

**16. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CHILDREN  
AT RISK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

RR 10030

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Activities	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board on terms of reference developed by the Children at Risk Sub-Committee in consultation with Jan Rogers, Coordinator of Manuka Cottage, for the continuation of the Board's Children at Risk Community Development Programme.

The Sub-Committee comprising of Phil Clearwater (Chairperson), Sonia Gill and Elizabeth Maunsell met on Tuesday 11 May. The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend the continuation of the community development approach for the project, as opposed to a social service delivery model. Additionally, the Sub-Committee recommended changing the name of the project to the "Family and Community Development Field Worker Project" reflecting the positive nature of the project.

From the work already undertaken on this project it was found that fear of Government agencies and "dobbing in" excludes people from accessing the services that are needed. The Community Development process allows for informal contact and the development of relationships of trust. This process empowers families to work together to meet their own needs. Links with local community cottages and resource centres, or referrals to wider social service agencies, when needed, can be made.

The Subcommittee acknowledged that the Community Development process is gradual and long term, and supports the request that a commitment be made to continue funding the project for the next financial year. Currently there is only 4 months funding left for the community development project. Given that time has elapsed since the previous worker was in the field, and that a new worker will be employed, the timeframe for the project is crucial for its success.

**AIMS**

- Using a community development process to provide preventative support for families with children 0 – 5 years within targeted areas in Spreydon and Heathcote, namely Rowley, Addington, Spreydon, Sydenham and Waltham;
- To empower families to gain skills (including parenting skills) and access resources appropriate to identified needs;
- To strengthen and develop communities.

This will be achieved through the following objectives.

## OBJECTIVES

- To re-contact the network of service providers and further develop key relationships with agencies such as Waltham Cottage, Rowley Resource Centre, Womens Refuge, Beneficiary Advisory Service, Plunket, local kindergartens and Doctors;
- To make contact initially with relevant families with children (0 – 5 years) at risk in the above areas;
- To build relationships between families, key local agencies and other agencies where necessary;
- To facilitate any group processes that families may develop to meet common needs and resolve common issues;
- To refer family/parent/caregiver to appropriate agencies.

This will be achieved by:

- Manuka Cottage employing a Family and Community Development Field worker for the period of 16 months;
- The employee being accountable to the employer by way of monthly reports;
- The employer being accountable to the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board by way of three month written reports to the appointed sub-committee;
- Internal supervision once a week for the employee;
- External supervision (Crown Public Health) once a month for the employee;
- Peer support from within Manuka Cottage;
- Organising an outside evaluation of the project.

<b>Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$</b>
25 hrs/week @ \$20/hour	26,000
Travel 5,000km @ 50 cents	2,500
Power	500
Postage	1,000
Stationary	1,000
Telephone	550
Koha	1,000
Educational resources	1,000
Training	500
Transport	450
<b>Total</b>	<u>35,000</u>

\$30,000 was set aside in the 1999/00 Board Project Funds in the Community Project and Development Fund with the intention of continuing with this project.

Under the above terms of reference Manuka Cottage is willing to undertake and make a commitment to the project.

**Recommendation:** That the Board continue the project for the following financial year, allocating the remaining \$11,168 from the current financial year and \$30,000 from the Boards 1999/2000 Community Project and Development Fund and \$5,000 from the 1999/2000 Discretionary funds to Manuka Cottage, enabling the project to continue for 16 months.