

7. ASIAN YOUTH

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Activities	

The purpose of this report is to bring Board members up-to-date with the Asian Youth Project. This report is also going to Fendalton/Waimairi and Riccarton/Wigram Boards.

BACKGROUND

Members will recall that a research project looking at the needs and concerns of Asian youth was initiated in late 1997 as a result of Papanui High School identifying a large increase in the numbers of students of an Asian background. Although initiated within the Shirley/Papanui Community Board area, the research area was quickly moved to include the Fendalton/Waimairi and Riccarton/Wigram Board areas because of the large percentage of people from Asian background living in these areas. All three Boards jointly funded this research. The results of the research (Voices of Asian Youth) was published in January 1999. The main recommendations from this research were:

- That an orientation booklet be produced outlining support available, giving a basic introduction to products and services and information about cultural differences.
- That schools conduct appropriate screening and testing procedures.
- That the roles of guardians and home-stays be clearly defined.
- That a Youth Co-ordinator be employed to act as a liaison person between the students, schools, Council, Asian communities and to provide assistance to students as well as promoting an awareness of Asian cultures in schools.
- That schools make their recreational (especially indoor) facilities available for use.

An Asian Youth Working Party was established in late 1999 to act as a vehicle to facilitate the implementation of the research recommendations. The Working Party was initially established with membership of two Board members from each of the three Community Boards, three representatives from High Schools (one from each Community Board area), a staff member from each Community Board area and representatives of the Asian communities.

ASIAN YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

One of the major recommendations of the report was the employment of an Asian Youth Co-ordinator. The Working Party was able to develop this position in partnership with the Christchurch Chinese Church based in Avonhead. The salary for the Youth Co-ordinator was set up through the efforts of members of the Working Party and funding is now guaranteed until May 2001. Management of the salary is undertaken by Canterbury Development Corporation. Ken Cho accepted the position in May and was officially welcomed by Deputy Mayor Lesley Keast at a public gathering.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CHRISTCHURCH CHINESE CHURCH

The Christchurch Chinese Church has become a 'partner' in this project by offering, free of charge, an office, power and most importantly, supervision of the youth co-ordinator. Their role and assistance has made this position possible by providing the latter services and the Working Party is grateful for their willingness to participate in this project.

ROLE OF THE WORKING PARTY

As previously stated the initial role of the Working Party was to facilitate the implementation of the research recommendations. However since the employment of Ken Cho as the Asian Youth Co-ordinator the Working Party's role has expanded to include "overseeing" this particular project. This has involved Yiyi Ku writing submissions to the Christchurch City Council 2000/01 City Plan for continued funding for this position, and Stephen Kanangara from the Singapore Club is advocating for a vehicle for use by Ken Cho through the business community.

The relationship of the Asian Youth Co-ordinator, Ken Cho with the Asian Youth Working Party is one of accountability, with Ken providing monthly verbal reports of what has been happening. A smaller advisory/support group has been established (made up of Christchurch City Council staff, a supervisor from Christchurch Chinese Church and representatives of two Asian organisations) and meets regularly with Ken Cho.

While this project is still a pilot it will be necessary for the Asian Youth Working Party to continue to meet in order to establish this position in a more permanent way, ie to secure appropriate funding and ongoing support/accountability.

The Working Party is responsible to the Community Board to ensure that this happens as well as the facilitation of other recommendations. The Working Party comprises representatives from:

- ◆ *Riccarton/Wigram Community Board*
- ◆ *Shirley/Papanui Community Board*
- ◆ *Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board*
- ◆ *Plunket Society*
- ◆ *Rewi Alley Chinese School*
- ◆ *Singapore Club*
- ◆ *Riccarton High School*
- ◆ *Papanui High School*
- ◆ *Burnside High School*
- ◆ *The Japanese Society of Canterbury*
- ◆ *College of Education*
- ◆ *Korean Representative*
- ◆ *Chinese Church*

THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD

The role of the Community Boards is to continue supporting the Working Party, through regular attendance of meetings by selected Board members. Each Board has also set aside funding for this project and it is the responsibility of the Community Board to allocate these funds, based on recommendations from the staff and Board representatives.

SUMMARY

The Asian Youth Project has been an exciting challenge since its first conception. Given the nature of the project it has not always been “smooth sailing” and there are still issues that need to be addressed in the future, eg:

1. The level of salary. The Asian Youth Co-ordinator position is funded by the ACE scheme with top-up from Community Development Corporation (approximately \$11.00 per hour in total). This is a very low salary compared with most youth workers in the community. The position is for 30 hours per week.
2. The number of groups (ie the Working Party, the Community Boards, the Christchurch Chinese Church, Community Development Corporation, WINZ, Christchurch City Council) involved has been confusing at times, particularly when asked who “owns” this project. It may be more appropriate to consider contracting an agency in the future once funding has been established for 2000/2001.

Despite some of the “confusion” above, we are very fortunate to have Ken Cho as the Asian Youth Co-ordinator. Ken is well qualified for the position. He has already established a website which he is expanding. This will provide a lot of relevant information to Asian youth who are very computer literate. Ken will present two six-monthly reports to each Community Board.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the representatives from the Community Board continue to attend Working Party meetings and that meeting venues and administration be shared more evenly.
 3. That a staff member from each Advocacy Team also attend Working Party meetings to ensure co-ordination of information. Next meeting – 11 July at 4.00 pm in the Papanui Board Room.
 4. That all Community Board funding allocated for “Outcome of Asian Youth Research” go towards supporting the Asian Youth Co-ordinator Project. The total amount for 2000/2001 from Riccarton/Wigram is \$3,000 and \$3,000 from Shirley/Papanui.

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5. That Community Board funding be allocated towards “topping up” the Asian Youth Co-ordinator salary to an appropriate level, upon further investigation and reporting.
6. That groups or organisations targeting Asian youth should go through the normal process of accessing Community Board funds.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation:

That the officer’s recommendation be adopted and that consideration be given to establishing a Management Committee comprising one member from each of the three Boards and three Asian representative, plus representatives from the Chinese Church in Avonhead with an appropriate staff representative.