

2. **CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE - SANTA CLAUS WORKSHOP  
CHARITABLE TRUST INC**

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Corporate Plan Output: Information and Advice to Council	

The purpose of this report is to seek a decision on the request from the above trust for a representative of the Christchurch City Council to be appointed to its trust board.

**BACKGROUND**

The Santa Claus Workshop Charitable Trust was formed in May of this year. The purpose of the trust is to manufacture and purchase toys to be distributed to needy children through the Lions organisation, or other approved organisations, for Christmas presents. Prior to incorporation as a charitable trust the organisation had existed as the Santa Claus Workshop for a number of years and the trust has taken over the assets of that group.

The trust deed provides for a total of six trustees, including one representative from the local or district council.

Santa's Workshop has previously received assistance from the Council by way of the Community Development Fund, with amounts varying between \$500 to \$250 only being provided in recent years, as it has not been considered that their applications fully met the criteria of that scheme.

A written request has now been received from the Chairman of the trust asking that the Council appoint a representative as allowed for in its trust deed.

It should be noted that in the trust deed there is a proviso that in order for a representative to be appointed from the appropriate local authority it must be a financial contributor.

Members may recall that at the commencement of the current Council a review of the representation by elected members on outside organisations was undertaken and, as a consequence, a number of positions were not filled.

Current Council policy (August 1995) is that:

*"That the Council appoint formal representatives on outside organisations only where the proposed appointment will be of clear public benefit or benefit to the Council, or where the appointment is required for statutory reasons, or under the provisions of the relevant trust deed or constitution, etc of the organisation concerned."*

Appointment would also involve the payment of meeting allowance fees at a cost of \$145 per meeting. It is understood that the trust meets every two to three months.

Members may consider that in view of the small contribution made by the Council towards this group, and the fact that it has not been viewed as having a high priority in terms of the Community Development Fund, it may not be appropriate for the Council to be represented on the trust.

**Recommendation:** That the Council decline the invitation to appoint a representative on the grounds that it is not appropriate at this time.