

## 9. MAYOR'S WELFARE FUND CHARITABLE TRUST - SIX MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 1999 TO 31 DECEMBER 1999

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the status of the Mayor's Welfare Fund and information on the number of clients accessing the fund. Comparative figures for the same period 1998/99 are shown in brackets ( ) and 1997/98 in brackets { }.

The significant decrease in both referrals and the dollar value of financial assistance can in the main be attributed to the following factors:

- (i) Mayor's Welfare Fund administrators have visited local Work and Income NZ offices over the past 12 months as part of an information sharing programme. They have taken this opportunity to highlight the areas that the fund can assist in (as a last resort) and that to receive assistance the clients are required to have a letter stating that Work and Income NZ are unable to assist. This has greatly reduced the numbers being referred, both to the fund and from the fund back to Work and Income NZ for assistance or documentation.
- (ii) Owing to the high numbers assisted in the last two years and the fund's 'once only' assistance policy (discretionary one assistance in a two year period) a higher proportion of the client base are currently not eligible for assistance.
- (iii) 1998/99 figures include a one off \$10,000 contribution to the Smoke Alarms campaign

During the period covered by this report 1,472 (2,479) {2,292} people approached the fund for assistance. Of those 906 (1,211) {1,249} were granted financial assistance with a further 541 (1,225) {1,092} referrals made to the following organisations:

	1999/2000	1998/99	1997/98
Work and Income NZ	298	(940)	{840}
Housing New Zealand	9	(13)	{26}
Southpower	45	(40)	{58}
Telecom	16	(19)	{11}
Welfare Agencies/Landlords etc	173	(213)	{157}

The highest demand on the fund is still in the area of accommodation with 371 (533) {455} clients being assisted with accommodation at a cost of \$69,472 (\$105,718) {\$92,059}.

Child care costs for children in an 'at risk situation' are still being met by the fund with \$30,065 (\$29,866) {\$34,192} being expended for the six months ended 31 December 1999.

Total assistance given for the period was \$164,425 (\$225,420) {\$182,660}.

During this period an audit of the fund's accounts for the year ended 30 June 1999 was undertaken by the Council's Internal Auditor, on behalf of Audit New Zealand.

An unqualified audit report was received. The audited accounts for the 1998/99 financial year are attached, together with the statement of financial performance for the period 1 July 1999 to 31 December 1999.

**Chairman's**

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