

14. **MAYOR'S WELFARE FUND CHARITABLE TRUST – SIX-MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2000 TO 31 DECEMBER 2000**

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The Mayor's Welfare Fund is a charitable trust with the purpose of providing relief to those residents and visitors to Christchurch suffering hardship and distress. The Fund works alongside and liaises with other welfare agencies throughout the city. The Fund has a long history and is thought to have started in 1897 as a result of a bequest from a prominent businessman, Mr Hyman Marks. The Fund was at that time known as the Mayor's Coal and Blanket Fund.

The Council is the Trustee of the Fund. A committee comprising the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, one Councillor (Councillor Pat Harrow) and representatives from 13 welfare agencies form the Mayor's Welfare Fund Committee. The Council has delegated the following powers to this committee:

- Make and vary from time to time the criteria for grants from the Fund
- Consider applications and make decisions for grants from the Fund

The Fund is entirely dependent upon donations and grants from various organisations (including \$245,000 from the Council and \$60,000 from The Community Trust for Child Enrichment/Child Subsidy), together with income derived from short-term investments.

The following welfare agencies are represented on the Committee:

Work and Income New Zealand
Anglican City Mission
Presbyterian Support Services
Red Cross
Society for the Protection of Home and Family
Methodist Mission
Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation Society
Birthright Incorporated
St Vincent de Paul Society
The Salvation Army
Catholic Social Services
Barnardos New Zealand
Anglican Maori Mission

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the status of the Fund and information on the number of clients accessing the Fund. Comparative figures for the same period of 1999 are shown in brackets. This information is produced six-monthly and has previously been reported to the Strategy and Resources Committee.

During the period covered by this report 1,317 (1,472) people approached the Fund for assistance. Of those 735 (906) were granted financial assistance, with a further 554 (541) assisted through the Fund Administrators advocating on their behalf with vendors and landlords and through referral to appropriate welfare agencies.

The highest demand on the Fund is in the area of accommodation with 276 (371) clients being assisted with accommodation at a cost of \$53,218 (\$69,472).

Within the Mayor's Welfare Fund is a category called Child Enrichment. Child Enrichment aims to provide children with the same opportunity as their peers. It works mainly through schools and community groups to ensure that children do not miss out on such activities as school camps and trips, sporting and cultural activities. Furthermore, assistance is also given to meet costs associated with childcare for children deemed to be "at risk", where there is a shortfall between the subsidy given by the Government and the actual childcare cost charged by the childcare centre/creche. During the period, \$31,915 (\$38,646) was expended from the Child Enrichment Fund.

Total assistance given over the six months was \$138,262 (\$164,426).

During this period an audit of the Fund's accounts for the year ended 30 June 2000 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 1999/00 financial year and a financial statement for the July to December 2000 period are attached.

Finally, please note that a seminar about the fund is scheduled to be held during the year's round of seminars.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.