

**8. APPLICATION TO THE BOARD’S YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SCHEME – EDENE PONSONBY**

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager, Community Services, DDI 941-8986
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Unit 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 Board’s 2011/12 Youth Development Scheme. There is currently \$2,350 remaining in this fund.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2. The applicant is Edene Ponsonby, a Year 13 student at Villa Maria College. Edene lives in Bishopdale.
3. Edene has been successful in securing a placement with American Field Service (AFS) Intercultural Programme to spend one year living with a host family and studying in Nurmijarvi, Finland.
4. AFS provides intercultural learning and volunteer opportunities for students, young adults, teachers and families through international exchange. AFS is one of the world’s largest not-for-profit volunteer based organisations.
5. The unique foundations of AFS lie in the American Field Service, a volunteer ambulance corps formed in World War I and active through World War II. It was the ambulance drivers’ belief that personal interaction and friendships between people built international peace and understanding. This formed the basis for commencing AFS student exchange programmes in 1947.
6. Edene believes this exchange will give her a 'hands on' learning experience by embracing a completely new culture. She feels this will help her become more independent and discover new things about herself. As Finland is known for having an excellent education system, she is keen to use this experience to build a strong foundation for further education at university when she returns to Christchurch.
7. There are significant costs involved in participating in AFS and Edene has been saving money from her part-time night-filler position at The Warehouse, Northlands. She has also been undertaking other fundraising activities including sausage sizzles every Saturday at the Papanui Returned Services Association.
8. Edene has recently received notification from the Finnish Consulate that there has been a change to the visa process. The Consulate now requires applicants from New Zealand to attend an in person interview at the Consulate in Sydney, Australia before the visa is issued. This is part of the new biometric testing they have put in place for security reasons. This new requirement has added to the costs of Edene participating.
9. This application fits with the Board's Youth Development Criteria of 'Personal Development and Growth'.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. The table below provides a breakdown of the costs involved. In addition to this, they also recommend that participants have approximately \$2,000 for their own spending during the year.

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
Airfares/Insurances/Visa	4,500
AFS Finland	3,840
AFS New Zealand and AFS International fees	1,960
Trip to Sydney for Visa interview	550
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,850</b>

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

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

12. This application is seeking funding from the Community Board's 2011/12 Youth Development Scheme which was established as part of the Board's 2011/12 Discretionary Funding.

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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

13. There are no legal implications in regards to this application.

**ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

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

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

15. 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 makes a grant of \$400 to Edene Ponsonby towards the cost of travelling to Finland as part of the AFS Intercultural Programme.