

## 8. MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES - UPDATE ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

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The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on ongoing City Council initiatives for Ethnic <sup>1</sup> Minority Communities.

### BACKGROUND

A seminar on Multi-Culturalism was held with the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee on 23 June, 2004. It was agreed at that seminar that elected members would be updated on ongoing City Council initiatives for the Ethnic Minority Sector.

### DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL INITIATIVES

The City Council works collaboratively with government and non-government agencies, and community groups. Christchurch has dedicated leaders in this city who have worked together constructively in the multicultural area over a number of years.

The Christchurch City Council is dedicated to making the city inclusive and welcoming of all.

Elected members are approachable for any information, or over any issues of concern. They determine the vision and direction for the city and the Mayor attends every citizenship ceremony.

### ONGOING COUNCIL INITIATIVES

The Christchurch City Council:

- Funds the Canterbury Development Corporation for Employment and Economic Development (this includes needs of ethnic minority groups).
- Funds 'Core Funded Cultural Festivals' such as the Primary Schools Cultural Festival, and other cultural festivals through the Festivals and Events Subcommittee, the Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee and Community Boards.
- Provides rent and administration support to the Refugee and Migrant Centre which houses three contributing agencies:

Refugee Resettlement Support (provides social work, literacy and children's services for refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers), Refugee and Migrant Service (assists refugees brought into NZ through the UNHCR Programme in their first six months of settlement into NZ), Peeto Intercultural Development Trust (provides assistance to job-seekers)

- Supports the Sister Cities Programme, which develops links with 6 cities overseas.
- Has an Ethnic Advocate at Christchurch City Council Library
- Supports the Ethnic Council through staff time and administrative assistance
- Co-convenes (with Community and Public Health) the Refugee and New Migrant Forum
  - Provides administration and logistic support to the Intercultural Assembly
  - Funds the Christchurch ESOL Home Tutors Scheme
  - Makes an annual grant to the Rewi Alley Education and Cultural Centre
  - Makes an annual grant to the Christchurch Asian Youth Trust

<sup>1</sup> This discussion follows the Office of Ethnic Affairs terminology, which uses the word 'Ethnic' to cover all those groups **not** Pakeha, Maori nor Pacific Island.

- Provides the rent of Community House which houses agencies such as Citizens Advice Bureau, Council of Social Services (who support ethnic sector)
- Supports Race Relations Day each year
- Through the Community and Recreation Unit supports a wide range of small community groups to achieve their own goals and aspirations. The Unit also delivers/facilitates recreation and arts programmes and community events with and for ethnic groups, through the work of the:
  - Community Development Advisers e.g. *Rewi Alley Education and Cultural Centre* - Community Recreation Advisers e.g. *Culture Galore Festival*
  - Arts Advisers. e.g. *Body Global Festival*.
  - The Funding Adviser - assists with funding advice and support to community groups.
  - The Community Adviser Multi-Cultural develops relationships and consolidates bridges between Council and ethnic minority groups and agencies, reports to the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee and works on specific projects such as the ICA.
  - The Children's & Youth Advocacy Team also advocate for the Ethnic Youth Sector
  - Mayor's Welfare Fund

## **CONCLUSION**

Christchurch City Council works with and for the Ethnic Minority sector in the variety of ways described above. The diversity of approaches described above caters well for the wide diversity of ethnic communities and networks, their needs and capabilities, allowing these communities to both retain their identities and to feel part of the wider Christchurch community .

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.