

### 3. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT



#### PACIFIC TRUST CANTERBURY

Manu Sione, General Manager, Pacific Trust Canterbury, Samson Samasone and Maria Godinet-Watts, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs (Maria Godinet-Watts is also a Trustee of Pacific Trust) made representation to the meeting regarding the acquisition of a building for office accommodation, etc.

Manu Sione provided the following background information on the establishment and work of the Pacific Trust:

*“Pacific Island Trust is a community-based group providing health services to Pacific Island communities. It has drawn together a number of groups and Pacific Island communities working in the area of Pacific Island Health.*

*The Trust focuses on addressing issues concerning access to health services for Pacific Island people by providing and facilitating “culturally safe” community health services, information, education and support programmes.*

*Currently the Trust has two substantial contracts from the Health Funding Authority (3 year contracts):*

- *Well Child Services – child health and immunisation services for Pacific Island families with children aged 0 – 5 years (approx. \$0.5M over three years)*
- *Mental Health – community mental health for Pacific Island people aged 20 – 65 plus years (approx. \$1.2M over three years)*

*The Trust sub-contracts much of the direct service delivery for these contracts to existing Pacific Island health providers, for example, Pacific Island Health (Health Nurses Clinic) do the service delivery for the child wellness and immunisation contract. The Trust provides the administrative and management umbrella for these services.*

*While the Trust primarily focuses on the health services its activities include other social services and education services, eg:*

- *employment*
- *housing*
- *immigration*

*Reports indicate that Pacific people have lower health status on average than other population groups. These reports have identified that the reasons for low health are complex, and are related to a variety of factors. They also identified that the inability of health and other social services to meet the needs of their clients and, in some cases, cultural inappropriateness, are also important (Ministry of Health 2000). The HFA funding was made available in response to these reports.”*

Manu pointed out that the Trust was keen to acquire “its own” building for office accommodation, etc. The meeting agreed that this project was worthy of discussion between representatives of the Trust and the Council.

Samson Samasone provided details of his work and of a Pacific Island capacity building project. This project is seeking to increase the skills and capacity of Pacific Island communities and community groups to provide services and also meet the needs of their communities.

Maria Godinet-Watts outlined a conference programme, "Pacific Waves – Building a Shared Vision for our Community", being held in Christchurch, 3 and 4 August 2000. Agenda items would include:

- Health
- Education
- Employment
- Arts
- Resources
- Identity
- Justice
- Legal
- Media

Mana advised that the conference had a goal of establishing contribution our Pacific Island communities can make to the City of Christchurch.