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## 帮助前囚犯重返社会 走出高墙外面的世界

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连接无线网络，查看导航地图，在超市自助结账……我们习惯于科技带来的便利，但对长期囚犯来说，高墙外面是截然不同的世界。

荣当兵时作为前线警员的经历所启发，29岁社工鲁迪去年加入工业与服务合作社（ISCOS），接手帮助前囚犯重返社会的辅助计划“Project ReConnect”，为服刑超过三年以上的囚犯，讲解他们在日常生活中可能面临的挑战。

在这计划下，前囚可参加每周二举行的全天活动，先是聆听社工讲解需要注意的生活贴士，比如注册政府的SingPass账号、银行户头，接着参观社工参观地铁站、社区联络所等。看他示范如何在麦当劳自助点餐付款、扫码解款共享脚踏车等。

身为计划负责人，鲁迪每周都会到直落亚逸监狱中心的释放预备中心（Pre-Release Centre），向即将出狱的囚犯介绍这项计划，让有兴趣的囚犯报名。

鲁迪指出，每次活动都会有10多名前囚犯参加。一名前囚犯曾向他表示，每次摸地铁看见大家都低头看手机，自己却连怎么用智能手机都不会，让土生土长的他感觉像是被社会“遗弃”。

这名前囚犯的真诚反馈，让鲁迪更坚信帮助前囚犯的重要性。“多数人倾向于同情长者或小孩，对待前囚犯却不一定那么包容。参与计划的多数是年过50岁，每次带着他们逛社区时，社会会露出很惊讶的表情，仿佛不认得自己的故园。”

当年释兵役后，鲁迪就读于新加坡管理学院和美国水牛城大学合办的社会学课程，选修犯罪学、法律相关课程，毕业后投身工行列。

虽然是马来族，鲁迪精通英语、马来语、华语三大语言，能和来自不同背景的前囚犯沟通。“华佬是我在中学时期从华佬朋友那里学来的，现在刚好可以派上用场。”

鲁迪（左三）为参与重返社会辅助计划的前囚犯讲解生活贴士。（ISCOS提供）

## 去年4月至今年9月 约412前囚犯 辅助计划下受惠

自去年4月开始推行至今9月，约有412名前囚犯在这重返社会的辅助计划下受惠。

在内政部的管制下，工业与服务合作社是新加坡唯一的一个能在有限囚犯福利的合作社，秉持着自立、互助、合作及关怀社区等价值观。

除了透过辅助计划帮助前囚犯重新与社会接轨，合作社也为释囚的家人和孩子举办亲子活动、提供助学金、学习指导等。

杰弗里（化名，30岁）是辅助计划的受益人之一，2014年因贩毒和贩毒入狱近三年半，去年11月参加计划进监狱后，申请到合作社提供的600元补助津贴，考取驾照驾照，找到更高薪的工作。

今年5月，他也加入合作社的互助小组，透过与其他释囚的定期聚会，相互分享如何更好地应对生活挑战，也认识更多新朋友。



Original Text:

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鲁迪指出，每次活动都会有 10 多名前囚犯参加。一名前囚犯曾向他表示，每次搭地铁看见大家都在低头看手机，自己却连怎么用智能手机都不会，让土生土长的他觉得像是被社会“遗弃”。

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杰弗里（化名，39 岁）是辅助计划的受益人之一，去年 11 月参加计划结识鲁迪后，申请到合作社提供的 800 元补助津贴，考获第四级驾照，找到更高薪的工作。

今年 5 月，他也加入合作社的互助小组，通过于其他释囚的定期聚会，相互分享如何更好地应对生活挑战，也认识更多新朋友。

Translation:

## **Helping ex-offenders return to society, back to the world outside prison walls**

By Ng Peiyin

Whether it's connecting to wi-fi, checking the navigation system or self-checkout at supermarkets, we are used to the convenience brought by technology. However, to ex-offenders who spent a long time in jail, the world outside of prison walls are very unfamiliar for them.

Inspired by the experience as a frontline police officer when serving his National Service, 29-year old Rudy joined ISCOS last year to help conduct Project ReConnect, a programme for ex-offenders serving a sentence of three years or more, to support them in dealing with the possible struggles they may face in daily lives.

Under this programme, ex-offenders can join a full-day session which is held every Tuesday to obtain simple tips such as ways to register their SingPass and bank accounts, followed by a tour to MRT stations and community centres to observe how the facilitator orders McDonald's at the kiosk or scan the QR code to unlock bike-sharing services.

As the personnel in charge of Project ReConnect, Rudy will head to the Pre-Release Centre at Changi Prisons every week to introduce this programme to the inmates who are due for release, so that they can sign up if interested.

According to Rudy, there is an average of 10 or more ex-offenders joining each session. One of the ex-offenders once told Rudy about his own experience inside the MRT train, where everyone was busy looking at their phones. Even though he is a Singaporean, he felt left out and 'abandoned' by the society because he was entirely clueless about smart phones.

Such honest and candid feedback reinforced Rudy's belief in the importance of helping ex-offenders. "While many people tend to show sympathy towards elderly persons or children, they may have reservations towards ex-offenders. As the majority of participants (for Project ReConnect) were more than 50 years old, they were surprised and could not recognise the neighbourhood during our tour in the community."

After completing his time in the National Service, Rudy continued his degree studies in sociology jointly conducted by SIM Global Education and University at Buffalo, specialising in crime, law and justice. He joined the social service sector after he graduated.

As a Malay, Rudy is fluent in English, Malay and Chinese (Mandarin) languages, which enables him to interact with ex-offenders from different backgrounds. "I learnt Mandarin from my Chinese friends during my secondary school days. It's good that I could use it at work now."



## **About 412 ex-offenders have benefited from Project ReConnect (from April 2017 to September 2018)**

By Ng Peiyin

Since its introduction in April 2017 until September this year, about 412 ex-offenders have benefited from Project ReConnect.

Under the purviews of the Ministry of Home Affairs, ISCOS is the only co-operative in Singapore to support ex-offenders and promote values such as self-reliance, peer support, co-operation and care for the community.

Other than helping the ex-offenders to reintegrate into society through Project ReConnect, ISCOS also conducts programmes for their children and families, such as family bonding activities, bursary awards and mentoring programme.

Jeffrey (not his real name, 39 years old) is one of the participants who have benefited from Project ReConnect. After serving time in prison for three and half years since 2014 due to drug-related offences, he joined the session in November last year. With Rudy's help, Jeffrey also received \$800 worth of training subsidy from ISCOS to obtain his Class 4 driving license, which led him to a better-paying job.

In May this year, he also joined the ISCOS support group. Through the regular sessions, he shared his struggles with other fellow ex-offenders and how to better deal with life's problems, while making new friends.