

## 14. COMMUNITY ADVOCATE'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2003

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of relevant matters for the coming month.

### **COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

An informal meeting with local electorate Members of Parliament was held on 22 September 2003. A copy of the notes from that meeting has been circulated. Two matters which were discussed resulted in a suggestion that further discussion with relevant stakeholders be arranged. These were, firstly, a meeting with the relevant School Cluster Group, Government Members of Parliament, a representative from the Ministry of Education, and the Community Board to discuss matters relating to problems faced by schools who are losing pupils to neighbouring schools, and the loss of teachers in some schools. Secondly, a meeting with Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board representatives, Christchurch City Council, ECAN and the local Members of Parliament, to discuss the problems some householders are facing with regard to heating their homes appropriately.

The Board needs to set times for the first meeting above. The second meeting will be arranged through the Council.

### **2 DECEMBER 2003 MEETING – PROJECT PROPOSALS**

During this year's Project Proposals allocation meetings, the Board expressed concern regarding community groups' ability to access this funding process. At present staff put forward proposals based on discussion with groups with whom they are working and projects those groups are developing. Other proposals come through previous research, for example, the Sydenham and Hoon Hay Needs Analysis. The Board's concern was related to the possibility that there could be other groups and projects which had not been identified, and those groups did not have the opportunity to have their projects considered. Also of concern was the amount of information the Board was confronted with at that time, in having to make its allocation decisions.

It was suggested that a meeting be held prior to the allocations in February, which would give the opportunity for groups to address the Board to provide information on their group's activities, and funding needs. It was felt that this would give the Board greater knowledge of groups and their needs, and allow the Board to better prioritise which projects to fund.

A meeting date has been set for Tuesday 2 December 2003, and at this time it would be helpful if the Board could discuss the process and format for the meeting, in terms of groups making their presentations.

#### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the Board meet with the relevant local school cluster principals, representatives of their Boards of Trustees, local electorate Members of Parliament and a representative from the Ministry of Education, to discuss problems faced by schools that are losing pupils to neighbouring schools and the loss of teachers in some schools, and the effect on the community.