

13. YOUTH WORKER SALARIES

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The purpose of this report is to overview funding applications from four community organisations for youth worker salaries, and outline how the Board can meet its objectives for 2000/01 financial year by supporting these projects.

COUNCIL POLICIES, BOARD OBJECTIVES AND LOCAL RESEARCH

Both the Christchurch City Council and the Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board have made a strong policy commitment towards addressing youth issues. The Council Youth Policy states that “the Christchurch City Council is committed to developing, supporting and promoting initiatives which positively contribute to the safety and well-being of young people, their families and communities” (July 1998).

The Board has set objectives for 2000/01 committing itself to promoting community safety from crime, promoting a healthy community, and promoting social cohesion in the Spreydon-Heathcote community. All of these objectives involve the addressing of local youth issues in some shape or form.

A further commitment has been made to addressing youth issues in the Spreydon-Heathcote area by way of recent youth consultation and research. The South Christchurch Youth Summit (1998) identified key issues for local young people. This has led to the development of a South Christchurch Youth Council which seeks to empower local young people to address the issues identified themselves.

By funding the projects outlined below the Board will not only meet its own objectives for the 2000/01 financial year, but also address issues identified through local youth research and consultation, and link closely with the broader Council youth policies.

THE PROJECTS

The four projects outlined below represent a summary of funding applications made by four separate community groups – Spreydon Youth Community (SYC), St Nicholas Church, Hoon Hay Youth Centre, and St Martins Youth Centre. SYC and St Nicholas Church have made direct approaches to the Board at previous meetings, whilst Hoon Hay Youth Centre and St Martins Community Youth Centre have approached staff regarding funding issues in the month prior to this meeting. More in-depth information on these funding applications has been circulated to members.

1. St Martins Community Youth Centre

The Youth Centre was initiated just over twelve months ago after issues of youth behaviour in Centaurus Park arose in the St Martins community. The Youth Centre currently focuses on 6-14 year olds in the St Martins community, and provides a safe environment which prevents these young people from “getting into trouble”. The numbers of local young people attracted to the Youth Centre programmes continue to steadily increase, and as the Youth Centre strengthens its identity locally, a growing number of programmes are being developed to address youth issues holistically. The Youth Centre has identified volunteer resources as a key concern, and hence has made this funding application to ensure the continued paid employment of the Youth Worker for the Friday night and Thursday after school programmes.

The St Martins Community Youth Centre have had limited success with funding applications to other funding agencies, and are awaiting the result of a Lotteries Youth application. With this in mind, and the consolidation and diversifying of programmes, it is recommended to continue Board funding support at a level similar to past allocations to this group.

Funding Requested: \$9,080

Recommendation: \$4,540 (Board 2000/01 Youth & Recreation Project Fund)

2. Spreydon Youth Community

SYC have been running for over ten years, and have developed a large leadership team of 50 volunteers who currently work with over 250 young people. SYC is the largest youth focussed community group in the Spreydon-Heathcote area. The target group for SYC is “mainstream” 12-18 year olds, with a focus on providing positive leadership and role models to prevent young people from “sliding off the rails”, and also creating opportunities for talented young people to fully realise their potential.

The 24/7 Youth Work proposal extends on the work SYC has been doing at Riccarton High School since 1994, and has begun at Cashmere High School and Hillmorton High School in 2000. The philosophy behind 24/7 is to provide holistic support to the work already done by SYC in the broader community by employing part time youth workers to be based at local high schools. Gary Coburn, Principal of Riccarton High School, strongly endorses the 24/7 proposal, and is himself actively seeking funding to continue the programme. Both Cashmere and Hillmorton High Schools are also keen to see this project continue.

The volunteer base of SYC means this proposal represents “good value for money” in terms of the number of young people contacted. It is recommended the Board allocate \$6,000 towards this project. If the Board feels a higher level of funding support is appropriate, these additional funds should come from Board Discretionary funds.

Funding Requested: \$10,000
Recommendation: \$6,000
(\$3,000 Board Discretionary Fund; \$3,000 Board Youth & Recreation Project Fund)

3. St Nicholas Church

St Nicholas Church have been running a Friday night youth programme for two years from their facilities on the corner of Frankleigh and Barrington Streets. This programme is unique in the Spreydon area in that it targets 10-14 year olds (“tweenagers”) specifically. The young people attracted to this programme tend to fall in between standard definitions of “mainstream” or “at risk” youth, and this further emphasises the special character of this programme. St Nicholas Church sees the Friday night programme as a starting point, or anchor project, for a whole range of youth initiatives in the Spreydon area.

The development of the Friday night programme and subsequent initiatives hinges upon having a skilled youth worker, hence this proposal. Given the relatively small number of young people attending the programme (20-25), and its relatively new status, it is recommended the Board allocate a grant of \$3,000 for the next 12 months.

Funding Requested: \$10,242
Recommendation: \$3,000 (Board 2000/01 Discretionary Fund)

4. Hoon Hay Youth Centre

The Hoon Hay Youth Centre has been operating for eight years, and has developed a strong identity within the local Hoon Hay/Rowley community, as well as throughout Christchurch. The Youth Centre is focussed on meeting the needs of youth in the Hoon Hay/Rowley community, many of whom are “at risk”. It is the only organisation of its kind in the area, and works in partnership with numerous other local groups to meet the needs of local youth holistically. The majority of young people using the Youth Centre are of Maori or Pacific Island families, emphasising the unique service that it provides in Spreydon-Heathcote.

The Youth Centre has reviewed staff roles recently, and has identified the need for a dedicated Youth, Recreation Programme Co-ordinator. The Centre is awaiting the result of a Community Employment Group funding application and is requesting “bridging funds” in anticipation of the bulk of the funding being secured by March 2001.

Funding Requested: \$5,000
Recommendation: \$4,000 (Board 2000/01 Youth & Recreation Project Fund)

SUMMARY

The Youth and Recreation Project Fund has a balance of \$26,000 available.

Youth Group	Project Target Group	Funding Requested	Recommendation	Source
St Martins Community Youth Centre	6-14 year olds in St Martins	\$9,080	\$4,540	2000/01 Youth & Recreation Project Fund
Spreydon Youth Community	“Mainstream” 12-18 year olds at Cashmere & Hillmorton High Schools	\$10,000	\$6,000	\$3,000 from 2000/01 Discretionary Fund \$3,000 from 2000/01 Youth & Recreation Project Fund
St Nicholas Church	10-14 year olds in Spreydon	\$10,242	\$3,000	2000/01 Discretionary Fund
Hoon Hay Youth Centre	Hoon Hay/Rowley youth	\$5,000	\$4,000	2000/01 Youth & Recreation Project Fund

The benefits of funding the above projects are manifold, and include:

- Creating opportunities for young people to engage in physical and sporting activities, and socialise in their local area.
- Providing appropriate leadership and role models for young people in need of guidance.
- Creating opportunities for young people to develop and realise their full potential.
- Developing a sense of community amongst young people in Spreydon-Heathcote.
- Prevention of criminal behaviour and other “at risk” activities.
- Provision of culturally appropriate activities for young people of ethnic minorities.

These benefits clearly relate to and compliment the objectives the Board has committed itself to for the 2000/01 financial year.

Recommendation: That the Board allocate funding to the four community organisations as outlined in the above summary table.