

8. REQUEST TO FUND A WRITTEN APPLICATION TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A TEEN PARENT UNIT AT HORNBY HIGH SCHOOL

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941-8534
Officer responsible:	Catherine McDonald, Community Support Unit
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek funding of \$5,000 from the Community Board's 2007/08 Discretionary Fund towards the cost of contracting an independent professional to write an application to the Ministry of Education related to the need for a Teen Parent Unit at Hornby High School.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. On 29 March 2006 over fifty people attended a forum called 'What's happening for Young People in Hornby?' The forum was open to parents, professionals and community representatives associated with young people aged 13-17 years. The invitation to attend was generated by the Child, Youth and Family Justice staff based at Hornby Heartlands Centre. The forum worked through several structured small group-work exercises to identify service gaps and potential actions to enhance services for youth.
3. One of the gaps identified was a school for young parents servicing the West Christchurch/Selwyn district. A feasibility study, funded by the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board in February 2007, scoped the need for a Teen Parent Unit based at Hornby High School. The feasibility study clearly indicated a need for a Teen Parent Unit as well as a purpose built early childcare centre for the children of the young parents and the local community. The executive summary of the feasibility report is attached as **Attachment 1**.
4. Researcher Sarah Wylie presented the findings of the feasibility study on 29 June 2007 to key organisations and other stakeholders. This was well attended by 40 invited guests, which included members of the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board, Ruth Dyson and Jim Anderton. Everybody present was very supportive of establishing a Teen Parent Unit at Hornby High School to serve West Christchurch/Selwyn.
5. The working party, chaired by Andy Kai Fong, Principal of Hornby High School, was informed by Leo Trompetter (Student Support, Wellington, Ministry of Education), that a written application, containing specific information, was required by the Ministry of Education before the Ministry could give its support to the establishment of a Teen Parent Unit at Hornby High School. Leo Trompetter provided guidelines for the content of the application. (See letter attached as **Attachment 2**).
6. The working party seeks funding from the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board for funding towards contracting a professional person who has the knowledge, expertise and skills in writing official applications. The working party believe that the quality of this document is crucial to the acceptance by the Ministry of Education of establishing a Teen Parent Unit at Hornby High School. **Attachment 3** is a proposal including the fee for writing this application to the Ministry.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no legal considerations. The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board currently has \$56,300 in Discretionary Funds. The fee for writing the application is \$5,000.

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

8. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. There are no legal considerations.

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

10. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. Aligns with page 56 LTCCP, a broad range of learning opportunities is available in Christchurch.

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

12. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

13. Strengthening Communities Strategy and Youth Strategy.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

14. Yes.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

15. Yes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Board agree to allocate \$5,000 from the Board's 2007/08 Discretionary Fund towards the cost of contracting a professional person to write an application to the Ministry of Education for a Teen Parent Unit to be established at Hornby High School.

BACKGROUND (THE ISSUES)

16. Teen Parent Units provide the opportunity for second chance education for teens that have to opt out of their schooling early due to pregnancy and parenthood. There are now a significant amount of these established around the country. In the South Island there is one in Dunedin and two in Canterbury. The Teen Parent Units in Canterbury are both based at High Schools. Kimihia Learning Centre is at Linwood College and has been operating for one year and Karanga Mai Young Parent's College Unit is based at Kaiapoi High School and has been operating for 10 years.
17. On 29 March 2006 over fifty people attended a forum called "What's Happening for Young People in Hornby?" at St Aidens Church in Hei Hei. The forum was open to parents, professionals and community representatives associated with young people aged 13-17 years. The invitation to attend was generated by the Child, Youth and Family Justice staff based at Hornby Heartlands Centre. The forum worked through several structured small group-work exercises to identify service gaps and potential actions to enhance services for young people.
18. One of the gaps identified was a school for young parents in the Hornby area. A working party was established to look at this issue, and met several times during 2007. The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board granted \$7,600 from the Board's 2006/07 Discretionary Funds towards the contracting of an independent researcher, Sarah Wylie, to write a feasibility report on the need for a Teen Parent Unit based at Hornby High School to service the needs of teen parents in the West Christchurch/ Selwyn area.
19. Sarah Wylie presented the outcomes of her research on 29 June 2007 at Hornby High School to a group of forty invited guests, including members of the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board, Ruth Dyson and Jim Anderton. Two teen parents spoke of the positive experiences they had had at other teen parent units in the city.
20. The feasibility study clearly indicated that there was a need for a teen parent unit. It also stated that an on sight early childcare centre, which would also service the local community, was a preferred option of care for the children of the teen parents who were attending the unit. The establishment of a teen parent unit based at Hornby High School was well supported by all those who attended the presentation.
21. According to a letter sent to Andy Kai Fong on the 02 July 2007, by Leo Trompetter, from Student Support Wellington, the Ministry of Education is committed to making education for teen parents more accessible and flexible so that it better meets their specific needs. Guidelines were also stated in the same letter to help the working party make a successful application to the Ministry of Education. The guidelines provide information about the following areas that need to be covered in the application; financial information, legislation, justification and eligibility, community support, early childcare education requirements, location and transport issues, management agreement and role definitions, support and impact on other teen parent units, and finally the roll. The application also needs to show how the ongoing viability of the Teen Parent Unit will be assured.
22. The Principal and other members of the working party can access some of this information. However the working party believes that in order to submit a document that is acceptable to the Ministry of Education as soon as possible, it would be more strategic to contract a professional person who has the expertise and experience in writing applications to Government Departments. The working party believe that the quality of this application will influence the decision as to whether the Ministry approves the establishment of a teen parent unit at Hornby High School. The working party have identified a suitable person to take on this task who they consider has the ability and experience to produce a successful application. A proposal is attached and includes a draft of the content of the application to the Ministry of Education as well as the fee for service. The working party also consider it is important to commence writing the application as soon as possible in order for it to be completed and sent to the Ministry of Education.

THE OBJECTIVES

23. Riccarton/Wigram Community Board Objectives (2006-09), Board Objective 11 Contribution to increased social well-being in Riccarton/Wigram area.

THE OPTIONS

Option 1

24. The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board agrees to grant \$5,000 towards contracting a professional person to write an application to the Ministry of Education for the establishment of a Teen Parent Unit at Hornby High School.

Option 2

25. Riccarton/Wigram Community Board decline the request for a grant towards the contracting of a professional person to write an application to the Ministry of Education for the establishment of a Teen Parent Unit at Hornby High School.

PREFERRED OPTION

26. The preferred option is for the Community Board to grant the amount of \$5,000 towards the writing of an application to the Ministry of Education for the establishment of a Teen Parent Unit at Hornby High School. Educational or second chance opportunities for young parents are a key contributor towards breaking the poverty cycle which young parents are often caught in. It is important that the application to the Ministry of Education contains all relevant information and is presented in a professional manner. The standard of the application will be a significant factor in persuading the Ministry of Education to approve the establishment of a Teen Parent Unit at Hornby High School.