

# Healing through expression

Music, art, dance and drama programme aims to rehabilitate traumatised children

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THE Suriana – Music, Art, Dance, Drama Initiatives (MADD) is aimed at enabling traumatised children to express their feelings through the arts.

MADD is a collaboration between the Suriana Welfare Society for Children and the Architecture and Built Environment School of UCSI University, which was launched at its campus.

The society's general manager Scott Wong said children who had been traumatised were unable to talk about their experiences even with the help of counsellors.

"The creative arts is an avenue for a traumatised child to express himself.

"It will help counsellors guide them through the rehabilitative process.

"Give them paper and they will draw their feelings or express their emotions through songs.

"Dancing and acting also gives them a way to express their feelings about how they have been abused," he said.

Wong added that they would bring in children from the Ampang area for MADD to be held over three Saturdays at the UCSI North Wing campus.

Architecture and Built Environment School lecturer Brandon Tan said about 100 students would be participating in the programme.

"We want the students to act like a big brother or sister to these children.

"They will help to facilitate the creative activities," he said.

Tan said he hoped that MADD would be a good learning opportunity for the students as well as provide an avenue for them to give back to the community.



UCSI students with the T-shirt designs they drafted for MADD.



Wong says dancing and acting gives the children a way to express their feelings.



Many UCSI students turned up for the launch of MADD.