

## 10. SHIRLEY RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB INC – REQUEST FOR FUNDING

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	Human Resources General Manager
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Recreation and Sport Unit, Manager
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present an application for funding from the Board's 2006/07 Sport and Recreation and SCAP Funds on behalf of the Shirley Rugby League Football Club ("the Club") for \$10,000 to assist with the purchase and installation of gas hot water heating.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Shirley Rugby League Club has been operating since 1956, and has been an incorporated society since 1968. The Club currently has over 160 registered members, the majority of these being junior players. The Club places a strong emphasis on local families, and endeavours to encourage all members of the family to become involved in Club activities. All members of the community are welcome, regardless of age, ethnicity or income. The majority of members are children from low income families, who often find it difficult to pay subscription fees. The Club does, however, have a large number of volunteers who are very active in running the Club, and proactively raising funds.
3. Over the summer period the Club's hot water cylinders became non-operational due to old age. Replacement of the cylinders was planned for 2008 once fundraising and loans had been secured. However the club now needs to urgently replace the hot water system before the start of season. The hot water system is essential for the Club to service its members, maintain its Health and Safety standards and to provide a community venue where it can have social and fundraising activities. Without the hot water the Club could not open fully due the safety risks to members.
4. The replacement of the hot water system is going to cost \$19,292.25. The Club had started to look into different types of systems, maintenance, and ongoing costs. The Club decided the most long term economic option would be to replace the system with gas. The Club has received a number of quotes but due to the urgent nature and nil financial reserves, the Club felt it would be prudent to accept the quote from a well established, large, reputable company who can provide credit whilst the Club sources funding.

### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. Shirley Rugby League Club has received a grant of \$682 from the Shirley/Papanui Sport and Recreation Fund to assist with costs of purchasing junior equipment. The Club also received \$4,500 from the Community Development Fund to cover six months of overhead utility costs.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve a grant of \$10,000 from its 2006/07 Sport and Recreation and SCAP Funds for the purchase and installation of a hot water system.

### CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.

## **BACKGROUND**

6. The major finding of the "Community Needs Analysis of the Shirley Area" (January 2001) was that support was needed for low income families in their parenting and supervising their children. Two approaches were identified to this support:
  1. Formal & informal programmes for parents.
  2. Quality social & recreational programmes for children and youth.

Shirley Rugby League Club is certainly very active in this second approach.
7. Shirley Rugby League Club has been involved in a number of community-wide initiatives in the Shirley area including:
  - Initiating the "Shirley Youth Day", a significant piece of youth consultation, in November 2001
  - Facilitation of young men to participate in Mau rakau classes at Rehua marae
  - Provision of youth activities (e.g. discos) at their Clubrooms on Briggs Road
  - Signatory to the Shirley Charter.
8. The involvement of Shirley Rugby League Club in these initiatives steps well beyond the boundaries of merely providing opportunities for the community to play Rugby League. Hence the Club could almost be considered a "social service organisation", rather than just a sports club.

## **OPTIONS**

9. In relation to this application the Board could choose to:
  - a) Fully fund as requested.
  - b) Partially fund.
  - c) Decline the application.

## **PREFERRED OPTION**

10. That the Board agrees to partially fund Shirley Rugby League Club \$10,000 to purchase and install a hot water heating system.