

5. YMCA CONTRACTED YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Officer responsible Lesley Symington, Manager Community and Recreation	Author Ken Howat, Community Recreation Adviser, DDI 941-6729
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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the current status of the Community Board funded YMCA youth holiday programme (Live Wires) and term programme (Lets Go).

BACKGROUND

“Live Wires” and “Lets Go” were initiated in 2000 and 2001 respectively as a result of recommendations from the Bryndwr Consultation, 1989, and Youth Needs in Burnside/Bryndwr Study 2001.

A review of these programmes was carried out in March 2003. This resulted in a shift from high cost activities to a focus on utilising local recreation opportunities with the aim of making participants aware of what was available in their communities and to encourage ongoing involvement. Annual funding was subsequently reduced from \$7000 to \$5000 per programme.

CURRENT STATUS

1. Live Wires

Live Wires is a holiday programme targeting 10 – 13 year olds involving five workshop activities offered during each holiday period.

The changes introduced as a result of the review impacted on the July 2003 and September 2003 holiday programmes which saw a combined total of 55 attendances. This was well down on previous years where the average attendance per holiday programme was 87.

This trend continued with the January 2004 and the April 2004 programmes which were cancelled due to insufficient registrations.

It appears that local youth prefer the high cost activities offered previously, however such a programme is not sustainable and provides minimal opportunities for participants to develop ongoing affiliations with these activities. Consequently the programme has been cancelled.

Reallocation of Funding

The Community Board has allocated \$5000 for this programme for the 2004/2005 financial year. Staff would ask that the Community Services Committee consider reallocating this amount to fund an arts based programme to be contracted to the YMCA and based at the Bishopdale Community Centre.

The format for the proposed programme would be the same as the popular Art Beat holiday programme based at the Avic Hill Craft Centre. The total annual cost of this programme would be \$7500. Should the Committee agree to reallocate the \$5000, the shortfall of \$2500 would be funded through the surplus from the two cancelled Live Wires programmes. This would cover the costs for the next financial year and for subsequent years the shortfall would be met through Community and Recreation Unit operational funds.

The establishment of holiday programmes in the Bishopdale area is supported by recommendations from the following research:

- Bishopdale Community Centre Review & Community Analysis, Kelly & Phibbs, June 1999
- Fendalton/Waimairi Community Multi Purpose Facility – Review of Bishopdale Community Centre, Skews & Usher, January 2002
- Fendalton/Waimairi Leisure, Parks & Waterways Area Study, 2002 - 2005
- Fendalton/Waimairi Youth Consultation, Mathew Newton, 2003
- Arts Participation Survey, November 2003

2. Lets Go

Lets Go is a term time programme targeting 10 – 13 year olds involving five workshop activities offered during each term throughout the year.

As with Live Wires, the outcome of the review was that the programme content was significantly changed from high cost activities to more affordable and accessible local activities. The immediate impact of this was a reduction in attendances however these have risen steadily throughout the year which demonstrates that support for the new format programme is increasing.

Overall there was a 50% reduction in attendances from the last financial year, 180 attendances this year compared to 356 last year. The YMCA attributes this reduction in numbers to the review and also to the fact that a high number of regular participants have turned 14 and no longer meet the age criteria. They also report that a new programme co-ordinator has taken over the programme for terms 1 and 2 this year and consequently expect enrolments to increase.

Staff recommend that the Board continue to fund this programme for terms 3 and 4 this year after which time the programme be evaluated before funds are committed for the second half of the year.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the \$5000 allocated to Live Wires for 2004/2005 financial year be reallocated to fund an arts holiday programme based at the Bishopdale Community Centre.
 2. That the Board fund Lets Go for terms 3 and 4 this year with funding for the second half of the year to be considered pending the outcome of a further review.