

## 1. SISTER CITIES NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE 2004

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Christchurch is host city for the 2004 New Zealand Sister Cities Conference, which will take place from 24-27 March at the Christchurch Convention Centre. An organising committee comprising Councillor Lesley Keast (Chairperson), Mr Newton Dodge, Mr Bill Willmott, Mr Bill Woods, and International Relations staff have been working to develop an extensive and inspiring programme of speakers. The Business Programme for the conference is attached.

Over recent years the Christchurch City Council has nominated, and met the costs of transport, accommodation and registration fees for two elected members each year to attend the annual New Zealand conference. The conference has rotated between the North and South Islands. The expenses for elected members to attend the annual conference have been allocated from the elected member conference budget.

The following Councillors are members of the Sister City Committees: Lesley Keast, Erin Baker (Gansu), Graham Condon, Sue Wells (Adelaide), Ingrid Stonhill (Seattle), David Cox (Christchurch, England), Sally Buck and Pat Harrow (Songpa-Gu) and Ishwar Ganda (Kurashiki).

The costs for attendance at the 2004 Conference will include conference registration fees only. The full registration fee per registrant is \$575. Given that Christchurch is the host city it would be desirable if the Council were to approve the attendance of more than two elected members.

Daily meeting allowances would also be payable for Councillor delegates.

A number of the Christchurch Sister City Committee members have registered to attend the conference.

- Recommendation:**
1. That up to eight elected members be selected to attend the Sister Cities New Zealand Conference 2004, being held in Christchurch.
  2. That registration fees be provided from the Elected Members Meetings and Conference line item.