

4. CHILD WISE (METHODIST MISSION) APPLICATION FOR DVD AND WISE UP PROGRAMME

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services
Officer responsible:	Catherine McDonald, Acting Community and Recreation Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Community Services Committee a request from Child Wise (Methodist Mission) for funding assistance towards the running of their Wise Up programme at Branston Intermediate School (\$2,644) and the production of an educational DVD (\$3,930). There is currently \$47,000 in the 2005/06 Community Initiatives Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Christchurch Methodist Mission is an organisation committed to providing services that address the cause of young and old in the community.
3. Child Wise is a branch of the Methodist Mission, and has been operating since 2000. It is the Mission's community social work service aimed at strengthening and enhancing the wellbeing of children, families and the community. Child Wise offers a wide range of integrated family services with children from 0-13 years. These services include Home Link, child counselling, Parent Works, Parent Wise, Wise Up and Aratupu for pre-schoolers.
4. Child Wise has been running Wise Up, a community after school programme, from Branston Intermediate School in terms 3 and 4 in 2005. They intend to offer the same programme in 2006. Wise Up caters for a wide range of children who have varying needs, particularly children who are considered 'at risk'. Families are charged a fee of \$5 per session. Child Wise would like to offer this programme free of charge to all the families that attend the Branston Intermediate programme in 2006.
5. Child Wise also wants to produce a DVD that will provide children with a voice in the community. The DVD will be produced by Whitebait, Christchurch's largest television production company. The DVD will be used as a resource for the Wise Up programme at Branston Intermediate as well as for the Mission's children and adult education programmes. It would also be available to other services within the community for use in educational settings.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. There are no legal considerations. The total cost of the Wise Up programme is \$8,552 (for 4 terms). Child Wise is asking for \$2,644 from the Community Services Committee towards the running of the Wise Up programme at Branston Intermediate in 2006. This amount will cover the children's fees (\$2,240) as well as the materials and resources needed for the programme (\$404).
7. The total cost of the DVD is \$9,930. Child Wise has applied to the Tindall Foundation for \$6,000 towards the cost of the DVD, and will receive information regarding their application in March 2006. Whitebait TV is giving Child Wise a 40% discount on the total cost of producing the DVD.
8. The Methodist Mission is considered a Metropolitan Organisation as it provides services across the city. The Christchurch City Council has provided the following Major Grants towards general operating costs:

Year	Amount	Purpose
2004	\$20,000	Major grant towards operating costs
2005	\$ 3,200	Wise Up running costs (Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board)

9. The Methodist Mission Annual Report 2004/2005 has been sited. This also included the audit report as of 30 June 2005.

BACKGROUND ON WISE UP PROGRAMME AND PRODUCTION OF DVD

10. Wise Up is an eight week course for children aged 5-12 years, teaching skills for everyday life. The programme aims to teach children to maintain self-care, self confidence and self respect. Children learn how to work in a team, how to handle peer pressure, how to keep safe (including self-defence) and different ways to deal with emotions.
11. Wise Up caters for a wide range of children who are considered 'at risk'. Often there will be several 'at risk' children in a group, whose reasons for attending could include, suspension/exclusions from schools or centres, recent police involvement, CYF's notifications and issues surrounding foster care. The many issues that the target 'at risk' children have are dealt with through teaching the main themes or content in Wise Up. This involves identifying emotions/feelings that the children experience, identifying what feelings and emotions are connected with certain behaviours and finally discussing and implementing healthy ways of dealing with these feelings when they emerge. Outcomes for the 'at risk' children vary from child to child. However children learn ways of dealing with difficult emotions and the issues around these emotions.
12. A Wise Up programme has been successfully run at Branston Intermediate in Term 3 and 4 in 2005. Fourteen children attended each term from Sockburn, Upper Riccarton and Hornby. Four children from Branston Intermediate attended free of charge as the school provided the hall. Referrals for the programme came from Child Wise social workers, other schools, GP's and parents. Child Wise would like to offer the same programme for four terms in 2006. Term 1 will commence on the 16th February 2006 and will run on a Thursday 3.30 – 5 pm. Each Wise Up group has two trained facilitators and a helper to work with the children. Children living in the Hornby and Riccarton catchments area will be able to attend the 2006 programme.
13. Whitebait TV, produces programmes for children and youth such as "What Now", Bumble, Wannabes and Tuhono. The purpose of the production of this DVD is to provide a means by which children can speak about their issues and concerns. The DVD will showcase a focus group of children aged 10-12 on the Young Leaders programme. It will include interviews with the young leaders and graphic bullet points. Issues and concerns for children will be identified as well as problem solving strategies and solutions in an interactive dialogue form. The DVD will provide a means to communicate to a wider audience and will be a resource not only for the Branston Wise Up programme but also any other community education groups.

OPTIONS

14. That the Board agrees to fund both the Wise Up programme at Branston Intermediate School and the production of an educational DVD.
15. The Board declines funding the Wise Up programme at Branston Intermediate and the production of the educational DVD.

PREFERRED OPTION

16. The preferred option is that the Board agrees to fund both the Wise Up programme at Branston Intermediate School and the production of the educational DVD. The Child Wise staff sees the production of the DVD as a major priority as it will be a significant educational tool for all their programmes as well as other community educational groups. Wise Up has proven itself as a successful programme and has the full support of the Principal at Branston Intermediate. Funding this programme will mean that the families will not be charged and the programme will be free for all who attend. Both the Wise Up Programme and the production of the DVD contribute to the following Community Outcomes:
 - (a) **A Safe City** – Wise Up covers safety several times during the programme. This includes how to keep ourselves safe (basic self defence, safety plans) as well as others (what to do when someone you know is in trouble/danger). There is also a lot of discussion around who are the safe people to talk to outside of home/school environment, as well as identifying safe places outside of these environments (Police stations, West Pacs, fire stations etc. The DVD will also address safety as an issue

- (b) **Inclusive Communities** – Wise Up promotes acceptance and inclusion in a group setting which is a model for healthy communities. The programme promotes communication skills that can be applied in a community setting i. e neighbours as safe people, knowing several people in your street/or community. The DVD will also contain information and discussion around positive communication.
- (c) **Healthy and Active People** – Wise Up has a physical component to it. This involves playing team building games, participating in the many activities and self defence. Many of the strategies they teach the children are about dealing with emotions involve a physical aspect and promote the effectiveness of physical activity as a healthy way of dealing with emotions/feelings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board agrees to fund Child Wise the amount of \$2,644 for their Wise Up programme at Branston Intermediate (2006) and \$3,930 for the production of a DVD from the Board's 2005/06 Community Initiatives Fund. There is currently a balance of \$47,000 in this fund.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.