

## 7. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

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### 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 in April 2005 as a selected AFS (American Foundation Service) Exchange Programme student.
3. The applicant has now finished his last year at Hillmorton High School, having studied Mathematics, English, Japanese, Hospitality and Computer Studies.
4. The applicant will live with a host family and attend a local school and learn the local language. Living in Japan, he will experience that culture in a way that most tourists miss, which will provide an opportunity to develop relationships and a number of skills including interpersonal, problem-solving, risk-taking, and excellent leadership skills.
5. A letter of support has been sighted from AFS Intercultural Programmes New Zealand.
6. AFS is a school-based exchange programme for young people to build and foster international understanding and peace. That is the mission statement of AFS. The purpose of AFS is to give young people, their host families and their school communities the opportunity to know people from another country and culture at personal and family levels. AFS is the only organisation of its kind to have received a special citation from the United Nations for services to the youth of the world.
7. AFS is a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven, non-government organisation, having a staffed national office located in each country.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. 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.
9. The applicant has received the following funding towards the trip to date:

§ ASIA 2000	\$1,000
§ AFS Grant	\$1,600
10. There is currently a balance of \$450 in the 2004/05 Youth Development Fund.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board allocate \$450 from its 2004/05 Youth Development 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 the staff recommendation be supported with the addition of \$50 from the Board's 2004/05 Discretionary Fund, making the total amount allocated \$500.