

## 5. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate, Beckenham	<b>Author</b> Elaine Greaves, DDI 941-5105
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The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to an application for funding from its 2004/05 Youth Development Fund.

The applicant is a 16 year-old boy residing in the Heathcote area, who is seeking funding to assist with costs associated with traveling to Korea and Japan as part of the Mainland Soccer team.

With the support and encouragement of the Mayor's office, the Mainland Soccer team will visit Christchurch's sister cities in Korea and Japan from 31 July to 12 August 2004. A mayoral farewell is being held for the boys on 22 July 2004 and a meeting with the Japanese Consul in Christchurch is also scheduled.

The squad has been selected from players who have shown a dedication and commitment to their development over the last few years. The team will fly to Seoul in Korea where they will play two games in Songpa-Gu against the leading school representatives. From there, the team then flies to Japan to take part in a six-a-side tournament, and play a further game against Ayase City, Christchurch's new soccer sister city.

Although the trip is based around soccer, it will also provide a marvellous opportunity for players to further international community relationships via youth, through sporting and cultural activities.

Some of the players have already been recognised nationally, having represented New Zealand last year; while most others have played at a representative level for Mainland Soccer. For a few players, this will be their first step into the representative arena and it is an indication that, even at this age, players who work hard on their base techniques and take on board the tactical advice now available to them through the International Player Development Programme can progress.

A great deal of fundraising has taken place over the past few months, with the applicant having raised \$500 towards his trip to date. The total cost of the trip is \$3,000 – airfares and taxes \$1,723; accommodation and meals \$795. An application was made to the Lion Foundation for airfares but was declined. Unfortunately, many people and organisations are "sponsorship weary".

The applicant will not only be representing Mainland Soccer, but specifically Christchurch and his local area. He is the only person in the team from the Spreydon/Heathcote community. On a voluntary basis, he has umpired recent soccer tournaments for young soccer players.

The applicant is now seeking a contribution towards the cost of the trip. It is understood that another community board has supported several of the players from their community.

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Board consider allocating \$300 to assist with costs associated with the applicant touring Korea and Japan as a member of the Mainland Soccer team.

### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the staff recommendation be supported.