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The purpose of this report is to provide further information to the Board regarding the Volunteer Truancy Support Patrol operating in the Christchurch North District.

### BACKGROUND

Members will recall that Linda Parsons, (Field Worker for the Christchurch North District Truancy Service) addressed the May meeting of the Board to outline this proposal. Linda is employed by the Ministry of Education as the Truancy Officer for Christchurch North – an area which involves just 12 schools (10 of which are within the Shirley/Papanui wards).

### THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is to utilise the services of volunteers to patrol local malls, shopping centres, video parlours, local parks and other “hang-out” places to locate truants and help return them to their respective schools. The Field Worker is unable to undertake this patrolling within her hours. It is intended that this project operate for 12 months as a pilot. The expectation is that this will “prove” that a need exists, thus enabling funding to be resourced from the Ministry of Education. A similar pilot in Hamilton in 1997 indicated the need for such a programme in that city which was subsequently funded by the Ministry.

During 1998 Linda picked up 17 truant students whilst patrolling (on limited hours). Within two days of the volunteer service beginning patrolling this number had doubled.

#### Project Budget (for one year)

	\$
<i>Training of Volunteers</i>	2,000.00
<i>Cell-phones and rental</i>	1,800.00
<i>Administration</i>	1,000.00
<i>Vehicle Expenses</i>	4,000.00
<i>Training Manuals</i>	346.00
<i>Contingencies</i>	120.00
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$9,266.00</u>

The group is seeking a grant towards the above amount.

### FUNDING REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS

Members will be aware that guidelines are being developed with respect to requests for funding from schools. This application needs to be assessed in relation to those guidelines.

**Recommendation:** That the Board consider this application under the guidelines for requests for funding from schools when those guidelines have been finalised.

**Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That a grant of \$4,000 be given to the Volunteer Truancy Support programme for vehicle expenses, recognising the importance of this initiative in the community.