

4. FUNDING APPLICATION FROM KIDSFIRST KINDERGARTEN LADY MAY FOR COSTS TOWARDS THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE OUTSIDE PLAY AREA

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information relating to an application by Kidsfirst Kindergarten Lady May for funding of \$10,000 for the redevelopment of their outside playground, from the Board's 2005/06 Community Initiatives Fund, of which there is currently a balance of \$47,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Kidsfirst Kindergarten Lady May was established in 1957. It operates under the umbrella of the Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association. Located at 11 Haynes Avenue, Upper Riccarton, it is the only donation based 'pre-school' in the area. The kindergarten caters for children and families from diverse backgrounds. Fourteen different cultures currently attend the kindergarten, with many families being from new migrant and/or refugee backgrounds. At least one third of the families are on limited incomes, which makes fundraising very difficult.
3. It has been at least 20-30 years since there has been major redevelopment of the playground. According to the Kindergarten Committee the current playground is unattractive, outdated and challenges current safety standards. The Kindergarten Committee is keen to commence the first stage of a 5-10 year redevelopment plan, which will enable the kindergarten to provide a safer, challenging, and more enjoyable outside play area for the children. The plan has been professionally designed by Edge Landscape Projects Limited. The design and costs associated with each stage of the redevelopment project are attached to this report. Pictures of the current playground area have also been provided.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. There are no legal issues to be considered. The total cost of the plan is \$98,482.50. The redevelopment of the playground will take place in stages so that one area can be redeveloped independent of the others, whilst allowing the remaining playground to operate in its current condition. So far the parents have raised \$9,200 towards this project. Riccarton Rotary has given a grant of \$10,000 and the Committee is also applying to the Lion Foundation, the Scottwood Trust and the J.R McKenzie Trust.
5. Kidsfirst Kindergarten Lady May has previously received funding from the Riccarton Wigram Community Development Fund for the following.

Community Development Fund Scheme

Year	Amount	Purpose
CD Scheme 2000/01	\$ 500	Upgrading reading corner
CD Scheme 2002/03	\$ 700	Shelving unit for science and mathematics
CD Scheme 2003/04	\$1,465	Safety matting for playground
CD Scheme 2004/05	\$ 50	Neighbourhood Week
CD Scheme 2004/05	\$2,000	Outdoor play area safety equipment
CD Scheme 2005/06	\$ 445	Electricity costs
CD Scheme 2005/06	\$1,000	Ground maintenance equipment

6. In relation to the current request, audited accounts for 2003/04 have been sited.

BACKGROUND ON FUNDING APPLICATION FROM KIDSFIRST KINDERGARTEN LADY MAY FOR COSTS TOWARDS THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE OUTSIDE PLAY AREA

7. Kidsfirst Kindergarten Lady May was established in 1957 and operates under the umbrella of the Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association. The main objective of the kindergarten is excellence in early childhood education. Based at 11 Haynes Road, Upper Riccarton, the kindergarten is an education, learning and care facility providing for pre-school children and their families in the local community. One hundred families are enrolled at the kindergarten.
8. Kidsfirst Kindergarten Lady May is the only Kidsfirst Kindergarten servicing the Upper Riccarton/Sockburn areas and is the only donation based pre-school in the area. It is a low socio-economic kindergarten and caters for children and families from diverse backgrounds and cultures. There are currently fourteen different cultures attending the kindergarten with many families being from new migrant and/or refugee backgrounds. Kidsfirst Kindergarten Lady May plays an important role in the community as it is often the first initial contact a family has with an educational organisation. The kindergarten sees itself as a place where children from the local community can come together to learn and build relationships and friendships. The kindergarten is very proactive at providing opportunities for children and families and participates in a great number of activities. Some of their recent achievements are as follows:
 - First equal in the Heart Foundation's 5+ a day competition
 - Second in the Push Play Awards
 - Heart Foundation's Healthy Heart Award
 - Parent lunches and Multi-Cultural Celebrations
 - Kindy Dance and Trikeathon
 - Successful Open Day as part of the Neighbourhood Awareness Week attended by approximately 100 visitors.
9. The Kindergarten Committee (comprising 10 members) has identified a need to redevelop the playground and outdoor area. According to the Committee the present playground is unattractive, very old and outdated and challenges current safety standards. The Committee recognises that this is a huge undertaking for a low-socio economic kindergarten and is prepared to carry out the project in stages over a number of years. The Committee felt it was important to ensure a professional result and therefore contracted a landscape architect, Grant Edge of Edge Landscape Architects, to redesign the playground and also act as project manager. The plan was presented to the Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association for approval on 9 November 2005. The Association considered the plans from all aspects including financing, safety, and operational aspects, and gave its approval on 14 December 2005. The Association also approved the improvement of the street frontage.
10. The first priority for the playground is the stage called Flexible Play Space, and the area in front of the mound in the grass mound area, where the swings are to be relocated. A large willow tree was removed recently due to rot, and as a result, the kindergarten lost a large amount of shade. Once this stage has been completed the Committee hopes to complete the adjoining area known as the grass mound area. The total cost (from initial estimates) for this first stage is \$27,000. The Committee hopes to reduce this to \$20,000 + GST by providing voluntary labour and the use of contacts for materials. Over the Christmas holidays the Committee aims to redevelop the street frontage. This stage is budgeted at approximately \$3,000. A working bee has been planned in order to reduce the cost to \$1,200.
11. As Lady May is a low socio-economic kindergarten, fundraising is very difficult. Fundraising activities this year raised approximately \$5,000 for costs associated with the actual running of the kindergarten. The families have also raised \$9,200 towards the redevelopment of the play area. Every family was given tickets to sell. Between forty and fifty families sold all their tickets (20 tickets at \$2 each), and volunteers canvassed shops, malls and pubs. This was a major achievement and the parents need to be congratulated for their efforts. As well as applying to other funders the Committee and families will continue with their fundraising activities in 2006, in order to reach their goal.

12. The benefits of the redevelopment of the outside play area are:

- An outdoor area that is safe
- An outdoor area that meets early childhood requirements
- An outdoor area that extends children in their play
- An outdoor area that is aesthetically pleasing and inviting to children and their families
- An outdoor area that encourages physical and creative play
- Engaging families in a united project
- Networking and relationship building between parents and the local community
- Enhancing the visual appearance of the Kindergarten and making it more inviting for new families.

13. Supporting the redevelopment of the playground links with the following LTCCP Outcomes:

- A City of Inclusive and Diverse Communities
- A Learning City
- A Healthy and Active City.

OPTIONS

14. The Riccarton/Wigram Community Services Committee agrees to allocate \$10,000 from the Board's 2005/06 Community Initiatives Fund towards the redevelopment of the Lady May Kindergarten outside play area.
15. The Riccarton/Wigram Community Services Committee declines the application for funding assistance towards the redevelopment of the Lady May Kindergarten outside play area.

PREFERRED OPTION

16. The preferred option is to grant the Lady May Committee \$10,000 towards the redevelopment of the outside area. This is a low socio-economic area, and the families have already worked extremely hard to raise some of the funds for this project. The Committee has been very thorough in its approach to ensure that the redevelopment is done in a professional way. The treasurer of the Committee, who is a chartered accountant, is keeping a tight and accurate record of all monies involved and is actively seeking funding assistance from a range of sources.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Riccarton/Wigram Community Services Committee agree to grant Kidsfirst Kindergarten Lady May \$10,000 from its 2005/06 Community Initiatives Fund towards the redevelopment of the outside play area.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.