

3. KIWIABLE PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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The purpose of this report is provide additional information in support of our Annual Plan bid for \$15,000 for the KiwiAble Programme for People with Disabilities.

The KiwiAble programme has been operating for eight years and works with all disabilities (sensory, intellectual, physical and psychiatric). Its mission is to encourage people with disabilities to participate in leisure activities of their choice. This is done in a multitude of ways, including working one-on-one with individuals and their caregivers to explore options for leisure involvement; providing information on accessible activities; running sports skills development programmes; providing disability awareness training to teacher trainees and recreation students and working with the media to promote a positive image of people with disabilities enjoying leisure activities.

Another important role for the KiwiAble programme has been to bring together into one network all disability agencies in the city which provide leisure opportunities for people with disabilities. This has led to greater co-operation and sharing of resources and much greater consistency in the provision of leisure services. As a result, Christchurch now has a strong network of providers in this area.

Over the 1999/2000 financial year the KiwiAble programme provided 13 disability awareness training seminars to 140 participants; co-ordinated bi-monthly KiwiAble Network meetings with an average attendance of 25-30 participants; ran 6 sports skills development programmes with a total of 958 attendances; managed the KiwiAble Leisure Card (750 card holders) and was instrumental in the development of the proposed Multi Sensory facility at Queen Elizabeth II Park.

The total budget for the project is \$65,000. The KiwiAble Co-ordinator's salary plus administration expenses totals \$50,000 and the remaining funding is used primarily for funding coaches for the sports skills development programmes.

For several years the Community Trust have provided this project with \$15,000 funding and the Council has provided \$50,000. The new Council process for prioritising funding applications means that if a project does not meet the two essential criteria (1. "The project must provide significant social, economic and/or environmental benefit" / 2. "The project sits substantially outside normal Council service delivery activities") it is unlikely it will be forwarded to the external funding agency.

The KiwiAble programme is now well within the scope of "normal Council service delivery activities" and so cannot be considered for Community Trust funding.

The loss of this \$15,000 funding will significantly impact the ability of the programme to provide its services and continue acting as the co-ordinator of disability leisure services in the city.