

3. REQUEST FOR REALLOCATION OF FUNDING – CHRISTCHURCH COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE

Officer responsible Environmental Services Manager	Author Jane Donaldson DDI 941 8651
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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of a request from the Christchurch Community Law Centre for a reallocation of funding.

BACKGROUND

The Resource Management Service is one of the specialist services provided by the Christchurch Community Law Centre. This Council has provided funding for the Resource Management Service since 1994. The service responds to requests from the community for advice and information on resource management, environmental and planning related issues. The service aims to help groups and individuals overcome barriers to participation in resource management processes through education work, information clinics and the provision of free advice.

For the past few years the Council has provided \$33,000 pa to the Resource Management Service. This funding sits within the Environmental Services Unit's budget and is paid out each year in three instalments. The service provides an annual report each year detailing the work undertaken and the associated expenditure.

The Ministry for the Environment recently introduced a new funding scheme for groups involved in resource management and the Resource Management Service received a grant of \$45,000. Consequently the service no longer requires the Council grant of \$33,000.

CURRENT PROPOSAL

Although the Resource Management Service does not require any additional funding, the Christchurch Community Law Centre apparently has an overall funding shortfall of \$60,000 for 2002/03. The Centre is seeking a reallocation of the \$33,000 budgeted for the Resource Management Service to enable it to carry out a research project to identify people who do not have access to justice. A second project aims to maintain and develop the provision of legal advice and education to the Pacific Islands community.

The request is more fully explained in the attached letter from David Bridson, the Chief Executive of the Christchurch Community Law Centre.

FUNDING HISTORY

In addition to the \$33,000 pa grant to the Resource Management Service, smaller amounts have been granted to the Community Law Centre from the Community Development Scheme over the past few years as follows:

1998/99	\$3,000	Volunteer management programme
1999/2000 2000/01	\$3,500 \$3,000	Subsidy for operating costs for volunteer sector services
2001/02	\$5,000	

The Council also supports the Citizens Advice Bureau and has provided \$30,000 pa for some years to help the Bureau meet its operational costs.

Chair's

Recommendation: For discussion.