

10. PARKLANDS BAPTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Officer responsible Community Advocate, Burwood/Pegasus	Author Michael McNabb, Community Development Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Burwood/Pegasus Community Board Discretionary Allocation	

The purpose of this report is to support the Church's request for funding assistance towards the costs of converting a previous retail/office site into a community room facility (*correspondence is attached*).

BACKGROUND

The Church's 15 September 2000 letter seeking funding support for the Community Room was initially considered by the 19 September 2000 meeting of Strengthening Communities. That meeting referred the request on to a full Community Board meeting as Strengthening Communities ruled that the project was outside their funding priorities.

The Church wishes to convert this office/retail site that is part of the Church's overall building complex to meet the high demand by community groups for accommodation. This room will be able to accommodate meeting and activity purposes for 25 to 30 people.

The Church currently has a hall which is used for worship and community use for up to 500 people, a function room for 75 to 100 with full commercial kitchen and catering facilities, Community Meeting Room One for up to 15 people and Community Meeting Room Two for 6 to 8 people. Current regular users of the Church's community facilities include the Queenspark Playgroup (30 children), the Community Crafts Group (100 people), Girl Guides (15), Brownies (20), Pippins (15), Boys Brigade (35), Youth Group (50 to 80), Living Waters (20 to 30), a Japanese Ladies Group (20 to 30), Home School Association (60 to 80 parents/children), Queenspark School for student activities and School meetings and socials, and a Women's Probus group. The facilities are also used for one off community meetings, events and socials.

The Assistant Pastor advised me that current community demand is over and above the Church's present capabilities and that is why they have decided to convert this now empty site into a third community room facility.

I believe that this project, along with the Church's overall community complex, will continue to provide an excellent meeting, recreation and social venue for the Parklands community. Currently there is an extreme shortage of community and sporting facilities in Parklands (1996 census population of nearly 6,000) which is a major reason for the \$900,000 extensions on the Parklands Community Centre. The two local primary schools have small halls that are used by the community but such use is limited due to priority school and after-school programme use.

I believe also that this community room project will complement the facilities of the Community Centre and not create an over-supply of community facilities in Parklands.

- Recommendations:**
1. That this report and information be received.
 2. That the Board consider a Discretionary Grant of \$1,500 towards the capital work costs and up to \$1,000 from the Community Response Assistance Fund for furnishings.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.