

9. EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR TE PANI TRUST

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services
Officer responsible:	Community and Recreation Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present an application for Discretionary funding to the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Te Pani Trust organisation has been operational for eight years, operating as an incorporated trust for the last four years (since October 2001). The main objective of Te Pani Trust is to provide stone sculpture classes to the general public, with a strong focus on therapeutic arts and arts access for the differently able. Te Pani Trust prides itself on providing adult learning opportunities which are inclusive for people who are often marginalised e.g. people with intellectual or physical disabilities or youth with no academic qualifications.
3. Te Pani House is situated in central New Brighton and includes an all-weather workshop, an art gallery and a café. Te Pani House offers stone sculpture classes, commissioned art works, a gallery with monthly exhibitions and a café.
4. In September 2005 Te Pani Trust opened the café/art gallery creating four new full-time positions for people who were previously unemployed. Te Pani Trust opened the café in expectation of receiving \$30,000 in November from CEG (Community Employment Group) to underpin the business operation in its early, non-profitable stages. Changes in funding contract timelines mean this funding will not be available to the group until March next year. Te Pani Trust, like a number of other organisations, relies on various funding schemes to provide financial assistance to ensure the day-to-day operational costs of its business are covered. Te Pani Trust has indicated in previous correspondence to the Board that it is positive about its potential to become self-funding over a three-year period, but at this stage funding simply does not stretch to meet a full year's expenses. The Trust has developed a marketing plan to assist in achieving this goal and its business plan identifies potential funding sources which include sculpture sales, income from classes and income from the café.
5. Te Pani Trust applied to the Board in June 2005 for funding assistance of \$5,000 to meet a shortfall in funding at the same time. The Board approved a grant of \$1,500 for operational expenses from its 2004/2005 Discretionary Fund. The Trust also applied to the recently completed 2005/06 Community Development Scheme funding round and was granted \$1,000 for sculpture workshop overheads.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. Due to changes with secured funding allocation schedules, Te Pani Trust is now in the unfortunate position of playing 'catch up'. Contract payment instalments merely cover expenses already incurred by the time the Trust has received payment. The Trust is now under severe financial strain and is in need of assistance in order to survive and continue with its community and charitable work.
7. The application for discretionary funding to the value of \$4,500 is to cover the cost of wages over the next three months.
8. The Burwood/Pegasus Community Board has \$24,534 remaining in its 2005/06 Discretionary Fund as at 21 November 2005.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board consider the tabled application and allocate funding accordingly.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.