Investing in Singapore’s Health

AIAVitality.com.sg
Foreword

For over 80 years, AIA Singapore has been there for Singaporeans when real life happens - throughout the ups and downs, challenges and opportunities. Whether it's achieving ambitions, supporting a family, seeing our kids through school, enjoying retirement, or anything else, we understand because we've been there ourselves.

The truth is, our continued growth is linked to the community we serve and we are concerned about the overall state of the nation's health. We want to do something which demonstrates our commitment to Singapore's future.

What could AIA Singapore offer?

Since we are in the business of health, it makes perfect sense that we address the issues facing Singaporeans in the health and wellness space.

And we support the government's Healthy Living Master Plan aimed at developing initiatives that will ensure all Singaporeans have access to an affordable healthy lifestyle.

Recent research has shown that Singaporeans are living longer, but a bulk of their additional years will be in poor health because of their unhealthy lifestyles. Singapore has one of the highest rates of diabetes among developed nations, and the percentage of Singaporeans aged 18 – 29 years suffering from diabetes has doubled from 2004 to 2010. Again, it is because of the unhealthy lifestyle choices people are making.

So what can we do about it?

The answer sounds simple – get people to change their behaviour, opt for healthier choices and focus on preventive care. But this is far easier said than done.

It is amazing how much one can reduce the risk of chronic disease by eating healthier, being physically active and avoiding tobacco products, yet, why are people not doing enough?

So we brought together the best and brightest minds to design a game-changing solution which would inspire Singaporeans to make the right choices regarding their health.

We are very proud of the results. The key for us is to help positively influence behavioural change.

AIA Singapore launched a science-backed wellness programme called AIA Vitality which provides Singaporeans with the knowledge, tools and motivation to achieve sustainable behavioural change and attain their health goals.

We developed it in partnership with Discovery Holdings from South Africa which pioneered the Discovery Vitality programme in 1997, and continues to evolve through scientific research and collaborations with leading experts in the fields of behavioural economics, incentivisation and wellness. The Discovery Vitality programme is the largest of its kind in the world with over 5 million members in 4 continents.

AIA Vitality is designed to make members accountable for their own health. It is the only programme of its kind created to influence long-term behavioural change by going beyond a loyalty or discount programme. It also provides members with in-depth health, nutrition and fitness assessments, educational content, trackers and social media tools, among other benefits.

We have, in essence, created a nationwide infrastructure with our partners to develop this programme to help Singaporeans improve their current state of health and live longer and healthier lives.

And we are putting our money where our mouth is.

AIA Singapore is the first insurer in Singapore to reduce premiums throughout the insurance policy duration, for members who are committed to getting healthy. AIA Vitality members may enjoy discounts on their premiums and lower their overall medical expenses in the long-term as they improve their health status.

AIA Singapore is invested in the future of our nation and we are dedicated to bring real change to the behaviour of Singaporeans so that they make healthier choices to live better, happier lives with their families. This can easily be achieved with AIA Vitality.

This is our commitment to our customers as the Real Life Company.

Sincerely,

Tan Hak Leh
CEO, AIA Singapore
Singapore: The Health Situation

Bloomberg recently rated Singapore as the world’s healthiest nation.¹ Such desired results are due to the positive efforts and policies of the Singapore government as well as the dedication of the people of Singapore. Although the results are encouraging, this paper highlights a few challenges Singapore needs to address to ensure the country stays on top of the health charts.

These challenges are not unique to Singapore but are a real concern across the world. Phenomena such as an ageing population intensify the push in demand for healthcare services which, in turn, burdens the economy of many, if not all, countries.

More needs to be done to address the fact that the majority of diseases which are affecting Singaporeans today result from unhealthy behaviours and lack of early detection through preventive screening.

This demonstrates the importance of preventive care to a nation’s well-being, and significant changes can and should be made to influence healthy behaviour through initiatives which motivate Singaporeans to make the right choices in life for themselves and their family.

Singapore’s ageing population

Like many developed countries, Singapore is living with an ageing population. The concern is that while Singaporeans are living longer, they are spending more years in poor health.⁷ This trend is expected to continue. Singaporeans born in 2010 will live approximately 2 more years in poor health compared to Singaporeans born in 1990⁷ a study revealed.

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¹ Bloomberg (2018). The most liveable cities in the world.
⁵ Source: A Sustainable Population for a Dynamic Singapore – Population White Paper 2013
The Case for Preventive Care

Singapore’s major health concern is not only that of an ageing population. It is also the increasing incidence of chronic diseases among both the young and old which will escalate the nation’s overall healthcare expenditure by an additional 11% each year until 2018.10

While government healthcare spending is traditionally focused on the elderly, salaries of healthcare providers, infrastructure and other services, recent studies11 underscore the value of investing in preventive care to reduce healthcare costs in the long-term.

This is because 3 controllable behaviours result in 4 chronic diseases which are responsible for 50% of deaths worldwide.12

Importance of preventive screening

Preventive screenings have been recognised as a cost-effective way to identify and treat potential health problems before they develop further and result in an unfavourable prognosis13 which can be costly. Regular screenings are recommended as the early detection of common chronic diseases allows for more effective treatment.

- 27% of respondents in the AIA Vitality Age Survey 2012 had not had cholesterol, blood pressure, or blood glucose checks in the past 12 months.
- From 2007 to 2010, there has been a 11.3% decrease in the percentage of women aged 25 to 69 who had a Pap Smear test done in the last 3 years, from 59.2% to 47.9%.14

While Singaporeans desire to stay healthy for a better quality of life and to be able to care for their family longer,9 many blame their busy schedules for not being as healthy as they could be.
The Fight against Chronic Diseases

Singapore is on the right track in the fight against chronic diseases, based on results of the National Health Survey released in 2010. However, more can be done and we recommend increased focus to deal with 3 key areas:

• Impact of physical inactivity on the prevalence of obesity.
• Impact of poor dietary behaviours on obesity.
• Burden and prevalence of diabetes.

Impact of physical inactivity on the prevalence of obesity

Physical activity is one of the cornerstones for the prevention and management of obesity and other chronic diseases. Although 62% of Singaporeans realise the importance of physical activity, more than half of the population is not meeting the guidelines set by the Health Promotion Board (HPB) of at least 150 minutes-a-week of moderate to intense physical activity.

The AIA Vitality Age Survey 2012 also found that more than 4 in 5 Singaporeans do not meet the physical activity guidelines by HPB.

HPB attributes the rise in obesity prevalence by 3.9% between 2004 and 2010 to Singaporeans’ leading less active lifestyles and being in more sedentary occupations.

Weight loss is a key area of concern among Singaporeans with 66% of Singaporeans wanting to lose weight.

Impact of poor dietary behaviours on obesity

Burden and prevalence of diabetes

Impact of physical inactivity on the prevalence of obesity

66% of Singaporeans want to lose weight but many do not engage in physical activity because of...

More than 4 in 5 Singaporeans do not meet physical activity guidelines

More than half the nation is considered to be lacking in physical activity

Source: Health Promotion Board; AIA Healthy Index Survey 2011; AIA Vitality Age Survey 2012
Burden and prevalence of diabetes

Singapore currently has one of the highest incidences of diabetes in the developed world. This trend appears to mirror obesity figures, suggesting that Singaporeans could find themselves with a host of chronic conditions in the future.

- Although Singaporeans are now eating healthier food, 6 in 10 are still consuming too many calories.
- 73.5% are still consuming sugary drinks on a regular basis, 61.4% eat too much fat, and 59.4% exceed their recommended calorie intake. This could potentially lead to a weight gain of 5kg a year.

Impact of poor dietary behaviours on obesity

It can be argued that one of the greatest contributors towards chronic diseases is diet and nutrition. 95% of Singaporeans are not consuming enough healthy food of 2 servings of fruit and 2 servings of vegetables every day, as suggested by guidelines set by HPB, and that they are consuming unhealthy food in excess which could result in weight gain.

- The percentage of Singaporeans aged between 18 and 69 with diabetes increased by 3.1% from 8.2% in 2004 to 11.3% in 2010.
- Approximately 350,000 Singaporeans aged 40 and above are diabetic, increasing their risks of suffering from heart problems and strokes. With an ageing population, this number is expected to almost double to 600,000 by 2030.
- 1 in 3 Singaporeans will develop this condition by the time they are 69, making it one of the most pressing health issues affecting Singaporeans. 11.3% of those aged 18 to 69 were already diagnosed with the disease in 2010.

Source: Ministry of Health, Singapore, AIA Healthy Living Index Survey 2011, National Registry of Diseases Office

Source: AIA Vitality Age Survey 2012, Health Promotion Board
Addressing the Health Challenge

Fortunately, the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified 3 preventive behaviours to avoid chronic diseases:

1) Eat healthy food,
2) Participate in physical activity, and
3) Avoid tobacco abuse.  

![Image: Health habits]

**By performing 3 activities**

- 80% of premature heart attacks, stroke and type II diabetes
- + 40% of cancers

Source: World Health Organization, Oxford Health Alliance

The WHO estimates that better use of existing preventive measures could reduce the global burden of disease by as much as 70%.  

The HPB is committed to the goal of eradicating unhealthy behaviour completely through campaigns that encourage Singaporeans to engage in 150 minutes of physical activity a week and to stop using tobacco products. It has published dietary guidelines to promote health with a focus on the consumption of certain food high in grains (especially whole grains), as well as fruits and vegetables, and to avoid food high in salt, fat and sugar. HPB also stresses the importance of regular screenings at recommended intervals for early identification of disease which can potentially save lives.

AIA Singapore seeks to support and complement these efforts in line with the Healthy Living Master Plan.

AIA Vitality: Supporting policyholders in their efforts to get healthier

Based on the above information and insight, AIA forged a partnership with Discovery Holdings to launch AIA Vitality in Singapore.

The partnership reflects AIA's commitment to ensure that policyholders are made aware of their state of health, empowered to make the right choices regarding their health and that they are rewarded for doing so.

The Vitality programme, the largest of its kind in the world, is backed by science and sound clinical integrity. It is also the only programme of its kind created to influence long-term behavioural change. Vitality has built up an outstanding 16-year track record of success and is internationally recognised across 5 countries in 4 continents including South Africa, UK, USA, China, and now Singapore. It has been clinically proven that Vitality members have significantly lower healthcare costs than those who are not members.

Unlike other wellness programmes, Vitality uses a combination of financial incentives and principles of behavioural economics to achieve sustainable change. In addition to providing the knowledge and tools to achieve their health goals, AIA Vitality also encourages members with rewards based on their health outcomes. These benefits include cashback on healthy food at Cold Storage, discounts for gym membership, sports apparel and smoking cessation courses, among others.

AIA Vitality recognises the importance of keeping members motivated by adding up the benefits of every healthy choice, however small. Members can make real change to their health, and live a life that is rewarding in every way.
Improve your health

As you embark on your journey to get and stay healthy, we make it easier and cost effective with discounts from our wellness partners. You'll enjoy special rates on advanced health screenings, smoking cessation courses, gym memberships, workout gear and cashback on healthy food.

Enjoy the rewards

As you improve your health, you will be rewarded with Vitality Points and a Vitality Status. The more Vitality Points you earn, the higher your Vitality Status and the bigger your rewards!

You can enjoy discounts on movie tickets, international cruises, international flights and insurance premiums for selected new AIA insurance plans.

Your added bonus – savings on your AIA insurance premiums

As the wellness programme that rewards you for getting healthier, AIA Vitality is already stacked in your favour. Sign up for any of the following AIA insurance plans, together with AIA Vitality, and enjoy an upfront discount on your first year premium and up to 15% discount on your future years’ insurance premiums when you improve your Vitality Status.

Terms and conditions apply. Discount promotion for Emirates and AirAsia will commence in September 2020. *Status dependent offers. Discounts vary depending on Vitality Status attained.

Know your health

Understanding your health is the first step to improving it. And it all begins online at AIAVitality.com.sg, where you can access a wealth of information that provides you with the knowledge to do so. What’s more, AIA Vitality also offers you a range of complementary health, nutrition and fitness assessments to help get you on the path to better health.

How AIA Vitality works

AIA VITALITY INSURANCE PREMIUM DISCOUNT

MOVIE REWARDS

Up to 50% off* international flights

Up to 15% off* selected new AIA insurance plans

Up to 50% off* cruises

TRAVEL REWARDS

Exclusive Health Screening packages from $99

Just $35 for a Fitness Assessment Test

VITALITY HEALTH CHECK

DENTAL ASSESSMENTS

ADVANCED HEALTH SCREENINGS

VITALITY FITNESS ASSESSMENT

Healthy Eating

GYM & FITNESS

50% off yoga membership

65% off gym membership

25% off extensive range of regular-priced products

33% off exercise tracking devices

25% off exercise tracking devices

30% off Allen Carr’s EasyWay To Stop Smoking package

FITNESS DEVICES

STOP SMOKING

How AIA Vitality Insurance Premium Discount works

The premium discount starts from the upfront premium discount in policy year 1.

AIA Insurance Plans | Upfront premium discount
--- | ---
AIA Secure Term Plus | 5%
AIA Secure Critical Cover | 5%
AIA Complete Critical Cover (S$) | 5%
AIA Recovery Lifeline | 5%
AIA Premier Disability Cover | 5%
AIA HealthShield Gold Max Essential | 0%
AIA Vitality – Journey towards a healthier lifestyle

We know that as Singapore and the region experience continued growth and prosperity, families’ lifestyles are constantly changing and there is a greater focus on healthier living. AIA will continue to pay close attention to issues and trends that are influencing the lives of families across generations.

AIA Vitality was developed as a transformational programme that influences long-term behavioural change, reinforcing AIA’s commitment to engage with our customers. We have developed a nationwide infrastructure and comprehensive, science-backed approach that will provide Singaporeans who get onboard with the knowledge, tools and motivation they need to lead healthier lives for themselves and their family.

For just $9 a month*, enjoy great discounts on activities that help you get on track to good health.

The stated amount includes GST.

For each subsequent policy year, the premium discount may increase or decrease depending on the Vitality Status of the member.

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Note: The AIA Vitality member has to be the insured person in order to enjoy the AIA Vitality insurance premium discount.

Here is an illustration of how the discount adds up based on the Vitality Status at policy renewal every year:

John is an AIA Vitality member who buys an AIA Secure Term Plus policy. In policy year 1, he enjoys 5% off his premium. In policy year 2, he achieves Gold Vitality Status and enjoys 6% off his premium. In policy year 3, he achieves Platinum Vitality Status and enjoys 8% off his premium. He maintains the Platinum Vitality Status and enjoys 15% off his yearly premium from policy year 7. The premium discount is capped at 15% and floored at 0%.

AIA Vitality – Journey towards a healthier lifestyle

Make AIA Vitality rewards part of your daily life.

Jo is a 35-year-old mother whose key concern is to get healthier. Her Vitality Age is higher than her actual age, and so she embarks on a wellness journey with AIA Vitality to get healthier, earning rewards along the way.

For just $9 a month*, enjoy great discounts on activities that help you get on track to good health.

*The stated amount includes GST.

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1. First year premium discount is not applicable to AIA HealthShield Gold Max Essential.
2. Premium discount is only applicable to premiums based on a standard life. Discount will not be applicable on any extra premiums due to loading.
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