

15. SHIRLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL – SCHOOL COUNSELLOR PROJECT

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Lynne Batty, DDI 941-5405
--	--

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of feedback received from the Principal of Shirley Primary School in relation to the School Counsellor Project.

At the 2 April 2003 ordinary meeting the Board allocated \$5,000 from the Board's 2002/03 SCAP Funds in support of the Shirley Primary School Counsellor Project. In early July the Shirley Primary School Principal, Murray Overton, supplied the Board with a summary of the review of the School Counselling Project. This report has been circulated separately. The conclusions reached by the review are as follows:

- The response from parents has been extremely positive.
- A number commented on how valuable their child found spending time with the counsellor and also the change in behaviour that has seemed beneficial.
- The immediacy of access for these children has meant that the school has not had to 'maintain' a 'troubled child' while on the waiting list for counselling.
- The success the counsellor is having with our pupils is contributing hugely to our overall pastoral care strategy and is identified by staff, pupils and parents as a huge asset for the school.

Mr Overton and staff are very pleased with the service as it is having a positive impact on the lives of a number of children and their families. The core business of teaching and learning is now more effective because underlying issues are being dealt with. Mr Overton reiterated his gratitude for the Board's support in assisting the school to deliver such a successful service to its pupils and their families.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be adopted.