

## 5. 'LETS GO' YOUTH PROGRAMME – FUNDING EXTENSION

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Board on the outcomes of the Board funded YMCA youth programme, "Lets Go", for terms 3 and 4 this year and to seek Board consideration to fund this programme for the remaining two terms of this financial year.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. "Lets Go" is a term time programme targeting 10 – 13 year olds and involves five different recreation activities offered during the school term throughout the year. Each activity caters for up to 20 young people and runs on a Friday evening. The programme is managed by the YMCA and based at the Bishopdale Community Centre.
3. "Lets Go" was established in 2001 as a result of recommendations from the Bryndwr Consultation, 1989 and Youth Needs in Burnside/Bryndwr Study 2001. Originally based at the Bryndwr YMCA, the programme relocated to the Bishopdale Community Centre at the beginning of term 2 this year due to the sale of the Bryndwr facility.
4. A review of the programme was carried out in March 2003 resulting in a shift from high cost activities to a focus on utilising local recreation opportunities in order to raise awareness of these activities and to encourage ongoing affiliations. Annual funding was subsequently reduced from \$7,000 to \$5,000. The Board agreed at the June 2004 meeting to continue funding this programme for terms 3 and 4 this year, after which time a further review be carried out before committing funds for the remainder of the financial year.
5. YMCA staff report that of the five activities planned for term 3, one was cancelled due to adverse weather and another due to insufficient enrolments. The remaining three activities, golf, kayaking and indoor rock climbing had a total of 38 attendances out of a possible 50. Attendance figures for term 4 are not yet available.
6. As requested by the Board, this programme has targeted "at risk" young people by liaising with the local community constable and community and youth workers. However it is important to note the term "at risk" can apply to a number of situations, i.e. lack of disposable income, low self esteem and those involved in petty crime and other anti social behaviour. While every attempt is made to meet the needs of these young people, the programme is not equipped to deal with extremes of behaviour.

### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. Funding for this programme is set at \$5,000 per year or \$1,250 per term. In previous years "Lets Go" was delivered by the YMCA on a contract basis whereby payment of the full allocation was paid in two instalments. Since the March 2003, review, payment is now made upon receipt of an invoice at the end of each term for costs incurred in delivering the programme. Consequently should an activity be cancelled due to adverse weather or insufficient enrolments, overall costs are reduced.
8. Costs for term 3 were \$634.85. Total attendance figures and costs for term 4 are not available. It is expected that by the end of this financial year there will be surplus funds for this vote.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- (a) That the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board fund "Lets Go" for terms 1 and 2 2005, up to a maximum of \$2,500.
- (b) That surplus funds be reallocated to other youth events and programmes to be decided upon in consultation with youth agencies and local youth.

### CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATION

That the above recommendations be adopted.