

## 2. ETHNIC GROUPS SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2003/04 - UPDATE

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The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Community Services Committee on the progress of the Bishopdale YMCA based Ethnic Groups Support programmes for the 2003/04 year.

### BACKGROUND

The Christchurch YMCA run three programmes for new migrants from its Bishopdale facility through a Community Worker. Funding has been allocated from the 2003/04 SCAP vote for these programmes.

Two of the programmes have been running since 2001 and while they follow the principles of ESOL teaching, they are much more than just a basic ESOL programme. They aim to integrate and involve ethnic migrants into the Fendalton/Waimairi community through a regular, continuing course of English language tuition, application and teaching of basic social and life skills. This helps migrants to deal with social situations more confidently and build self esteem and a sense of belonging in their new community.

The programmes include:

- **Women's Group**  
This runs every Tuesday and lessons are based around vocabulary and other situations. Afternoon tea is included in these sessions which allows the women to practice social and entertaining skills to assist their home hosting.
- **Mixed Group**  
This runs every Thursday and is fundamentally based on learning English and customs in a social and supportive environment.
- **Children's Group**  
This group started in 2003 and runs the same time as the mixed group. This allows the children to be taught by their own tutor in a separate room to the adults and does not hinder the adults learning process.

All of the programmes are free which takes the financial strain off new migrants because many could not afford to attend otherwise. Over the 2003 year, a total of 431 attended the Women's Group and 438 attended the Mixed Group. Women from Asian countries (Japan, Korea, Malaysia, China, Indonesia and Taiwan) make up 86% of attendees in the Women's Group. In the Mixed Group 88% are from Asian countries. The rest of the attendees originate from countries such as Russia, Yugoslavia, Somalia, Iran and Egypt.

### SOCIAL OUTCOMES AND RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

All three of these programmes have been highly successful and are well managed by the YMCA. They are achieving outcomes that are identified in the Council's Social Wellbeing Policy Outcomes and Priorities:

- People participate in community life and have a sense of belonging and identity
- Living standards are sufficient to ensure everyone can meet their immediate needs, participate in society, develop their potential and live lives they find fulfilling
- All people no matter what age, race, gender, social and economic position or abilities, have opportunities to contribute to society and develop their potential
- Resources are fairly distributed among citizens, communities, regions and sectors

The programmes also identify with the Council's Community Policy, which principles include:

- Diversity – recognising and valuing the diversity of people who live in Christchurch, whatever their age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, social and economic status
- Equity – committed to fair and equitable distribution of power and resources
- Respect for the community sector – recognising that an independent and diverse community and voluntary sector is essential to the health and wellbeing of society. The Council recognises that communities have strengths, skills, talents, knowledge and experience and its role is to supplement these with its resources
- Social justice – commitment to promoting social change in institutions, policies and systems and resolving structural issues and injustice

- Partnerships – supporting and consolidating efforts of community and government agencies.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Christchurch YMCA programmes at Bishopdale are having a significant effect on the lives of the migrant groups using them including assisting them to have a better standard of living. The success of these programmes is dependent on its workers, volunteers, the community and adequate financial resourcing. The YMCA does not make an income from these programmes, therefore without the Board's funding support of \$5,280 the YMCA would not be able to afford to run them.

#### **Staff**

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