

5. ARATUPU PRE-SCHOOL AND NURSERY

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services
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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 (of \$3,000) from Aratupu Pre-School and Nursery for the purchase of computers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Aratupu Pre-School and Nursery is seeking funding to purchase three computers (one for administration purposes and two for use by the children). Aratupu is an important social service in the Papanui area, working in a developmental way with the children and their families.
3. Aratupu is based in Harewood Road and is one of the many services provided by the Christchurch Methodist Mission. The Mission is a large organisation with significant funding and Aratupu has shown a net surplus of income over expenditure over the past two years.
4. Although Aratupu has applied for funding from the Community Development Scheme in the past, this is its first application to the Board and comes via being referred on from the Community Development Scheme.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. The Community Development Scheme was unable to grant these funds retrospectively, as the group had already purchased the computer.
6. Aratupu has obtained one quote (from Christchurch Information Technology) for a total of \$4,101. This is for three HP computers, extended warranty on all three computers and a Microsoft Office software package.
7. Aratupu Pre-School and Nursery operate as part of the Christchurch Methodist Mission. Thus, Aratupu does not have completely separate accounts from those of the Mission. The latest audited accounts of the Mission (as at 30 June 2005) show that the Mission had a deficit of approximately \$510,000 in that year, most of this attributable to a revaluation of property, plant and equipment. As at 30 June 2005 the Mission had almost \$6.5 million in current assets.

The annual operating budget of the Methodist Mission is over \$6 million. \$2.5 million of its income is received from Government funding and almost \$400,000 from various donations and grants. The only reference to Aratupu in the accounts show that Aratupu had a surplus of \$35,182 in the 2004/05 financial year, compared with \$34,553 the previous year.

8. Over the past three years, Aratupu has received the following grants from the Community Development Scheme:

2002/03	\$3,260 towards salary costs of the family/whanau worker
	\$1,600 towards play equipment
2003/04	\$3,000 towards salary costs of the family/whanau worker
	\$ 805 towards musical equipment
2004/05	\$1,000 towards furnishings and play equipment

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board allocate a grant of \$2,000 from its 2005/06 Discretionary Fund to Aratupu Pre-School and Nursery towards the retrospective purchase of three computers.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.

BACKGROUND

9. Aratupu Pre-School and Nursery operates five days per week (8.30 am to 2.30 pm) and for 50 weeks of the year from Harewood Road. They cater to the needs of children aged four months to six years and their families.
10. Aratupu works within a high deprivation area. Approximately 40% of its roll (of 97 children) are Maori. Aratupu has a strong commitment to working with the whole family and employs a family/whanau worker for this purpose.
11. The Pre-School puts the developmental needs of the children as its primary focus with its curriculum ("Te Whariki") outlining the importance of emotional and physical growth in relation to well-being, belonging, contribution, communication and exploration.
12. Aratupu wishes to purchase three computers (one for staff use and two for use by the children). The staff computer is for administration purposes and general staff use. The computers for the children will enable them to learn the use of computers, which will then enable them to access interactive software to teach literacy and numeracy.
13. Learning the use of computers at a pre-school level will prepare children for involvement in an ever-increasing technological world.
14. The application includes a quote from Christchurch Information Technology. This company is a preferred supplier of Christchurch Methodist Mission. By going through this company, the Mission can also ensure the compatibility of its information technology.

OPTIONS

15. The Board has three options available:
 - (a) To allocate the full amount of funding requested by Aratupu Pre-School and Nursery – i.e. \$3,000.
 - (b) To allocate a proportion (\$2,000) of the requested amount.
 - (c) To decline the application for funding.

PREFERRED OPTION

16. Aratupu Pre-School and Nursery:
 - (a) Works within an area of high deprivation.
 - (b) Places its focus on the developmental needs of children.
 - (c) Works with the whole family.
17. For these reasons a grant is recommended.
18. However, financially:
 - (a) The Methodist Mission is a large organisation with significant funding.
 - (b) Aratupu Pre-School and Nursery has shown a surplus of income over expenditure for the past two years.
19. Based on the above, partial funding is therefore recommended (i.e. Option (b) above).