

3. SEEDS COMMUNITY GROUP – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

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

1. The purpose of this report is to seek funding of \$10,000 from the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board. The funding is for the salary of a trained facilitator/health professional to run a music and movement/support group for teenage/young mothers under 25 years and their pre-school children. This position requires a professionally trained person in the field. Westside Apostolic Church have covered this salary since its commencement but can no longer sustain this position. It is not appropriate for volunteers to take on the responsibility of a group that is considered "high risk" by social service agencies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. At the beginning of 2006 a group of like minded mothers, who recognised the need of teenage and young mothers for support, got together to look at how they could address this issue. As some of the mothers were already involved in a very successful Music and Movement Group , which had been running from the Westside Apostolic Church in Watts Rd, since 2002, it made sense to use music as a medium to bring young mothers together to form a group of their own. It is well documented that teenage/young mothers need support groups that are specifically targeted at their age group as they often feel a lack of acceptance and judgement from older mothers in our society.
3. The women, who have called their group SEEDS, spent several months planning the running and management of "Young 1's and Shuffle Bumz", specifically for teenage and young mums. The aim of SEEDS is to provide a fun, safe place where young parents and their children felt supported, a sense of belonging and would grow to participate in the wider community. The objectives of the group are as follows:
 - Young parents will interact with children in positive ways and will be given learning opportunities which include parenting and life skills.
 - Young parents will take on positive behaviour/skills as modelled by volunteers and each other.
 - Young parents will develop self esteem and gain confidence, self respect and feel competent in their parenting and relationships.
 - Young parents will develop positive and supportive relationships with their peers and volunteers so that social isolation will be reduced.
 - Young parents will have access to information, resources and other community supports relevant to their situation.
4. "Young 1's and Shuffle Bum" has been meeting weekly since August 2006. There are currently eighteen young mothers and eighteen preschool children attending this group. Seventy five percent of the mums come from the Riccarton/Wigram Ward. The mums give a gold coin donation and transport is available if required free of charge. There are six volunteers who help with the running of the group and preparation of lunch. There is a paid part-time facilitator/health professional who is paid for eight hours per week(\$26.00 per hour). The number of volunteer hours per year is 800.

5. A nutritional lunch is provided for the mums and the children. The weekly meetings provide a positive time where the young women get the opportunity to build friendships with one another as well as with the volunteers. Teenage/young parents often experience social isolation which can impact negatively on both the mental health of the mother and the child. They are often unaware as to who to approach when they have issues around finance, parenting and relationship problems. The group has accommodated this need by offering special interest speakers, for example, WINZ, IRD, Budgeting and Parenting Courses. The facilitator/health professional of the group is also a qualified Plunkett nurse and, in the past, has spent three years employed in the Riccarton area as the local Plunkett nurse. Her knowledge and skills are invaluable in facilitating/supporting the group, given the fact that many of these young mums are seen by social agencies as "high risk". Because of her expertise the mothers are now coming for advice and information around parenting, care of babies/children and also relationship problems. **Attached** are some support letters, one from the Riccarton/Wycola Plunkett nurse and two of the young women who have attended the group since its commencement.
6. "Young 1's and Shuffle Bumz" is attracting more and more teenage/young mums. There are very few support groups for teenage/young parents in Christchurch. There is one provided by Spreydon Baptist Church and also by Waipuna Trust, the latter having a waiting list and young women need to be referred by a social service agency. These groups are all run by qualified paid staff. Westside Apostolic Church, unfortunately can no longer financially sustain a qualified facilitator/health professional for "Young 1's and Shuffle Bumz". It can however provide the venue, volunteers and cover operational costs at this point in time.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The total cost of the project is \$17,380. The Westside Apostolic Church has been covering the costs of this project since its commencement.

Expenditure (for project/service only)	Total Cost	Funding sought in this application
Catering	\$ 2,800	
Music Resources	\$ 300	
Administration Costs	\$ 200	
Welfare/Pastoral Care/Gifts	\$ 800	
Cellphone Costs	\$ 120	
Outings	\$ 450	
Petrol/Van Hire	\$ 810	
Salary	\$10,000	\$10,000
Audit	\$ 300	
Venue Costs	\$ 1,600	
TOTAL	\$17,380	

8. The Christchurch City Council allocated \$3,938 in June 2006 as a seeding grant.
9. The group also received \$2,870 from the Community Development Fund towards operating costs and equipment in December 2006.
10. The group applied to Community Trust in September 2006 for funding assistance, but was declined.
11. The group will also be applying to COGS and Lottery in July 2007. However they will not know the results of these application till towards the end of the year.
12. SEEDS comes under the umbrella of the R.U.R (Really Useful Resource) Trust, which is an incorporated charitable Trust set up to provide community groups with a legal and accountable body. It was established in 1997. G.A.I.N Canterbury is also comes under the umbrella of the RUR Trust.

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

13. Covered by existing Community Board Funds.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

14. Yes. There are no legal considerations

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

15. Page 99 of the LTCCP, Community Support and Community Grants.

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

16. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

17. Yes. Youth Strategy. Community Policy. Social Wellbeing Policy

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

18. Yes.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

19. All appropriate consultation has taken place.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board agrees to allocate the amount of \$10,000 to SEEDS towards the salary of a facilitate/health professional for their programme for teenage/young parents.