

9. GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN CHRISTCHURCH RR 9473

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of progress on a report on Government funding of and services purchasing (contracting) from community organisations in Christchurch.

BACKGROUND

The Community Services Committee and Council have requested information on the level of funding from central government for social services provided by Christchurch community agencies. It was felt that this information would provide the Council with some guidance on where there are gaps and/or possible duplications in provision and funding.

To this end, data is being gathered from government agencies on Vote funding allocated to Christchurch. It is also intended that data will also be gathered from the major philanthropic funders, such as the Lottery Grants Board, the Community Trust, etc. Based on this data and existing research by the Council, I will undertake some analysis on aspects such as apparent duplication of service and “double dipping” by community agencies.

Work on this report was initiated on 22 February 1999 and it is the aim to have the preliminary report completed by end of March 1999 (due to the time needed for agencies to supply the appropriate data).

ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE REPORT

There are some difficulties associated with gathering and analysing this data including:

- A number of community agencies work across the region and/or nationally. Extrapolating the Christchurch component of their allocated funding is difficult
- Each government agency has a different data collection process. Some identify Christchurch groups by locality others do not. For some I will need to identify and extract Christchurch groups manually from national data.
- Some government agencies have a reluctance to provide the data. For example some agencies claim that due to the tendering process this data is commercially sensitive.

- Some funders do not distinguish between private and not for profit providers.

Recommendation: That the Committee note that this work has been initiated.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** As above.