

2. 2003 AUSTRALIAN SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Dave Adamson, DDI 941-8775
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The purpose of this report is to request approval for Councillor Lesley Keast to attend the Australian Sister Cities Association (ASCA) Conference in Orange in November 2003.

In the normal course of events this report would have gone to the Community and Leisure Committee, but timing is an issue.

BACKGROUND

Christchurch is hosting the National New Sister Cities Conference from 24 to 27 March 2004, on behalf of Sister Cities New Zealand (SCNZ), the national body. This will be the first time the conference has been held in Christchurch, and the first time it has been held in a main centre. 250 to 300 delegates are expected to attend from Australia, USA, Japan, China, Korea and of course from around New Zealand. Parts of the conference will have a focus on Sister City links between New Zealand and Australia. Councillor Lesley Keast attended the 2002 ASCA conference in Bendigo, with City Promotion Co-ordinator Julie Battersby, at which time the initial successful bid for our 2004 conference was presented. The bid was made on the basis of our conference having a segment focusing on trans-Tasman Sister City relationships.

THE PROPOSAL

To raise the profile of our March 2004 conference within the sister cities movement in Australia, thus encouraging Australian delegates to attend it, Councillor Keast intends making a promotional presentation on 10 November to the ASCA conference. Promotion to delegates is vital, to ensure a maximum number of Australian delegates attend our conference in March 2004.

The benefit of an elected member being present at the ASCA conference, and making a presentation to delegates, will endorse the Christchurch City Council's commitment to the Sister City movement and economic development through Sister Cities.

COSTS

The all-up costs of airfares, accommodation and conference registration will be approximately \$2,400. Funding would be provided from Public Accountability – Councillors' Travel.

COUNCIL POLICY

Benefits from this visit are through economic development in the attendance of Australian delegates at our Sister Cities conference in March 2004. This travel is also relevant for furthering our understanding of Australian policies, initiatives and proven methods used by Sister Cities in Australia for the management and operation of Sister City relationships.

Staff

Recommendation: That Councillor Lesley Keast be authorised to attend the ASCA Conference in Orange in November 2003.

Chairman's

Recommendation: Not seen by Chairman.