</p>	
2.4	<p>The panel noted the importance for the panel to consider trade-offs in policymaking, such as longer-term trajectories and plans, where recommendations to policies may fundamentally take longer time to seek support and show tangible results.</p> <p>Nabil (Lead) concluded the session up by encouraging the panel to reflect on some COL areas they wished to focus on.</p>	
3	<b>Context-Setting by MOF</b>	
3.1	<p>MOF provided an overview of COL and responded to the panel's queries on the topic. The panel discussed various aspects of the topic, including the Consumer Price Index (CPI), financial support provided by the Government, and housing concerns. The panel also noted and discussed the initiatives under MoneySense, that looked at increasing financial literacy for all Singaporeans.</p>	

3. 2	<p>In response to the panel's query on how COL was chosen as a topic, and if financial security and retirement adequacy were considered, NYC noted that COL was chosen as a topic arising from feedback received from many youths, who observed rising living costs. The panel had flexibility to decide on the scope and framing of the topic, including financial security or retirement adequacy.</p> <p>The panel noted that COL was an issue that required ongoing conversations with citizens, to understand citizens' pain points and where the Government can step in to provide support.</p>	

## Attendance

<b>MCCY</b>	Ms Jaishree Thangaraj (AM, YD)
<b>NYC</b>	Ms Gracia Ong (AD, YL-YE) Ms Celestine Leong (M, YE)
<b>Verian</b>	Mr Hor Chor Kiat
<b>Advisors</b>	Mr He Ruiming
<b>Leads</b>	Ms Marie Teo Bee See Ms Amalina Abdul Nasir Mr Muhammad Nabil Mr Toh Guan Ru
<b>Members</b>	Mr Tan Wei Liang Darius Mr Gao Xian Peh Ms Chan Hui Min Ms Xian Yi Dusadidecho Alicia Ms Lauren Angelina Koek Tsui Lyn Ms Wee Su-Ann Mr Cheng Guang Hao Ms Teng Kaixin Ms Payal A Sadhwani Mr Wong Wen Jie Ms Nabillah Jalal Ms Lok Siying Ms Chiang Ruiqian Ms Natalie Ng Xin Yi Mr Muhammad Ilyia Bin Mohammad Shukor Mr Tanay Krishna Mr Loke Jun Hao Mr Mohamad Arshad S/O Khaja Moinudeen Ms Sophia Ning Jiayan Mr Ezekkious Mr Pereira Kurt Michael Mr Muhammad Zunnurain Bin Mohamad Zulkifli
<b>Absent with apologies</b>	<u>Advisors:</u> Ms Francesca Wah  <u>Members:</u> Ms Thia Yi Ping Larissa Mr Elijah Chao Mr Koh Tiang Rong Derrick Ms Angella Santosh Ms Tyeisha Syaquilla Ayub Mr Nath Soham Mr Rishikeesh Wijaya Ms Ng Jing Xuan Ms Isabella Binte Mahmood