

10. COMMUNITY SPORTS FUND

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The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with information in respect to the cancelling of the Community Sport Fund by Sport and Recreation New Zealand.

BACKGROUND

SPARC has been set up by the Government to take over the responsibilities of the Hillary Commission, the New Zealand Sports Foundation and associated policy sections from within central government.

The Community Sport Fund and its predecessors have been in existence since 1973 but SPARC advised on 14 June 2002 that there would no longer be a contribution towards the Community Sport Fund. Local Authorities administer this fund on behalf of what was the Hillary Commission and the Christchurch City Council has linked this fund with the Community Development Scheme in terms of process and timing.

In real terms the Community Sport Fund injected \$347,643 into the Christchurch economy for the 2001/02 financial year.

It should be noted that there has been very little consultation with local authorities in respect to the future of this fund. As one of the bigger local authorities involved with this scheme some discussion about the funds future could have been expected.

MEDIA RELEASE

The following are sections taken from the media release:

- *Today SPARC is launching its new strategic document "Our Vision Our Direction". In that document we announce that we will no longer be contributing to the Community Sport Fund. In recognition and appreciation of your contribution towards the scheme over the years we wish to give you some advance notice of this announcement.*
- *While the Community Sport Fund has existed for nearly 30 years, in recent years there has been a decline in some areas in the demand for the fund because a number of other significant funding sources have opened up - particularly money being returned to the community through gaming machines and community trusts.*
- *The money will be put back into the sector in a strategic way to ensure the sport and physical recreation sector is robust and vibrant as it can be for the future. We will be putting a great deal more money into improving regional delivery.*
- *Over the next four years we expect to be investing in community projects that we have real value for physical recreation going forward. This assumes SPARC's Lotteries Grant Board and Government funding stays at the current level.*
- *This decision does not signal the end either of funding at a community level or a relationship with local authorities. We recognise the value in working jointly with local physical recreation and appreciate the commitment local authorities have shown in administering the Community Sport Fund over the past years. We will consult with councils and local bodies to fund out how to best develop new processes that foster active communities, particularly in relation to physical recreation. This partnership model will be developed in the new financial year in consultation with local government.*
- *Senior Managers from SPARC are visiting towns throughout the country to speak about the strategy and direction that SPARC will be taking over the next four years. You should have received information regarding these and we hope you are able to attend.*

A letter from SPARC providing more details of the proposals and a list of questions and answers supplied have been circulated separately to Board members.

OUR VISION, OUR DIRECTION STRATEGIC DOCUMENT

SPARC has released its strategy: "Our Vision, Our Direction". In this document SPARC identifies three broad areas of responsibility, Physical Recreation, Sport Development and Elite, whilst recognising the interrelated nature of these areas.

SPARC has identified the following vision and mission:

Our Vision

All New Zealanders have a right to enjoy participating and reaching their potential in sport and physical recreation, are proud of their own activity, healthy lifestyles and are proud of their achievements as a Nation in sport.

Our Mission

By 2006 be recognised as world leading in our approach to sport and physical recreation, as measured by:

- Being the most active Nation.
- Having the most effective sport and physical recreation systems.
- Having athletes and teams winning consistency in events that matter to New Zealanders.

SPARC will concentrate on making a difference in five ways:

- Working together.
- Smart investment.
- Innovation and growth.
- Vision and leadership.
- People.

SPARC is adopting a four year funding plan to support its mission with six principles underpinning its funding decisions:

- Focus on investing funds rather than just allocating entitlements. SPARC will be looking for a return on investment.
- Investments will be made in the context of sector wide funding. The focus will be on funding national services and regional capacity building rather than at the grass roots levels.
- Funding decisions will be signalled well ahead to allow organisations the ability to plan and adapt.
- Funding agreements will be for more than one year.
- Move away from being a provider of programmes to being a strategic partner providing funding information and other support.
- Move over time to partnerships based on contestability and alignment of mutual investments.

Amongst the key initiatives identified by SPARC is a new partnership with local government. *“SPARC recognises the value in working jointly with local government to promote community schemes that deliver more participation in physical recreation. SPARC will consult with council’s and local bodies to find out how to best build relationships that build active communities. This partnership model will be developed in the new financial year in consultation with local government.*

A full copy of the SPARC strategy is on their website at www.sparc.org.nz.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the Board prepare a submission in support of the current allocation system for Lottery Board funds.