

14. A-Z BUDGETING SERVICES

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of a request from the A-Z Budgeting Services Trust for accommodation at the Aranui Community Hall in Breezes Road and for funding support. A letter from the Trust has been circulated separately to Board members and a deputation will be heard at the Board meeting.

ACCOMMODATION PROPOSAL

The Trust originated from workers for Supergrans recognising a need for budget advice. The workers have been working as budget advisers for two and a half years. They formed a not-for-profit Trust in February 2002 and they who offer a free budget advice service. Private office space is required for six hours per day, five days per week.

The Trust has been operating from the workers’ own homes, their cars, or from clients’ homes. They have put considerable effort into seeking suitable office accommodation, and have recently reached a mutually beneficial proposal with the St Ambrose Anglican Church to share staff support and referral services. While St Ambrose Church has no available space, the Aranui Community Hall is immediately adjacent and has a large room available which is currently used one evening per week. It is available as a supper room when the hall is booked for functions.

Usage of the room would entail partitioning off of one end of the room with folding doors or similar in order to provide a secure space for office equipment, confidential files, etc. The space could be locked when the Budget Service staff leave each day.

The Aranui Hall Committee has indicated a charge of \$3.50 per hour plus heating, which equates to \$21.00 per day x 5 = \$105 per week, plus heating costs.

It is proposed to approach the Property Unit for a costing to install power points and folding doors to enable the room to be used, and the Hall Management Committee to negotiate a lower rental in view of the permanent nature of the usage of the room.

The Trust has also approached the Wainoni/Aranui Family Centre Management Committee for the permanent use of one of the two offices there, which are presently not utilized or under utilized. The rental quoted was \$30 per day, a cost which the Trust is not able to meet.

FUNDING REQUEST

The Trust is also seeking financial assistance from the Board with its other set up costs and its yearly operating costs. The Trust has estimated its set up costs as approximately \$1,585 and its yearly costs at \$18,143, including rent.

CONCLUSION

The Trust offers a complementary service to those available from the St Ambrose Church, which has established a café, food bank, children’s club and computer club. Both groups see their services as extending those offered by the other – a developmental process from needing to use the services of the food bank, to being referred for budgeting advice, advocacy support to WINZ, etc.

NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

#	CONDITION:	Meets condition ✓✓0*	HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION:
The Natural Step			
N1	Reduce non-renewable resource use		
N2	Eliminate emission of harmful substances		
N3	Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems		
N4	People needs met fairly and efficiently	✓	

#	CONDITION:	Meets condition ✓✓0*	HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION:
The People Step			
P1	Basic needs met	✓	Assisting people to manage their money and thus meet basic needs
P2	Full potential developed	✓✓	Helping people to develop skills and have experience in engaging in a life long learning process
P3	Social capital enhanced	✓	Building of relationships and trust among people and organisations
P4	Culture and identity protected	✓	Promotion of a sense of identity and belonging
P5	Governance and participatory democracy strengthened	✓✓	Develops participation and action as individuals, or members of a group, whanau, or iwi, in training courses for new budget advisers, and experience on management committee
The Economic Step			
E1	Effective and efficient use of all resources	✓	Maximising the use of the Aranui Community Hall, whilst providing a service to low-income people
E2	Job rich local economy		
E3	Financial sustainability		

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Board consider funding the cost of alterations to the supper room at the Aranui Community Hall to house the A-Z Budgeting Services Trust.
 2. That the Board refer the request for a funding contribution to the set up costs and yearly operating costs to the Community Development Scheme and invite the Trust to apply to the Project funding round for operating costs in future years.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: For discussion.