

### 13. 2003/04 PROJECT FUNDING - COMMUNITY WORKERS

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The purpose of this report is to enable the Board to confirm the term of grants made in the 2003/04 Project funding allocation for Community Workers.

#### BACKGROUND

Community Worker funding of \$50,000 per year was initially allocated to each community board on the understanding that the funding would be allocated for a term of three years. On 22 May 2000, the Board decided to allocate the funding to Te Kupenga O Aranui and to an activities co-ordinator for the community centres in the Board's area. The funding was committed for a period of three years, concluding in the 2002/03 financial year.

At the Board's special meeting on 19 February 2003 to allocate the 2003/04 Project funding, the Board identified the following projects as appropriate recipients of ongoing funding tagged for Community Workers:

- Te Kupenga O Aranui - \$20,000.
- St Andrews House Community Trust - \$20,000.
- Dallington Community Cottage Trust - \$20,000.
- Family and Community Division of Anglican Care, East Aranui Project - \$10,000.

The Board sought clarification of any requirements of the Community Worker funding in relation to the term of grants.

#### COMMUNITY WORKER FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The Community Worker funding has been included in the scope of the Community Funding Review of March 2003. The review team found that community boards have handled the funding in various ways, some boards combining the Worker funds with their Project and Discretionary funds and others keeping them separate. This flexibility was generally supported by elected members and staff. The review recommends that the current local approach to the distribution of the Community Worker funding be retained.

The review assumes that the Community Worker funding is to continue although it is noted that a further review of community board fund is recommended. A further relevant recommendation is that grant funds are not used to employ Council staff or support Council projects (for example, in the way the funding has been used for an activities co-ordinator position).

The current situation is therefore that the Community Worker funding is ongoing and the Board has flexibility in whether it absorbs the funding into the annual Project and Discretionary funding allocation (in the same way as the SCAP funding) or makes a further three year allocation.

The main advantage of making a three year allocation is that the recipients have certainty over the funding. Such a commitment could also put greater weight on the retention of this funding for the future.

A reservation over making a three year allocation is that it effectively binds a future board (to be elected next year). This has been done in the past but the Board should be mindful of the appropriateness of doing so. The uncertainty of the board structures to be in place after the next election may also be a consideration.

#### Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That the Board determine the term of grants made in the 2003/04 Project funding allocation for Community Workers.

#### Chairperson's

**Recommendation:** That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.