

9. FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF RICHMOND SCHOOL

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services Group, DDI 941-8986
Officer responsible:	Community Support Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information relating to an application from the Friends and Family of Richmond School for funding from the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board Board's 2007/08 discretionary funds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Friends and Family of Richmond School are requesting \$2,252.49 funding support from the Board. Funds will be used to support the Books in Homes Project, which this group have undertaken in partnership with the Alan Duff foundation.
3. Friends and Family of Richmond School has been operating since October 1998 as a community based support group that assists the school learning programme by providing fundraising for specific projects.
4. The books in homes project is not a core education, Ministry of Education funded, project. Books accessed through this programme are distributed to children within the Richmond School, for the children to take home. Approximately 110-120 children will benefit, receiving 12 books over a two year period.
5. The goal of Duffy Books in Homes is to inspire a love of books and of reading in children. The programme encourages parents and whanau to recognise the fundamental role they play in their child's literacy and language development by telling stories, reading to, listening to and talking with children. It is by doing this that we are also promoting family literacy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Sound financial practices are in place. Audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2006 represent the financial position of the Friends and Family of Richmond School, and reflect a closing balance of \$1,069.
7. Expected expenditure for the Books in Homes project is \$5,782.20. plus GST. The Alan Duff Foundation will be contributing \$2,891.10 as sponsor of the project. The Friends of Richmond School are required to fund the balance of \$3,252.49 and have a confirmed contribution of \$1000 from the Richmond Working Men's Club.

This leaves a required balance of \$2,252.49

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

8. Yes. There is currently a balance of \$38,720 in the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board 2007/08 discretionary fund.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. There are no legal issues to be considered.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

10. Yes.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. Yes.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

12. Yes.

Aligns with community outcomes:

- A city of inclusive and diverse communities
- A city of lifelong learning

Aligns with Hagley Ferrymead Community Board objectives:

2. Maintain an awareness of the diversity of the ward in decision-making.
3. Acknowledge diversity and support measures for a vibrant, inclusive and strong communities.
8. Advocate for adequate resourcing for diverse communities.
11. Support/advocate for initiatives that support lifelong learning

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

13. Aligns with the Strengthening Communities Strategy

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

14. Yes. As above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

15. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) It is recommended that the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board agree to allocate \$2,252 from its 2007/08 Discretionary Fund to The Friends and Family of Richmond School to support the Books in Homes Project.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.

BACKGROUND (THE ISSUES)

16. Information accessed on the background of Duffy Books in Homes states the following:

The Books in Homes Programme was inspired by Alan Duff who, with the help of Christine Fernyhough, developed the idea after realising that failures in adult life often stem from childhoods spent in bookless homes. The philosophy behind the programme is simple - to break the cycle of 'booklessness'. Kids who can't read become adults who can't communicate and that's a serious disadvantage in a world that operates on the written word.

Nearly half the workforce in New Zealand (46%) cannot read well enough to work effectively in a modern economy. As the availability of low-skilled jobs diminishes, the high concentration of adults with poor literacy skills will become increasingly vulnerable. In addition one in four New Zealanders are functioning below the level of competence required to meet the demands of everyday life.

The best way to create an employable, literate society is to foster a love of reading in children, and the earlier the intervention begins the better.

Results to date have shown a 35% increase in reading skills by children on the programme in one year. In addition schools on the Duffy Books in Homes programme (Duffy Schools) have experienced less truancy and greater involvement in school life by parents and the community.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz> ; <http://www.booksinhomes.org.nz>