

Coming up: National Innovation Challenge to develop 'Ageless Workplaces'



The government will launch a third National Innovation Challenge (NIC) later this year to encourage the development of "Ageless Workplaces". PHOTO: ST FILE

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SINGAPORE - The Ggovernment will launch a third grant call under the National Innovation Challenge (NIC) on Active and Confident Ageing later this year to encourage the development of "ageless workplaces", Health Minister Gan Kim Yong said on Friday (May 6).

The first two such grants were to get innovations to promote home care and delay the onset of dementia.

This third grant "seeks to find game-changing solutions that will help our older workers remain employable for as long as they wish to", he said.

"We are also looking for groundbreaking solutions that can enhance the productivity and health of our older workers."

Mr Gan was speaking at the official launch of the Nanyang Technological University's initiatives to support the greying population.

One is the Ageing Research Institute for Society and Education (Arise) that hopes to find ways to help older people stay healthy through disease prevention, treatment and management, and to encourage an active lifestyle and lifelong learning.

NTU President Bertil Andersson said it could be something as simple as developing a camera that will deliver good pictures, even if the hands holding it are shaky.

The other is the Centre for Populaion Health Sciences that will explore ways to use technology to solve healthcare issues and improve preventive care.

Mr Gan said the aim of all this is to "redefine the future experience of ageing" through research and innovation, so that people here can live longer, healthier lives, and to "unlock the talent, energies and productivity" that come with the longer lives people here are living.

Between 1990 and 2013, life expectancy for men here went up by 5.5 years and for women by 4.9 years. In 2013, life expectancy for men was 80.1 years and for women, 84.5 years.