

**12. SUBSIDISED STYX RIVER BUS TOURS FOR ELDERLY PERSONS' HOUSING RESIDENTS**

RR10812

<b>Officer responsible</b> Dennis Hills	<b>Author</b> Deputy Chairperson, Shirley/Papanui Community Board
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The purpose of this report is to seek a Board subsidy towards the costs of a Styx River bus trip for residents in Council Elderly Persons' Housing (EPH) units.

At the meeting of the Committee on 12 August 1999 at which the funding for Year 2000 projects was allocated, one of the topics mentioned (but not funded) was free bus tours for Elderly Persons' Housing residents.

Since that meeting, several Board members have enjoyed the Styx River Tours from Nunweek Park to Brooklands Lagoon, which have broken even with 30 paying passengers at \$15 per head. It has been suggested that a "customised" (slightly shortened) version of these tours may be appropriate as an event which the Board could subsidise. With 97 EPH units in Papanui and 209 in Shirley, it would not be possible for the Board to offer such tours free. However, it would be possible to offer them on a subsidised basis at, say, \$7 per head with the Board contributing a subsidy of \$8 per head.

From the comments received following Styx River trips that have already taken place, groups of 30 appear to be more appropriate (than earlier, larger numbers) from an organisational point of view, and summer appears to be the preferred time. It would therefore be worthwhile for the Board to sponsor a trial in late January by offering subsidised trips to Manse Place residents (in the first instance), with a view to offering future trips for other EPH residents if the first one proves to be successful.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Shirley/Papanui Community Board provide a subsidy of \$240 from 1999/2000 Discretionary Funds towards a customised Styx River bus trip for Manse Place and other Elderly Persons' Housing residents in January 2000.
  2. That an evaluation of the trip be prepared for submission to the Board's February 2000 meeting, with a view to offering similar subsidised Styx River trips to other Elderly Persons' Housing residents in both Wards.

**Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the officer's recommendation be adopted subject to support being received from the Water Services Unit.