

14. PROJECT ESTHER – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

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The purpose of this report is to provide information in relation to the application from Project Esther – Single Mum’s Support Service for \$6,000 from the Board’s 2004/2005 Discretionary Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE ISSUE

The Spreydon Heathcote Community Board requested background information on Project Esther and the Single Mum’s Support Service in order to make an informed funding decision.

BACKGROUND

Project Esther has been operating as an Incorporated Society since 1995 and its purpose is to serve, resource and empower women and their families. The activities and services they provide include:

- Preschool music and movement classes
- Parenting courses
- Women’s anger management courses
- Chaplaincy support at Christchurch Women’s Prison
- Healing Journey – Support Group for women survivors of childhood sexual abuse
- Small assistance for children e.g. camp fees, specialists, glasses, shoes.
- Networking and referring and
- *Single Mum’s Support Service.*

Council Support towards Project Esther over the past 5 of years has been minimal and mainly through the Community Development Scheme.

Funding Stream	Year	Amount	Purpose
Community Development Scheme	1999/2000	\$550	Music and movement tutor fees
	2000/2001	\$800	Rental costs for music and movement classes and volunteer acknowledgement
	2001/2002	\$1,500	Equipment for music and movement classes and volunteer acknowledgement
	2002/2003	\$1,200	Wages for two tutors for music and movement
	2003/2004	\$1,500	Music and Movement costs
SCAP	2003/2004	\$6,000	Salary costs for Single Mum’s Support Service
Community Development Scheme	2004/2005	\$1,500	Single Mum’s Support Service operating costs

The Single Mum’s Support Service began in 2001 by meeting weekly on Tuesdays from 4.30 - 6.30 pm. The service has grown now to include:

- Newsletters
- Seminars
- Links to other relevant services
- Organised family events
- Single parent resources eg tapes, magazines and books.

Presently the Single Mum’s Support Service is offering support to 65 families in the South Christchurch area.

The Single Mum’s Support Service aims to employ two part time workers due to the increased demand and ideas for programmes, groups and activities. The costs associated with employing workers includes providing a venue, administrative support, supervision and training. This funding request relates specifically to the training and administrative components of the budget in their application.

OPTIONS

In relation to this application the Community Board could choose to:

- (a) Grant \$6,000 to Project Esther – Single Mum’s Support Service for training and administrative purposes
- (b) Grant a portion of the amount requested
- (c) Decline the application.

PREFERRED OPTION

Given that the outcomes of the Single Mum’s Support Service align significantly with Community Outcomes, Council Policies and Community Board Objectives the preferred option is to grant the full amount requested to Project Esther. The Group has a stable history, with good support from Spreydon Baptist Church. They have been pursuing a range of funding opportunities, and the community support for the programme is strong.

In conclusion Project Esther has developed a programme in response to community need and the outcomes align well with desired Council and Community Board outcomes.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board allocate \$6,000 from its 2004/2005 Discretionary Fund to Project Esther - Single Mum’s Support Service for the purpose of training and administrative costs.

Chairman’s

Recommendation: For discussion.