

6. MAYOR'S WELFARE FUND CHARITABLE TRUST - SIX MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2004 TO 30 JUNE 2004

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the status of the Mayor's Welfare Fund (the Fund) and the number of clients who have accessed the Fund. Comparative figures for the same period of 2003 are shown in brackets.

BACKGROUND

The Mayor's Welfare Fund exists to provide assistance to families and individuals who are experiencing extreme financial distress. The Fund is a last resort when people have exhausted other appropriate sources such as Work and Income.

Six-Monthly Statistics

During the six month period covered by this report:

- 877 (878) people approached the Fund for assistance.
- Of those, 549 (514) were granted financial assistance.
- A further 322 (342) were assisted through the Fund Officers advocating on their behalf with vendors or landlords, or through referral to appropriate welfare agencies.

The highest demand on the Fund was for:

- Electricity \$27, 517 (\$17, 669)
- Rental \$36,599 (\$23,789)
- Firewood \$16,850 (\$8,412)

The Child Enrichment Fund helps to provide children with the same opportunities as their peers to participate in activities such as school camps, trips, sporting and cultural events, and to subsidise childcare costs for children in 'at risk' situations. Grants from the Child Enrichment Fund for this period were \$17,560 (\$26,471).

The Making it Happen Fund is available to individuals where it can be shown that such support will result in ongoing benefits by allowing them to pursue opportunities to develop their talents and abilities which they could not otherwise do without this support. Grants from the Making it Happen Fund for the period were \$2,243 (\$1,518).

Total assistance given over the six months was:

- \$113,293 (\$91,864)

A copy of the annual financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2004 is attached.

Workshops

The Mayor's Welfare Fund Committee held two workshops to review the work that the Mayor's Welfare was undertaking. This was independently facilitated, had full attendance and made considerable effort to get clear about the Committee's role.

The conclusions from the workshops have not been ratified by the Mayor's Welfare Fund Committee yet, but concerned taking steps to protect capital investments, exploring specific projects for clients of Mayor's Welfare, and a re-look at grants to families to see if they are at an adequate level given price increases.

SUMMARY

It has been a busy six months for the Mayor's Welfare Fund staff, with the volume of requests for assistance and funding dispersed on a par with the same period of the previous year.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.