

5. OSCAR ST ALBANS EMERGENCY FUNDING

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Bruce Meder, DDI 941-5408
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The purpose of this report is to seek emergency funding from the Community Board for the St Albans OSCAR programme.

BACKGROUND

The St Albans OSCAR programme is based at the St Albans School and is the first OSCAR programme in the country, established in 1986. It currently runs an after-school programme, a holiday programme and a before-school programme.

FUNDING EMERGENCY

A Funding Co-ordinator has recently been appointed by St Albans OSCAR, who has identified an emergency-funding shortfall. This emergency has arisen for a number of reasons including:

- The after-school programme had been operating with an average of 55 children per session. For safety reasons St Albans OSCAR was advised four months ago that they were to have a maximum of 45 per session, effectively dropping their average to around 40 per day. This has, in the four months, reduced their income by approximately \$9,000.
- A recent audit found a large number of bad debtors on the books. The auditor recommended that these be written-off, reducing the positive side of their balance sheet.
- The OSCAR committee had been expecting a grant of almost \$20,000 from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). However, the Funding Co-ordinator discovered that this grant had **already** been paid.
- The cost of the audit was higher than expected (\$5,000) which has impacted on the programmes' financial resources.

IMMEDIATE CONCERN

The immediate concern for the programme is to pay their wages bill - \$7,500 per month – as well as a GST bill.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

St Albans OSCAR are attempting to address this emergency in a number of ways, including:

- The Funding Co-ordinator is sending applications to numerous sources (including this one) for short-term emergency funding.
- The session fee is being increased from \$7 per session to \$8.50 per session from 1 October.

FUNDING REQUEST

The Council's fund for emergency/crisis situations is **not** available to this group, as that fund is only available to metropolitan groups.

The Community Board has funded out-of-school programmes generously over a number of years, peaking at \$75,000 in the 2002/03 financial year. For a number of reasons, the Community Board has been able to reduce its contribution to this sector considerably in this current year by 40% to \$45,000.

Records indicate that there has been no Community Board funding (including Project Funding) made available to St Albans OSCAR within the past decade.

Staff

Recommendation: That an emergency grant of \$7,500 be allocated from the 2003/04 Discretionary Fund to the St Albans OSCAR programme.

(Note:

1. \$7,500 represents one month's wages costs.
2. The amount of funding to other OSCAR programmes in recent years has been in the range of \$10,000 - \$15,000, with one of \$5,000 and another of \$30,000 outside this range.)

Chairperson's

Recommendation: For discussion.