

2. REQUESTS TO THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY DISCRETIONARY FUND

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The purpose of this report is for the Council to consider allocating grant monies from the 2001/02 Metropolitan Community Discretionary Fund.

Applications for new community initiatives for Metropolitan Community Discretionary funding support are considered by the Community and Leisure Committee.

AL-NOOR CHARITABLE TRUST

The Trust is seeking Christchurch City Council consideration for an establishment grant to assist the first six-month setting-up and operational costs of an after-school programme. This request was first lodged with the Riccarton/Wigram Community Advocacy Team and then, following consultation with the Civic Community Advisory Team, was referred to the Community and Leisure Committee for consideration due to the metropolitan/city-wide "client" base of the Programme.

This application meets the objectives and priorities of the Council's Out of School, Children's and Social Wellbeing policies and the Council's strategic objectives relating to community cohesion and well-being, economic development and cultural diversity. This project will also meet many of the objectives of and will address many of the social and education issues highlighted in recent reports and projects such as the Report of the Mayoral Taskforce on Poverty, Healthy Christchurch, Social Trends and Christchurch City Council Social Policy, Quality of Life in New Zealand.

Background

The Trust is establishing a Monday to Friday after-school programme for 25, 5-13 year old children based at the An-Nur Childcare Centre in Springs Road Hornby. Children and families enrolled come from Christchurch city-wide addresses.

The Trust initiated a written survey with the parents of the Childcare Centre and hosted open meetings with the Islamic and refugee communities that signalled strong support for an after school programme. The survey identified 36 children as potential enrolees. The aims of the An-Nur Programme includes providing Muslim and non-Muslim children with opportunities to improve their educational and recreational achievements, for homework support, for a greater understanding and participation in New Zealand culture/way of life and to improve their English language skills. The programme will be based on the teachings of the Holy Quran and will include lessons in Islamic Education. Non-Muslim children are not required to take part in the Islamic lessons and will have a choice to attend other activities.

The Trust is working with the OSCAR Network during this establishment period and has implemented all the necessary programme management standards and operational protocols. The Trust also has a full Ministry of Education Certificate of Licence to operate an early childhood centre. The An-Nur After School Programme will share the same premises as the childcare service.

The programme has a projected 12 month operating budget of \$50,343 with an estimated shortfall of \$20,000 after taking into account income from family fees/donations and Work and Income subsidies. The Trust is presently applying to other community funders such as the Lottery Grants Board, the Council's Community Development Scheme, Hillary Commission Community Sports Fund, Community Organisation Grants Scheme, Community Employment Group and The Community Trust. This application has been forwarded for 2002/03 operational cost funding consideration under the Council's after school programme support through social initiatives.

Consultation

Extensive communication has taken place with staff/workers of the CCC's Sockburn Service Centre community advocacy and community recreation teams, the CCC's OSP Co-Ordinator, the CCC's Leisure Unit Holiday Programme Co-Ordinator, the Christchurch OSCAR Network, Early Childhood Development of the Ministry of Education and the Refugee and Migrant Centre. There is strong support for such an after-school programme, with a city-wide need. This type of programme is confirmed as the first of its kind in Christchurch and the Trust has a very professional management and operational structure in place for its Childcare Centre giving a strong indication that a successful after-school programme will be established.

Conclusion

The Trust has completed a survey with Muslim families and has worked collaboratively with CCC Community Advocacy staff, the ECDU of the Ministry of Education, the Refugee and Migrant Service and the OSCAR Network in establishing the An-Nur After-School Programme. Such groundwork gives every indication of community need and support for the programme and that the Trust has the appropriate management and operational skills and structures in place to ensure its successful development.

TE AHIKAAROA KAPA HAKA GROUP

This group is seeking Christchurch City Council consideration for an establishment grant to assist the first six month setting-up and operational costs of the Noku Te Ao Early Childhood Centre.

This application meets the objectives and priorities of the Council's Early Childhood Education, Community and Social Wellbeing policies; Council strategic objectives relating to community cohesion and well-being, economic development and the Treaty of Waitangi and cultural diversity. This project will also meet many of the objectives of and will address many of the social and education issues highlighted in recent reports and projects such as the Report of the Mayoral Taskforce on Poverty, Healthy Christchurch, Social Trends and Christchurch City Council Social Policy, Quality of Life in New Zealand.

Background

The group is acting in an "umbrella" role for a steering group made up of Kapa Haka Group parents wishing to establish a Monday to Friday Maori Early Childhood Centre. This umbrella role is an interim measure until the Steering Group becomes its own legal entity as a charitable trust.

The Noku Te Ao (the world is mine) Childhood Centre will provide up to 25 spaces for tamariki aged between 0 and 6 years and will be based on tikanga Maori and te reo Maori. Noku Te Ao will be a semi-immersed childhood centre; te reo Maori and tikanga Maori will be promoted at all times by staff to nga tamariki, but not to the extent of limiting or excluding any experiences from other cultures or non-speakers of te reo Maori.

Based on the aspirations and ideas of parents from within the Kapa Haka Group for further improving their pre-school aged children's access to quality social and educational development the Community Employment Group allocated an \$8,000 grant to the group to complete a feasibility study on the proposal of establishing a Maori early childhood centre. The feasibility study indicated a strong need for such a Childhood Centre amongst the Christchurch pre-school community along with identifying the required licensing and operating standards and procedures for establishing a childhood centre. From this study the Early Childhood Development Unit/Ministry of Education has allocated a start-up grant of \$15,000 to meet resource consent and architect/building design fees and a \$12,000 advance on the group's bulk funding operational grant. Some of the findings of the study include:

- Christchurch has one of the lowest Maori participation rates in early childhood education in the country with less than 50% of Maori children attending any form of pre-school.
- The Ministry of Education has recognised this and recently contracted Ngai Tahu Development Corporation to identify the issues and barriers and develop meaningful solutions.
- There is only one Maori pre-school option available in Christchurch, Te Kohanga Reo. With 135 children currently attending the 11 Kohanga Reo this represents just over 5% of all Maori pre-school age children living in Christchurch (1996 Census data).

The group is currently negotiating to establish the Centre on City Council owned land next to Te Kura o Te Whanau Tahi in Spreydon (Centennial Park/Pioneer Stadium vicinity). It is estimated that it may take six to 12 months to complete resource consents, planning and renovations of the property to meet licensing standards. In the interim the group has a sub-lease option on an Ensors Road property Barnados formerly established as a pre-school facility that is now only used as a supervised "collection point" for children with "separated" parents. The facility is fully equipped and furnished as a pre-school/early childhood centre. The group has obtained the necessary ECDU/Ministry of Education licensing for the Ensors Road property and has completed the required charter and operational documents. Skill New Zealand, the St Albans School Bilingual Unit and Ngai Tahu Development Corporation have provided letters of support.

Noku Te Ao Early Childhood Centre has a projected 12 month operating expenditure of \$98,043 with an estimated operating shortfall of approx \$6,000 per month until the first full Ministry of Education bulk funding grant is released in July 2002. With income from family fees, an operational grant from the Ministry of Social Development and the \$12,000 Ministry of Education bulk-funding advance this will leave the Centre with an estimated \$15,000 shortfall for the four-month period ending June 2002. The group is applying to other community funding agencies for operating expenditure support.

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Council's Community Adviser with Early Childhood Centre's, Barnardo's Family Support and the ECDU of the Ministry of Education. All commented very positively on the Steering Group's professionalism and developmental skills for this project and all recognised the importance of this new pre-school initiative that will provide an exciting option in the pre-school sector for parents and whanau. There are strong indications from these agencies that the Steering Group has already established all the appropriate and necessary charter and licensing documents and has in place the required management and operational procedures.

It is recommended that the Committee consider a one off establishment grant only.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council consider a one-off, four-month establishment period grant of \$10,000 for the An-Nur OSCAR programme.
 2. That the Council consider a one-off, four-month establishment period grant of \$10,000 for Noku Te Ao Maori Early Childhood Centre.