

10. REDWOOD EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services
Officer responsible:	Lesley Symington, Unit Manager
Author:	Bruce Meder, DDI 941-5408

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek funding totalling \$4,900 for the Redwood Early Childhood Centre in order to replace their shade-cloth.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Redwood Early Childhood Centre is in urgent need of replacing its shade-cloth system. The centre provides a welcome service to families and children in the Redwood area.
3. The cost of replacing the shade-cloth system is \$11,219.73 (excl GST) and the Centre is requesting \$4,900 from the Community Board towards this project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Shirley/Papanui Community Board agree to allocate a grant of \$4,900 to the Redwood Early Childhood Centre as a contribution towards the cost of new shade-cloth.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

11. As at December 2004, the Centre's Audited Accounts showed a working capital of \$30,500 with an annual expenditure of \$356,000.
12. The Centre has had no Community Board funding since 1998 when it received \$508 from the Community Development Scheme for equipment costs.
13. The funding that the Centre has received from Scottwood Trust needs to be spent "within six months of the grant being paid" (in March 2005). The quote from Weather Wise is also valid for only six months (from February 2005). Hence, the Centre is approaching the Board now as these time limits are due to expire in August/September.

OPTIONS

14. The Board has the following options open to it:
 - (a) To allocate a grant to Redwood Early Childhood Centre to help purchase shade-cloth.
 - (b) To decline the grant application.

PREFERRED OPTION

15. The Centre has a good record in its service to children in the Redwood area; it is committed to providing a safe environment and has put its own funding into the project. Thus the preferred option is to allocate a grant to the Redwood Early Childcare Centre towards the cost of purchasing a shade-cloth system.