

7. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

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The purpose of this report is to request the Board to agree to a process of dispersal of the 2003/2004 Professional Development and Support Project Funds.

BACKGROUND

The Board allocated \$10,000 in the 2003/2004 financial year for a Professional Development and Support Fund for local Spreydon and Heathcote Community Groups.

This fund was specifically aimed towards the upskilling of management committees and governance bodies as well as an opportunity for community groups to access opportunities for future strategic planning.

Whilst staff have been promoting this fund within their line of work community groups have been slow in coming forward with any solid proposals. In response to this staff would like to propose the following solution.

PROPOSED PROCESS

As part of its review of community funding, the Christchurch City Council decided to change the annual closing date for its Community Development Scheme, resulting in the scheme having two rounds this year, one of which has recently closed, with the second round being held in August 2004. It is proposed that the Board could allocate its Professional Development Fund to the Community Development Scheme, which will be carried forward for dispersal in the August 2004 round, but that the \$9,000 must be used for the original purpose intended. In doing this staff would be able to utilise the publicity that already accompanies this scheme in promoting the additional funding for professional development and support under the guidelines of the Community Development Scheme.

This timeframe would also allow staff to discuss this opportunity with groups more thoroughly, as well as following up with providing information about different trainers, facilitators and courses available. Applications for this support would then be made through the Community Development Scheme process and assessed by the Funding Committee, on which there are four Board members.

BENEFITS

The benefits of this process would be as follows:

- The fund would be more widely advertised to community groups in Spreydon Heathcote
- More time would be able to be spent with groups to specifically tailor a programme to meet their needs
- The processes of access to the fund are more open and transparent
- Staff tap into an already established administrative process
- Accountability and follow up procedures are already established
- Aligning the Board Project Fund with the Community Development scheme provides an opportunity to assist a wider range of community groups

CONCLUSION

This solution has benefits for both staff and the community and ensures the Board's funding is distributed transparently and equitably.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board allocate its 2003/2004 Professional Development and Support Fund of \$9,000 to the Spreydon Heathcote Community Development Scheme and that the funding be specifically tagged within this Scheme to be used for the above purpose.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be supported.