

#### 4. MULTICULTURAL CITY UPDATE

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The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the recent work and findings of the Community Adviser, Multi-cultural.

##### INTERCULTURAL ASSEMBLY

Plans are underway for the next Intercultural Assembly (ICA) to be hosted by Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu on 7 August 2003. Mark Solomon will present a brief history of Ngai Tahu, and Ngai Tahu's perspective on ethnic diversity.

##### LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

A stakeholder dialogue was held on the Cultural Stream of this plan on Tuesday 15 July 2003. Further dialogues are being planned for later in the year.

##### REFERENCE GROUP

A meeting was facilitated on 23 July 2003 to discuss the setting up of a Reference Group for this position with several Council and community representatives. I trust that they will provide a valuable link with community groups, and be a key source of information for this role.

##### REFUGEE AND NEW MIGRANT FORUM

The July 2003 Forum met with Michelle Mitchell, Regional Operations Manager, Department of Work and Income, looking at issues and solutions to ongoing issues for refugees and new migrants. The Forum will meet with her again to report back in a few months time.

##### RECENT AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. **Ethnic Community Employment Advocates Project**, The Canterbury Development Corporation

I am a member of the supervisory team of this project. To date six advocates have been employed representing five communities, namely the Afghani, Kurdish, Somali, Ethiopian and the Spanish speaking communities.

The aim of this project is twofold:

- To 'map' the communities, looking at such things as age, gender, education and skills and availability for employment.
- The Canterbury Development Corporation wants to explore opportunities to increase the numbers of people from these communities that are engaged in the economy. Currently members of refugee and migrant communities are disproportionately represented in the unemployment statistics.

Work to date has included the establishment of databases to both map the various communities and collect information that will facilitate placements into employment or training opportunities.

2. **Christchurch Asian Youth Trust**

The Christchurch Asian Youth Trust was set up in February 2001 in response to the research "Voices of Asian Youth", a City Council initiative, to provide support for young Asians and migrant youths in Christchurch.

Until recently, it primarily played a co-ordination and referral role, but as 'many troubled young Asian people' looked to the Trust to meet their needs, its role has changed to that of support service provider. The current trustees and other volunteers include professionals in business, accountancy, law, counselling, social work, youth work, a church pastor, university and high school international student co-ordinators, a policeman and a community board member.

The Asian Youth Trust now provides support services like free legal advice and counselling.

It is also piloting new initiatives that include:

- A bus tour orientation programme to the city,
- Asian meals for lunch delivered around the city,
- Social opportunities to meet other Kiwis and experience other cultures,
- I-Bal, the first English language newspaper for international youth (news on Christchurch City in simple English).

("Challenges of Asian Youth and the Christchurch Asian Youth Trust", a presentation to community leaders by Lincoln Tan, Chair of Asian Youth Trust, at Fendalton Service Centre, 9 July 2003, available from Jenni).

### **3. City Council and Environment Canterbury Public Education Project**

To meet a request by tutors of refugee and new migrant groups for resources on the Councils' roles, a team (including myself) have been working on establishing a useful web link and resource kit for tutors. Follow-up visits would be encouraged to Our City, the Bus Exchange, Council meetings, and the Library.

#### **RELATED EVENTS THAT INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF ETHNIC DIVERSITY**

- Neighbourhood Week Planning Group is looking at ways to encourage minority cultural groups to be involved in this week, to be held in November 2003.
- Body Global, a Dance and Physical Theatre Festival held 26 July 2003 - 3 August 2003, was held for the first time in Christchurch. Workshops and Performances in dance, theatre and art focused on the diversity of cultures within the city. Participants of many different ethnicities enjoyed learning new skills together in the workshops. Performers enjoyed packed theatres.
- International Languages Week (10-16 August 2003). This was launched in conjunction with the Montana Winter Carnival on Sunday afternoon, 10 August 2003. Stalls representing the five key languages taught in schools (Chinese, French, German, Japanese and Spanish) feature displays, food, dances and other performances. Students and native speakers were teaching languages to the public.

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.