

8. COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

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The purpose of this report is to seek the Spreydon/Heathcote Board's approval of alterations to the running of Community Board Community Service Award Schemes city-wide.

BACKGROUND

At the time of amalgamation individual Community Board Community Service Award Schemes based on a Riccarton Borough Council scheme were set up. Over the years the eligibility criteria has been altered by some Boards. At present the following three different criteria are applied:

1. One Board presented awards in recognition of significant voluntary service by **residents living in the Board area.**
2. Two others presented awards in recognition of voluntary service **benefiting residents or organisations in the Board area.**
3. Three others presented in recognition of service of a voluntary nature given by a resident or group **based in the Board area performing a service within the community**, or by a person or group **not a resident in the Board area performing a service within that community**, or by a person or group **resident in the community who or which performs a service outside the Board area.**

The problems associated with having a variety of eligibility criteria across the city are that some people could miss out altogether as criteria are inconsistent and exclusive. With criteria 3 above, people could qualify in more than one Board area.

FUTURE DIRECTION

Community Advocacy Teams were asked to consider adopting generic criteria to be used city-wide. Criteria 2 above – *“That Community Service Awards be given in recognition of voluntary service benefiting residents or organisations in the Board area”* was the agreed option. This criteria enables recipients of awards to be acknowledged by the community in the area where the voluntary service has been carried out and relationships built and established with that community.

It was also felt that it would be beneficial to have a generic closing date for all Board areas. At present Boards run their schemes with closing dates ranging from the end of June through to October. If a generic closing date for all Community Board Award Schemes was used this would enable advertising costs to be shared between Boards, would be a clearer process for the community, and would allow Civic Awards and Community Service Awards to be linked. Occasionally nominations are received for Community Service Awards which would be better suited to the Civic Award Scheme. An end of July closing date was the preferred option by Advocacy Teams.

Several Boards also run Youth Community Service Award Schemes and to retain consistency with Community Service Awards, eligibility criteria for these should be the same as that for Community Service Awards.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board's eligibility criteria for Community Service Awards and Youth Awards be “that community service/youth awards be given in recognition of voluntary service benefiting residents or organisations in the Board area”.
 2. That the closing date for Community Board Community Service Award nominations be the last Friday of the month of July.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be adopted.