

4. ASIAN RESEARCH – ‘VOICES OF ASIAN YOUTH’

The Board had received copies of the completed research paper, “Voices of Asian Youth” and Board support was sought to enable the research recommendations to be implemented.

The objective of this research was to identify issues, concerns and needs of Asian high school students aged 13-19 years in the Shirley/Papanui, Fendalton/Waimairi and Riccarton/Wigram wards. This was seen as an exploratory phase of research and confined to Asian high school students in the initial phase.

This research is qualitative by nature and involved focus groups and interviews with Asian youth (covering 12 different Asian groups), teachers and in particular ESOL teachers and data from Census 1996, various Community Boards, City Council and high schools in the three relevant areas.

The following are some key findings from the research.

- **Isolation**
Asian students feel isolated in their own ethnic group. Cultural and family links are broken (in particular for students with parents not here).
- **Current Services and Cultural Groups**
Students were not aware of Asian community support networks (in particular students with parents not here).
- **Support System**
Schools are providing orientation primarily for study skills for students. However, students identified the need for orientation for the new country/culture/environment etc.
- **Recreational Opportunities**
Students identified lack of night life and difficulty accessing indoor facilities, as indoor sports/activities were more popular amongst Asian students.
- **Language**
Language and cultural barriers were experienced by some students, in particular those from countries where English is not a major language.

One of the key outcomes from this preliminary work is the extensive amount of networking and relationship building done among the various community wards, school administrators and Asian community groups including their commitment to the project. This bodes well in respect to this research being instrumental in drawing together such groups and potentially enables or assists Asian Communities to better meet the needs of Asian Youth.

The major recommendation from this research is that a working party be established to enable research recommendations to be followed up and implemented.

This recommendation suggests that the Working Party membership include: 1 Board representative from each of the three respective Boards, 5 representatives from Asian communities, school(s) representative, other stakeholder groups and Council staff.

The Board **decided:**

1. That the research report and information be received.
2. That the research recommendations be adopted.
3. That the establishment of a Working Party as outlined, to enable research recommendations to be implemented, be supported.
4. That the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson (as nominee) of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board be appointed to the Working Party.
5. That Helena Zhang and Richard Tay be thanked for their involvement and contribution towards the project.
6. That staff from Papanui High School be thanked for their part in the project.