

## 9. SISTER CITY NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL CONVENTION

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the details of the Sister Cities New Zealand Annual Convention which is to be held in Blenheim from 3–5 April and to recommend elected member representation. The report was before the International Relations and Sister Cities Subcommittee at its meeting on Friday 15 February 2002.

The theme for this year's convention is "Trading Cultures – Strengthening Friendships/Enhancing Economic Relations". The convention will include breakout workshops covering such topics as regional tourism and economic opportunities through youth and education. Presentations are to be made by keynote speakers including the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Jim Anderton, Mr George Hickton, CEO Tourism NZ, Ms Fran Wilde, CEO Trade NZ and Mrs Maarten Wevers, the Government's Business Development Manager.

The cost of an elected member attending the convention is as follows:

Registration	\$400
Accommodation (two nights)	\$200
Meals – additional to programme	\$100
Transport – shared car transport	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$700</b>

As this year's convention is being in the South Island and no air travel is required it is, therefore, a very good opportunity for strong Christchurch involvement.

### **Council Strategy for Sister Cities**

In September 2000, the Council adopted a strategy that encouraged a balance of community, economic and education opportunity within the Sister City relationships. This conference provides a focus on economic opportunity through Sister Cities and the role that Government has in supporting the work of Sister Cities.

The International Relations and Sister Cities Subcommittee has recommended that Councillors Keast and Ganda be authorised to attend the conference.

**Recommendation:** That the Deputy Mayor Councillor Lesley Keast and Councillor Ishwar Ganda be authorised to attend the Sister Cities New Zealand Convention in Blenheim from 3-5 April 2002.