

12. YOUTH IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE – DUNEDIN

Officer responsible Community Advocate, Beckenham	Author Elaine Greaves, Community Secretary, DDI 941-5105
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The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with background information regarding a forthcoming conference concerning young people (refer attached).

The Youth in Local Government conference is being held in Dunedin from 4-7 July 2004. This biennial event provides an opportunity for young people, policy-makers, researchers, community organisations, councillors and council staff from throughout New Zealand to meet together to discuss issues related to involving young people in their local communities.

The 2004 conference themes are:

- “Participation – Youth in the City” which will examine young people’s participation in community and civic affairs
- “Sustainable Futures: - which will explore young people’s participation in addressing environmental and social issues
- “Youth Employment” – which will investigate issues around youth employment

Staff have canvassed youth organisations in the Spreydon/Heathcote areas to ascertain the level of interest in attending the conference. One registration of interest has been received from St. Nicholas Youth Trust. Their nominated representative is a 16 year old full-time student, who is an assistant youth leader with the St. Nicholas Youth Trust.

Costs associated with attending this conference are as follows:

Registration fee	\$200
Accommodation (St Margaret’s - \$45 per night)	\$180
Travel (smart saver flight, plus cost of shuttles)	\$200

The Board’s role in achieving one of its outcomes “to ensure local people’s needs are being represented especially children, youth and the elderly” is to “encourage young people in engaging in civic and community life”. By sponsoring the attendance of one young person at the Youth in Local Government conference, the Board will achieve this outcome.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board grant \$580 from its 2003/04 Discretionary Fund to enable a representative from St Nicholas Youth Trust to attend the Youth in Local Government conference being held in Dunedin from 4-7 July 2004.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be supported. This application fits the Board’s desire to encourage people (specifically young people) to participate in local government.