

5. APPLICATION TO THE FENDALTON/WAIMAIRI COMMUNITY BOARD'S YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SCHEME – SUMIN AHN

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

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for an application for funding from the Community Board's 2007/08 Youth Development Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. An application has been received from Sumin Ahn, a 23 year old resident of Harewood.
3. Sumin has been accepted for a period of study at the Faculty of Law of the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, for the first semester of the academic year 2007-2008.
4. Groningen is one of the finest law schools in Europe and has over 400 years of history. It is also deemed to be one of the leading European universities in the field of international humanitarian and environmental law.
5. The programme will take place over four months, during which Sumin will endeavour to complete her Bachelor of Laws with honours.
6. Sumin immigrated to New Zealand from South Korea at the age of one. She has grown up and was schooled in Christchurch. She strongly believes that embracing cultural and religious diversity is something that is becoming increasingly important for our city. Even more so, she believes that it is extremely important that we include minority cultures and ethnic groups in democratic processes, such as voting, decision making and community initiatives.
7. One of Sumin's ultimate aspirations is to eventually set up a law practice in Christchurch where she can provide legal representation for members of the community who do not qualify for legal aid. Primarily, she would like to work with members of our society who are often marginalised, such as women, ethnic and religious minority groups. Sumin feels it is vital that all members of our community can participate in the democratic process by having access to our court system; not just those who can afford it.
8. When she returns from her studies in Groningen, she will complete her Professionals and hopes to be admitted to the bar in New Zealand. Following that, she has been offered a position as a law clerk in a New Zealand firm which she plans to take up for a couple of years to build up her expertise. After this term of employment Sumin plans to fulfil her dream of working in the field of human rights law.
9. Sumin is currently working full-time to help fund this trip. Unfortunately, due to the high fees and associated costs of the programme, her savings alone will be insufficient to cover these expenses. She has written to various Rotary Clubs who have declined her requests for assistance. She has recently applied to the Kate Sheppard Memorial Award Trust and is waiting to hear back.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The following table provides a breakdown of the costs involved with the trip:

EXPENSES	Cost (\$)
Return airfares to the Netherlands	\$2,967
Travel insurance	\$ 502
Accommodation costs (4 months)	\$1,600
Living costs (food/transport etc)	\$ 800
Course fees	\$5,000
Text books and materials	\$ 250
Total Cost	\$11,166

11. This is the first time that the applicant has applied to the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board for financial support.

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

12. This application is seeking funding from the Community Board's 2007/08 Youth Development Scheme which was established as part of the Board's 2007/08 Project Funding. There is currently \$7,000 remaining in this budget.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

13. There are no legal issues to be considered.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

14. Aligns with page 170 of the LTCCP, regarding Community Board Project funding.

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

15. Yes, as above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

16. Application aligns with the Council's Youth Strategy and local Community Board objectives.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

17. As above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

18. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the application and allocate \$800 to Sumin Ahn from the 2007/08 Youth Development Scheme.