

13. APPLICATION TO HAGLEY FERRYMEAD COMMUNITY BOARD'S YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND - OLIVIA ESPOSITO

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Human Resources, DDI 941 8548
Officer responsible:	Manager Recreation and Sports
Author:	Diana Saxton, Community Recreation Adviser

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval for an application for funding from the 2006/07 Youth Development Scheme.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The applicant, Olivia Esposito, is a 13 year old girl of Godley Drive, Sumner, and attends the O'Neill School of Irish Dancing. Olivia has been selected to represent New Zealand at the World Irish Dancing Championships to be held in Glasgow in April 2007. There is also another dance competition to be held in Londonderry which Olivia will participate at.
3. This is the first time the applicant has approached the Board for funding support.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. There are no legal issues to be considered. The trip will go ahead irrespective of level of funding received from the Board but any funding assistance would be gratefully received to help towards the costs of the airfare.

EXPENSES	Cost (\$)
Return airfares	2,658.21
Total Cost	2,658.21
Amount being requested from Community Board	1,000.00

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board allocate \$200 to Olivia Esposito to assist with the costs of participating in the World Irish Dancing Championships to be held in Glasgow in April 2007.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.

BACKGROUND

5. Olivia is passionate about Irish dancing and has been dancing for eight years. She is training up to five hours a week in preparation for the Championships and has been excelling in Irish Dance competitions both in New Zealand and Australia including a 4th in the Under 13 years NZ Irish Dancing Championships in 2006 and a 12th placing overall in the 2006 Winter Solstice Australian Championships.
6. Olivia has also demonstrated that she is a talented, high achieving student at Sumner Primary School with awards in general excellence, public speaking, maths, writing, time management and drama performance. In 2007 she will be attending St Margaret's College.
7. Olivia has been actively raising funds herself by busking in Cathedral Square and is also well supported by her parents to cover the costs of the trip and competition.
8. Each year the O'Neill School of Irish Dancing is invited to perform at the Children's Cultural Festival which Olivia has taken part in. She has also performed on St Patrick's Day in local rest homes in Linwood and Redcliffs as part of a community service initiative undertaken by Sumner School.