

7. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services
Officer responsible:	Community Board Principal Adviser
Author:	Elaine Greaves, Community Secretary, DDI 941-5105

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to an application for funding from its 2004/05 Youth Development Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Funding is being sought by a 17 year old youth living in the Hillmorton area towards costs associated with his travel to Japan on 23 April 2005 as a selected AFS (American Foundation Service) Exchange Programme student.
3. This request was initially considered at the Board's 15 February 2005 meeting, when the Board requested additional information in support of the application, which is now detailed below:
4. ***Is a level of excellence required to be selected as an AFS Exchange student – how was the applicant selected, or did he apply?***

The applicant applied for the exchange through his High School, and undertook a six-hour interview/assessment. During this six-hour interview, pupils were tested through games and questions to see if they were responsible, independent and to see if they had the potential of going overseas and trying out a new culture/language. The students were questioned on how strong their mental and physical wellbeing was, health, interests and attendance at school. "Games" consisted of real life situations, e.g. "you are alone and had a problem, what would you do? How would you solve the problem, etc". A level of excellence is required depending on which country applied for.

5. ***Do you have an aptitude for languages/Asian languages?***

Yes, the applicant has an aptitude for languages. This started when he was in second year, intermediate. At this stage he was introduced to Japanese and Spanish and has been learning and studying Japanese at High School for four years. He knows how to read, write and understand the structure of the Japanese language. After additional study with AFS, he is hoping to learn Chinese and Portuguese. The applicant teaches English to ESOL students and would like to use his talent of teaching the Japanese language.

6. ***Have you received a grant of \$1,600 from AFS. Did you apply for a scholarship from AFS?***

The applicant applied for a \$5,000 scholarship from "The Christchurch Press" which was unfortunately, unsuccessful. At that time AFS provided a \$1,600 grant. AFS have advised that as there is not as much funding available from the Educational Trust, students have been encouraged to apply for their own funding to make them more self-sufficient.

7. ***In your own words, please advise of the benefits you will attain by travelling to Japan; both for yourself and the wider community.***

"Travelling to Japan will benefit me by coming out knowing a wider spectrum of a new culture and speaking another language. With this knowledge, I will have a more understanding of my culture and also my English comprehension and vocabulary. It will also help me to see the world through different eyes. In terms of the wider community, I believe I can motivate our youth of today to try a new experience with a different culture and/or language."

8. ***Do AFS exchanges take place in the Spreydon/Heathcote community?***

Both Cashmere and Hillmorton High Schools are very supportive of the AFS Exchange Programme. Cashmere High School is currently hosting a Peruvian girl, and Hillmorton High School a boy from Argentina.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. The total cost of participating in the Exchange Programme is \$10,250. This fee will cover the following:
- International air travel between New Zealand and Japan.
 - Comprehensive medical insurance.
 - Orientation and training before and after participation.
 - AFS support from a network of trained volunteers and staff during the applicant's ten-month stay in Japan.
 - AFS New Zealand and AFS Japan administration.
10. The applicant has received the following funding towards the trip to date:
- ASIA 2000 \$1,000
 - AFS Grant \$1,600

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That, as there is a nil balance for the 2004/05 Youth Development Fund, the Board allocate \$500 from its 2004/05 Discretionary Fund to assist with costs associated with the applicant travelling to Japan as an Exchange Student for a period of ten months.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That:

- (i) The Staff recommendation be supported.
- (ii) The Board reviews its current criteria (attached) to determine its suitability for future Youth Development Fund applications.