

3. ADDINGTON TOY LIBRARY – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Officer responsible Community & Recreation Manager	Author Jane Parrett, Community Development Adviser, DDI 941-5101
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The purpose of this report is to request the Board to support the Addington Toy Library's funding application for assistance with wages for the Co-ordinator until further funding is secured from the Community Development Scheme.

BACKGROUND

The Addington Toy Library is based at Manuka Cottage and has been operating for 10 years. The organisation is an incorporated society and its purpose is to provide low cost hire of a large range of well-designed safe and educational play equipment for pre-schoolers principally from low income households in a lower socio-economic area. Addington Toy Library's emphasis is on good quality educational and age appropriate play equipment that enhances children's cognitive, physical and social development and well-being.

Recently the Toy Library has undergone significant organisational change. A committee member that had played a major role in the Library since its inception resigned. With a depleted committee and falling number of families on the role, the Toy Library Committee called a special general meeting to ascertain whether there was still a need for the Toy Library to continue operating. At this meeting there was overwhelming support for the continuation of the Library with a number of members volunteering for the Committee and agreement that the Library would focus on increasing its membership, produce a regular newsletter, refresh the stock of toys and attend the annual Toy Library Federation Conference. Unfortunately, while this was going on, a significant funding round was missed resulting in a shortfall in wages for the co-ordinator. Hence the funding request to the Board.

The only Council funding this organisation has received has been through the Community Development Scheme with grants ranging between \$1,300 and \$1,700 between the 1999/00 and 2001/02 financial years. There is an application in for this current round requesting \$1,660.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES AND RELEVANT POLICIES

Supporting Addington Toy Library contributes to a number of Community Outcomes, including:

- "A Learning City" whereby the Council will contribute to the outcomes by "facilitating education and learning opportunities especially pre-schools..." and "supporting community education initiatives".
- "A City of Inclusive and Diverse Communities" whereby the Council will contribute to the outcomes by "providing funding and support for community initiatives, festivals and community organisations."

The policies relating to this application include:

- the Social Well Being Policy
- the Community Policy and
- the Children's Policy.

The Board Objective that most specifically relates to this policy is an empowered community through promoting community education.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

This application is specifically to cover a shortfall in funding for the Co-ordinator's salary. In terms of supporting this application this would allow the Toy Library to continue providing a service to the parents that overwhelmingly wanted the Library to continue.

Audited accounts and financial information were provided at the Board's 6 April 2004 meeting.

The committee is keen to improve its systems. Community development staff will work with the group to assist with this process. Staff will also encourage the new committee to undertake appropriate training through the professional development fund.

BENEFITS

These are the following benefits:

Community actions involved

Networking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Equity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advocacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Support Volunteers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Engaging community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prejudice breakdown	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conflict resolution	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decision making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Relationship building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Treaty issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Social capital (investment) achieved

Community up-skilling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Promote volunteerism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creates Respect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Should the Board not support the proposal it is unlikely that the Library would continue to provide an effective service to its members; they may have to rely completely on volunteers staffing the Library or operate on reduced days.

The committee has been re-energised with lots of ideas to further develop the toy library service. Funding will assist the Toy Library to further develop the service to the needs of it's community.

CONCLUSION

Addington Toy library provides a much needed service in a low income area. The funding assistance requested from the Board is to cover a small shortfall which occurred due to organisational change. The new committee are committed and keen to improve financial systems.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board grant \$1,092 from its 2003/04 Discretionary fund to cover a shortfall in the Co-ordinator's salary.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be supported.