

20. NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST CHILDREN'S DAY

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Community Board Secretary
Corporate Plan Output: Community Advocacy	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of a new initiative of the Social Services and Employment Minister, the Hon Steve Maharey, in setting a Children's Day for New Zealand on 29 October 2000 and to offer the Board the opportunity to consider whether it wishes to undertake any particular project to mark this occasion.

The Community Services Committee Agenda for 10 July 2000 reports as follows:

“Social Services and Employment Minister Steve Maharey announced that New Zealand will have its own Children's Day on 29 October this year. Children's Day 2000 is a joint initiative between government and community agencies. Primary agencies involved with the day are Child, Youth and Family, Barnardos and the Office of the Commissioner of Children. The day, chosen to occur on the last Sunday each October, will hopefully become an annual event where all communities in New Zealand are encouraged to have special activities where adults spend time with children.

Spending time with children is the major theme of Children's Day. There are four other key messages:

- *love and affection*
- *praise and encouragement*
- *listening and talking; and*
- *new experiences*

Children's Day has its own web site, www.childrenday.org.nz, and will distribute a Children's Day kit to community groups in August with suggestions and ideas about what to do with children on 29 October.”

Sunday 29 October 2000 falls in Neighbourhood Week.

The Board may wish to consider whether it wishes to undertake any particular project to mark Children's Day.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board consider whether it wishes to undertake any particular project to mark Children's Day 2000.

Chairman's

Recommendation: For discussion.