

9. DISABILITY BOARD PROJECT

Officer responsible Leisure Manager	Author Brenda Jay, DDI 941-5409
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The purpose of this report is to seek discretionary funds for programmes for children with disabilities.

\$3,000 of Community Board project funds was set aside for supporting children with disabilities to attend holiday programmes in the 2001-2002 funding year, and likewise in the 2002-2003 year.

Funding was initially used for the purchase of equipment to enable integration. This included communication cards, battery-operated scissors, and switches that could operate equipment such as an electric cake-mixer.

Specialist staff with experience and training in working with children with disabilities were employed to involve the child with a disability fully in the programme. Taxi vouchers were issued to enable wheelchair-users to attend venues away from the programme base. The staff person met with parents/caregivers, recreation staff from CCS, and the Holiday Programme Supervisor prior to each programme to ensure sufficient knowledge of both the child and the activities. Training was provided where necessary.

The five children who attended the programme needed one-on one assistance the majority of the time. They participated fully for a week of Holiday Programme and were enthusiastic about their experience. Without the specialist support, these children would have been unable to attend a Holiday Programme unless in a segregated setting. The children, their parents, the other children attending and the Holiday Programme Supervisors were very positive about their experience and wish to be involved in future programmes. At this time we have spent the allocated funds for training staff and

one-on-one assistance at Holiday Programmes which included staff time of 35 hours of program time and 10 hrs of administration and training.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board consider allocating \$1,000 for the April holiday season to assist children with disability to attend Shirley/Papanui community holiday programmes.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be adopted.