

**7. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SCHEME APPLICATION - THOMAS O'BRIEN**

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager Community Services, 941 8986
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Unit Manager Community Support
<b>Author:</b>	Maryanne Lomax, Community Development Adviser

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for an application for funding from the Board's 2009/10 Youth Development Scheme. There is currently \$350 remaining in this fund.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2. Funding is being sought by Thomas O'Brien, a 16 year old student from Fendalton.
3. Thomas has been selected to be part of the New Zealand Schools Delegation to attend the International Model United Nations Conference (THIMUN) held in The Hague, Netherlands in January 2010. Thomas will be one of 14 young people representing New Zealand.
4. At THIMUN the students represent a UN member state and argue the views of that country in debating topical world issues. Successful resolutions will be forwarded to the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon.
5. Prior to the THIMUN conference, the delegation will visit Paris, Berlin, Rome, and Bangkok and undertake diplomatic visits to embassies and key institutions such as the International Court of Justice.
6. Thomas is currently in Year 13 at Christ's College and is planning to study Law and Political Science at Canterbury University next year. He is an avid debater and attended the New Zealand National Debating Championships earlier this year as a member of the Canterbury Team. He also assists with Secondary Schools Debating in Christchurch, acting as an adjudicator for the junior debates.
7. Thomas believes that the opportunity to take part in this delegation will provide him with huge benefits. As someone looking at a career in international law and politics, THIMUN represents a unique insight into this domain. THIMUN is also a chance to see the world, experience international relations at their core, and engage in relevant intellectual debate.
8. Thomas also sits on Pegasus Health's Community Advisory Board as a Youth Representative and co-heads their Youth Council. He receives a small income from this which he has been saving towards this trip. Due to his heavy school work commitments (currently studying for 10 exams) he has been unable to undertake other fundraising opportunities.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9. A breakdown of the costs involved is as follows:

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$</b>
Airfares (International)	\$2,889
Travel Insurance	\$99
Conference Fees	\$460
Housing at the Hague	\$100
Airfares (Europe) + Meals + Accommodation + Misc	(approx) \$3,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,048</b>

10. This is the first time that Thomas has applied to the Board for financial support.
11. There is currently \$350 remaining in the Youth Development Scheme.

**Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?**

12. Yes.

**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**

**Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?**

14. Yes.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

**Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

15. Aligns with the Council's Youth Strategy goal of empowering young people so they can exercise choice and be effective in asserting their views and aspirations.

**CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

16. No external consultation needs to be undertaken.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Community Services Committee recommend that the Board approve the application and allocate \$350 to Thomas O'Brien for costs associated with attending the International Model United Nations Conference (THIMUN).