

8. AMBROSIA EMPOWERMENT TRUST

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941-8986
Officer responsible:	Community Support Manager
Author:	Marion Gillanders, Community Development Adviser

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the updated project outcomes determined by Ambrosia Empowerment Trust and to confirm allocation of the Board's 2006/07 Project funding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. At its 6 December 2006 meeting the Board requested that the Community Development Adviser work with Ambrosia Empowerment Trust to establish updated outcomes relating to the project for which they have received funding.
3. The Board allocated \$20,000 to Ambrosia Empowerment Trust from the 2006/07 Project funding round. Funding was allocated as a contribution towards the wages of one staff member, supervision and volunteer expenses. Due to the restructure at Ambrosia the original outcomes of the project have changed. (A matrix document to be circulated separately to Board members.)
4. The Community Development Adviser met with Ambrosia Empowerment Trust in December 2006 to establish the updated outcomes. The updated outcomes agreed with Ambrosia Empowerment are:
 - Budgeting for change courses - These are to help people understand and take control of their own budgets.
 - Total Money Management - Currently Ambrosia Budgeting is the only group in Christchurch offering this service free of charge. This is an in-depth, long-term programme which enables people to manage their own budget. Ambrosia Budgeting will work with 10 clients this year.
 - Ambrosia Budgeting will continue to be a WINZ approved provider. There are set criteria and policies Ambrosia must have in place to maintain this status.
 - Ambrosia will have 50 referrals per year from their food bank and other services to their budgeting service.
 - The supervisor will continue with supervision of the seven budget advisers, volunteers, welcomers and food bank coordinator.
 - Ambrosia Budgeting will continue their strong advocacy link with case workers and will receive referrals of local people from at least four agencies.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. The allocated amount of \$20,000 would need to be reallocated if the Board felt that the outcomes did not meet the requirements for payment to Ambrosia Empowerment Trust.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board agree to allocate the \$20,000 to Ambrosia Empowerment Trust, specifically Ambrosia Budgeting as agreed on 8 May 2006.

BACKGROUND

6. Ambrosia Empowerment Trust has been operating in the Aranui community for four years. It provides services to the community such as a Community Café, parenting groups, support workers, food bank and the budgeting service A-Z Budgeting.
7. At its 8 May 2006/07 Project funding allocation meeting the Board allocated \$20,000 to Ambrosia Empowerment Trust. Funding was allocated as a contribution towards the wages of one staff member, supervision and volunteer expenses. This money has not yet been allocated to Ambrosia.
8. The original outcomes of the project were the delivery of Budgeting for Change Courses, to enable people to understand and take control of their own budgets and how to achieve this. Also the delivery of Budget Advisers Course, to train people to become budget advisers so that they can help the ever increasing amount of people in the community needing help.
9. In September 2006 Ambrosia Empowerment Trust underwent an organisational review and as a result some staff members have left. With agreement by the Ambrosia Empowerment Trust one staff member, took the A-Z Budgeting trade name and has continued this budgeting service, which is now based at the Wainoni/Aranui Family Centre.
10. Ambrosia Empowerment Trust still also offers a budgeting service under the new name of Ambrosia Budgeting. They employ one supervisor and have a team of seven budget advisers providing budget advice. All other services remain the same.
11. In December 2006 the Board requested that the Community Development Adviser meet with Ambrosia Budgeting to determine updated outcomes as a result of their organisational change.
12. The expected outcomes agreed with Ambrosia Empowerment in December 2006 are:
 - Budgeting for change courses - These are to help people understand and take control of their own budgets. The courses run on a Monday night in February, May and July. Each course is two hours per night and runs for five weeks. In 2007 Ambrosia will also investigate the viability of a day course.
 - Total Money Management - Currently Ambrosia Budgeting is the only group in Christchurch offering this service free of charge. This is an in-depth, long-term programme which enables people to manage their own budget. Ambrosia Budgeting will work with 10 clients this year.
 - Ambrosia Budgeting will continue to be a WINZ approved provider. There are set criteria and policies Ambrosia Budgeting must have in place to maintain this status.
 - Ambrosia will have 50 referrals per year from their food bank and other services to their budgeting service.
 - The supervisor will continue with supervision of the seven budget advisers, volunteers, welcomers and food bank coordinator.
 - Ambrosia Budgeting will continue their strong advocacy link with case workers and will receive referrals of local people from at least four agencies. Currently they receive referrals from WINZ, counselling service in New Brighton, Legal Services, and Problem Gambling Foundation.
13. The establishment of Ambrosia Budgeting represents the third budgeting service within the Aranui area. All three services offered are complementary and deliver a slightly different service to their clients. Ambrosia Budgeting provides a more in-depth Total Money Management service, Supergrans focus is on basic budgeting skills to help themselves and A-Z Budgeting provides a crisis budgeting service. It is also recognised that there is a strong need in the community for this type of service and this is reflected by the four week waiting list at Supergrans alone to access budgeting support.
14. All budget service providers in the area receive funding from other funding organisations to support their work in the Aranui community. As all three budgeting services provide many other wrap around services, it is difficult to establish exactly what percentage is for budgeting advice, but as an indication, funding is also received from Lotteries Commission, The Community Trust, Jones Foundation, Eureka Trust, Scottwood Trust, COGS and Fletcher Trust.