

#### **4. HORNBY YOUTH WORKER, PRESENTATION**

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board has shown a strong commitment to young people by

- funding the salary and programme costs of the Hornby Youth Worker for two years, and
- subsidising the salaries of two youth workers in the Riccarton Ward.

The Hornby Youth Worker, Lael Schwartzfeger addressed the Board, and presented an evaluation report for the eight months to 30 December 1999.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In 1996 a research project on the “Needs of Youth in the Riccarton/Wigram Area” identified a gap in services for young people in Hornby. The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board’s strategy to address this issue was to develop a partnership with the Community Development Network Trust who employed a youth worker, to facilitate and promote positive opportunities for the youth in this particular area.

#### **RICCARTON/WIGRAM STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN**

The purpose of this plan was to draw together projects, programmes and people involved in strengthening the communities within Riccarton/Wigram Wards. Seven major areas were identified, one of which was “Youth Work”. The “Strategic Actions” that the Strengthening Community Action Plan Core Group decided upon in relation to this particular area were as follows:

- To assist with funding for the Hornby Youth Worker position from 2000.
- To advocate for continued support for youth worker positions and their programmes.
- Support the provision of more after school and holiday programmes for 11 – 14 year olds.

#### **YOUTH POLICY**

Christchurch City Council policies indicate a commitment to a city that is a good place to live, and a commitment to plan for the needs of the whole community. Young people are a significant sector of the community (20.94%) and should therefore be seen as a major part of the Council’s business.

One of the roles of the Christchurch City Council, as stated in the Youth Policy (1998) is “To resource, provide, and support services to young people in partnership with other agencies where appropriate”. In December 1999 the Christchurch City Council Youth Strategy was developed as a means by which strategic direction could be taken for the implementation of the Youth Policy. In relation to the above role, the Youth Strategy suggests that the Christchurch City Council;

- Provide recreation, leisure and entertainment facilities, programmes and activities.
- Resource and fund community youth initiatives through the Social Initiatives Fund, the Community Development Fund Hillary Commission Funding and Creative New Zealand Funding administered by the Council.
- Initiate projects designed to improve youth opportunities in Christchurch.

The Strategy acknowledges that the Council works in partnership with government agencies and non government agencies.

#### **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

Members were in receipt of a comprehensive report; this identified goals and objectives and achievements to date.

Questions were asked by members; it is clear that Lael has already developed strong relationships with many young people in the Hornby area; it is crucial to their wellbeing that this youth worker position continues.

The Board **agreed**:

- to continue its support for the Hornby Youth Worker, with funding being a high priority from Board project funds.
- that funding beyond 2000/01 be included in a full external evaluation of the current contract.
- to promote, to the Community Services Committee, the need to obtain funding assistance for these important “youth at risk” activities from Central Government.