

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Bruce Meder, Community Development Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Community Activities	

The purpose of this report is to report back to the Board on the effectiveness of the KidzBus programme as requested.

### BACKGROUND

The Community Board allocated a grant of \$5,000 from its Community Services Fund in May 1998 to enable the programme to operate in Morrison Avenue.

### KIDZBUS PROGRAMME

KidzBus provides a mobile after-school educational and recreation programme for children aged 6 – 9 years. The bus is parked in a street one day a week and operates as a clubhouse for the members of the programme. The full programme is 20 weeks long (two terms of 10 weeks each). The bus was located in Morrison Avenue during terms two and three, 1998. There are five modules covered during this period: “I’m Special”, “Respect”, “Family and Friends”, “How To Stay Friends” and “Goals and Dreams”. Each child (or their sponsor) contributes \$2.00 per week to the scheme.

### EVALUATION

During the time in Morrison Avenue, 26 children from 21 families attended the 20 weeks, with nearly 70% of these children coming from homes without fathers. Some of the comments from parents of these children included:

*“My child said it is so awesome and you can feel safe on the bus and nobody will hurt you.”*

*“The whole family has enjoyed it.”*

*“(My daughter is now) better at sharing, has more (patience) with her younger cousins (and) has also changed (her) attitude towards picking on children at school.”*

*“The values taught seem to stick.”*

*“Her self worth and self esteem is much improved. She is thinking more positive and not so negative.”*

*“I was slightly put off at first because it is based on religion but I then found the games and activities and songs involved learning about love and sharing and acceptance of others.”*

Feedback from other service providers in the Papanui area has been of a supportive nature. Thus, it is possible to conclude that KidzBus has been beneficial to the area in which it has been based and has met its prime objective: “To reach children and influence parents with family values that have been ‘tested by time...proven in life’.”

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

**Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the officers recommendation be adopted and that the Kidzbus organisers be congratulated on their excellent programme.