

8. TIME TO TALK

Officer responsible Community and Recreation Manager	Authors Jenni Marr, Community Adviser Multicultural, DDI 941 8097 and David Coom, Team Leader, Community Services, DDI 941 8275
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The purpose of this report is to brief the Committee on the "Time to Talk" concept.

BACKGROUND

The "Time to Talk" concept arose from the Mayor's visit to Seattle.

The programme in Seattle is run by the Urban Enterprise Centre (UEC) which is a non-profit programme with the aim of enhancing the quality of life for all through economic development, job creation and improved race relations.

The core of their strategy is that communities and people within their communities need to get to know each other better.

UEC have expanded their "Time to Talk" strategy around race relations to include large forum events, community dinners and dialogues, in-home dinner discussions and youth events.

The Multi-cultural City Subcommittee of the Christchurch City Council set up a working group to examine the "Time to Talk" programme in 2002 with the first meeting on 18 July 2002. There was overall endorsement of the programme with various ideas of how to progress the concept.

PRESENT SITUATION

With the work that the Council has done on determining a vision for the city and in defining social outcomes, it is important that any developments fit within the strategies that are to be developed over the next few months. It is felt by present staff who have picked up the multi-cultural portfolio that the "Time to Talk" concept has merit and is adaptable for Christchurch.

In reading the literature from UEC "Time to Talk", it is apparent that their programme is multi-faceted. In examining the current work of the Multi-cultural Adviser and some of the other activities of the Council, it would seem that this work would fit in to an equivalent programme. Examples of this are:

- (a) The formation of the Inter-cultural Assembly.
- (b) The setting up of the informal Multi-cultural Reference Group, which includes Council staff and external ethnic representatives.
- (c) Engagement and relationship building with key ethnic leaders and relevant agency leaders.
- (d) Living in Harmony groups instigated by the Ethnic Council and promoted at the last ICA meeting.
- (e) Neighbourhood Week events in local communities which include barbecues, picnics, gala festivities etc.
- (f) Refugee and New Migrant Forum.

What is required now is to pull this together into:

- (a) An identifiable project.
- (b) A clear business plan for the next twelve months.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the "Time to Talk" concept is progressed.
 2. That the work already underway as mentioned above in (a) to (f) be noted.

3. That a further report be considered by the Committee in June 2004 once the project has been scoped.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

That the officers recommendations be supported.