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Corporate Plan Output: Riccarton/Wigram Community Board Vol 1, 3.1 text 6	

The purpose of this report is to inform Board members that the above research is completed, and to seek Board support to enable research recommendations to be implemented. (Note: copies of the research circulated to Board members under separate mailing).

BACKGROUND

Members may recall that the Shirley/Papanui Community Board and staff at Papanui High School initiated this research. It was identified that there were a high and increasing number of Asian students attending the school, the large majority of whom are permanent residents. It was also noted that the needs of these students were not being well met. A proposal was endorsed by the Shirley/Papanui Community Board for a partnership approach with the school to research the needs of Asian migrants in the Shirley/Papanui wards.

The team consulted with community leaders from targeted Asian populations and other stakeholders and it became evident from those initial meetings that the geographic focus needed to broaden. The majority of the Asian populations reside in the north-western wards of Shirley/Papanui, Fendalton/Waimairi and Riccarton/Wigram. Consequently the geographic area was broadened to include Fendalton/Waimairi and Riccarton/Wigram ward areas with support from Asian community leaders.

Each respective Board allocated \$4,000 towards the research project.

PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

The objective of this research was to identify issues, concerns and needs of Asian high school students aged 13-19 years in the Shirley/Papanui, Fendalton/Waimairi and Riccarton/Wigram wards. This was seen as an exploratory phase of research and confined to Asian high school students in the initial phase.

This research is qualitative by nature and involved focus groups and interviews with Asian youth (covering 12 different Asian groups), teachers and in particular ESOL teachers and data from Census 1996, various Community Boards, City Council and high schools in the three relevant areas.

KEY FINDINGS

The following are some key findings from the research.

- **Isolation**
Asian students feel isolated in their own ethnic group. Cultural and family links are broken (in particular for students with parents not here).
- **Current Services and Cultural Groups**
Students were not aware of Asian community support networks (in particular students with parents not here).

- **Support System**
Schools are providing orientation primarily for study skills for students. However, students identified the need for orientation for the new country/culture/environment etc.
- **Recreational Opportunities**
Students identified lack of night life and difficulty accessing indoor facilities, as indoor sports/activities were more popular amongst Asian students.
- **Language**
Language and cultural barriers were experienced by some students, in particular those from countries where English is not a major language.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

One of the key outcomes from this preliminary work is the extensive amount of networking and relationship building done among the various community wards, school administrators and Asian community groups including their commitment to the project. This bodes well in respect to this research being instrumental in drawing together such groups and potentially enables or assists Asian Communities to better meet the needs of Asian Youth.

WORKING PARTY

The major recommendation from this research is that a working party be established to enable research recommendations to be followed up and implemented.

This recommendation suggests that the Working Party membership include: 1 Board representative from each of the three respective Boards, 5 representatives from Asian communities, school(s) representative, other stakeholder groups and Council staff.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the research report and information be received.
 2. That the Board adopts the research recommendations.
 3. That the Board supports the establishment of a Working Party as outlined to enable research recommendations to be implemented.
 4. That one representative from the Shirley/Papanui Community Board be appointed to be part of the Working Party.
 5. That Helena Zhang and Richard Tay be thanked for their involvement and contribution towards the project.

Chairperson's Recommendation: For discussion.