

4. HORNBY YOUTH WORKER

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Denise Galloway, Community Development Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Riccarton/Wigram Community Board Vol 1, 3.1 Text 6	

Lael Schwartzeger will be speaking to this report.

INTRODUCTION

In 1996 a research project on the “Needs of Youth in the Riccarton/Wigram Area” identified a gap in services for young people in Hornby. The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board’s strategy to address this issue was to develop a partnership with the Community Development Network Trust who employed a youth worker, to facilitate and promote positive opportunities for the youth in this particular area.

Lael Schwartzeger has worked in the position of Hornby Youth Worker for nearly two years. Every six months an evaluation report is completed and presented to the Community Affairs Committee. Attached is a copy of the most recent report which clearly outlines the development of the project, particularly the strong networks and relationships that have been established among the young people, their families and the schools in Hornby.

RICCARTON/WIGRAM STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN

The purpose of this plan was to draw together projects, programmes and people involved in strengthening the communities within Riccarton/Wigram Wards. Seven major areas were identified, one of which was “Youth Work”. The “Strategic Actions” that the Strengthening Community Action Plan Core Group decided upon in relation to this particular area were as follows:

- To assist with funding for the Hornby Youth Worker position from 2000.
- To advocate for continued support for youth worker positions and their programmes.
- Support the provision of more after school and holiday programmes for 11 – 14 year olds.

YOUTH POLICY

Christchurch City Council policies indicate a commitment to a city that is a good place to live, and a commitment to plan for the needs of the whole community. Young people are a significant sector of the community (20.94%) and should therefore be seen as a major part of the Council’s business.

One of the roles of the Christchurch City Council, as stated in the Youth Policy (1998) is “To resource, provide, and support services to young people in partnership with other agencies where appropriate”. In December 1999 the Christchurch City Council Youth Strategy was developed as a means by which strategic direction could be taken for the implementation of the Youth Policy. In relation to the above role, the Youth Strategy suggests that the Christchurch City Council;

- Provide recreation, leisure and entertainment facilities, programmes and activities.
- Resource and fund community youth initiatives through the Social Initiatives Fund, the Community Development Fund Hillary Commission Funding and Creative New Zealand Funding administered by the Council.
- Initiate projects designed to improve youth opportunities in Christchurch.

The Strategy acknowledges that the Council works in partnership with government agencies and non government agencies.

RESOURCING AND FUNDING HORNBY YOUTH WORKER

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board has showed its commitment to the young people in both wards by:

- a) Funding salary and programme costs of the Hornby Youth Worker for two years (\$32,000 salary, \$15,000 programme per annum).
- b) Subsidising the salaries of two youth workers in the Riccarton Ward (\$10,000 each per annum).

Funding is available from Community Board Project Funds up until June 2000 for the above projects. Continuation of these services will depend on whether financial resourcing can be guaranteed either through the Sockburn Advocacy Management Budget or the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board Project Funds (2000/2001).

CONCLUSION

It is recognised by most professionals working with adolescents, that long term, stable relationships with positive role models and adults have a significant influence on the choices young people make during these years. It is essential that the continuity of those relationships be maintained as it takes a great deal of time before “trust” is established between the young person and the Youth Worker. As Lael has already developed strong relationships with many young people in the Hornby area it is crucial to their well being that this position continues.

- Recommendation:**
- (1) That the Board receive the information as presented by Lael Schwartzfeger and also the Evaluation Report attached.
 - (2) That the Board continues to support the Hornby Youth Worker by recommending this project as a high priority for Project Funds 2000/2001.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the Officer’s recommendation be adopted, but that funding beyond 2000/2001 be included in a full external evaluation of the current contract.