

16. TE TIKANGA RUA REO – ST ALBANS BILINGUAL UNIT

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Bruce Meder, DDI 941-5408
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The purpose of this report is to seek funding assistance for an extension to the bilingual unit building at St Albans School.

BACKGROUND

Te Tikanga Rua Reo has been operating through St Albans School for 15 years. Last year the unit was the inaugural winner of the overall trophy in the joint Rehua Marae/Community Boards Heritage Awards, Nga Tapuwae o Nga Tipuna.

Currently there are 76 children attending the unit with the possibility of that increasing to 90 by the end of the year. They have three classrooms available. New Ministry of Education (MoE) standards to be introduced later this year are likely to lower ratios to 20 per class.

A Management Committee made up of staff and whanau with overall management by the school's Board of Trustees, oversees the unit. The unit received an excellent report from the Education Review Office in 2001.

ACCOMMODATION

In order to accommodate the increasing student numbers and the new MoE standards, the unit needs to expand its present facilities. A copy of the plans is attached. Tendering for the work was done through Opus Consultants and the lowest tender was accepted. The total cost of the extensions is \$161,000, of which MoE will contribute \$141,000. Thus the school's Board of Trustees must raise the balance of \$20,000.

BOARD'S POLICY – FUNDING TO SCHOOLS

The Community Board has a criteria against which applications for funding from schools are assessed:

- Does the proposal fit with the Community Board's strategic plan/vision? Yes, the Community Board has an objective that "the Treaty of Waitangi is honoured".
- Are there other sources (of funding) available to the school? Yes, the MoE is contributing 88% of the cost of the project. Other funding sources will also be sought for the balance.
- What is the community benefit? Te Tikanga Rua Reo is well established in the St Albans community and is highly regarded as a bilingual unit.
- Can assistance be given through ways other than funding? Letters of support to other funds may be useful.
- Is it an isolated request from one school or likely to be a need from all schools? This is the only bilingual unit based at a primary school within the Board's area.
- Is the funding to help fund a core educational/school programme? The programme is core to the educational activities of the children enrolled in the programme. However, bilingual units are not the norm at most primary schools, hence this may be considered as unique within the Board's area.
- Do the benefits of the activity pertain primarily to students and/or their immediate families? Yes, the primary benefit is to the students themselves, although there is a wider benefit to the community in terms of increasing cultural understanding and involvement by the school in the life of the local community.
- How does this funding request meet the school's objectives to the wider community? When the unit was first set up it was done so in order to cater for the needs of graduates of Te Kohanga Reo Maori immersion programmes. It still performs this function, as well as feeding students on to the bilingual unit at Shirley Intermediate School.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board allocate a grant of \$4,000 from its 2003/04 SCAP Funds to Te Tikanga Rua Reo (St Albans Bilingual Unit) towards the unit's building extensions.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be adopted.