

## 12. 2001/2002 BURWOOD/PEGASUS COMMUNITY BOARD DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Board Project/Discretionary 6.1.9.	

The purpose of this report is to seek Board consideration on the funding support applications from the Positive Directions Trust, Kidsfirst Kindergarten Ngaire Larcombe Wainoni, the South Brighton Playcentre, Maori Legal Services and Nga Hau e Wha Marae.

The Burwood/Pegasus Community Development Scheme (CDS) Funding Assessment Committee originally considered these applications on 23 May 2001. The applications were declined by the Committee as the projects were either considered to be not a CDS priority, ineligible or because of the large cost of the project, a CDS grant would still leave a significant shortfall on the project that would impact on the viability of the project being completed during this financial year.

The Community Development Adviser has visited all projects and met with staff and committee members.

### **Positive Directions Trust**

The Trust was established in October 2000 to provide extended learning opportunities for Maori children that would improve these children's educational outcomes at the schools they attend. The Trust provides a ten-week after school programme in two-hour clusters on four weekday afternoons for children aged 5-7, 8-10 and 11-12. The cluster programmes are numeracy and literacy based using computers, electronic, video, audio and handheld interactive educational games and programmes.

Each cluster has eight children and the programme is based in a house in Gloucester Street, Linwood. The ten-week programmes are developed in partnership with local primary schools with current programmes involving students from Christchurch East and Linwood Avenue schools. Discussions are underway with Phillipstown and Shirley schools.

The programme grew out of the Trust youth work that continued to discover the very low level numeracy and literacy abilities of Maori children and youth. The Trust's research with primary schools showed the high numbers of Maori and Pacific Peoples children "failing" in the school system. The Trust also discovered that these children responded strongly and participated more fully in "learning" when interactive equipment and methods were used. Their research also showed that in the low socio-economic communities and in the low decile schools such interactive equipment and learning methods were not easily accessible in the schools or available at all within the families and households. From this preliminary research the Trust ran a pilot programme during the Easter 2001 school holiday break. The success of this pilot has become the base for these ten-week programmes.

Each cluster has two tutors. One is fully qualified in either the computer or education field and the other is a young adult on "work experience" being mentored in to the teaching and computer sector.

A strong aim for the Trust through this programme is to skill Maori and Pacific People youth to become peer leaders so as to change the poor expectations and behaviours present in many of today's young people.

Positive Directions also provide/organise cultural events and socials, youth work and sport teams and recreation activities.

The Trust has estimated an annual operating budget for eight programmes per year at \$101,500 and is seeking \$10,000 from each of the Council's Community Boards as a contribution towards co-ordinator and tutor salaries and for operational costs. The Trust has received funding support from the Community Trust, Te Puni Kokiri and the Community Employment Group along with wage subsidy support from the Department of Work and Income.

This project meets:

- Community Board's Objectives 2.3, 2.6, 4.2 and 5.1 when based in Burwood/Pegasus.
- The principles and priorities of the Council's Out of School Policy, Children's Policy and Youth Policy.
- Priorities 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Council's Social Wellbeing Policy.
- The project also confirms many of the education indicators in the Quality of Life in New Zealand report.

It is recommended that the Community Board gives strong recognition for this very creative and innovative after school programme back to the Trust but declines a grant at this stage as its current programmes are based outside the Board's region. The Board would consider any future application for a Burwood/Pegasus based programme.

The Community Board's support could also be signalled to the Council's Metropolitan Fund and to Out of School support through the Social Initiatives Fund.

### **Kidsfirst Kindergarten Ngaire Larcombe Wainoni**

The kindergarten is based on the corner of Bexley and Wainoni Roads and is seeking Community Board support for the relocation and redesign of their outdoor play area. This is a top priority project for the Kindergarten Committee due to the "loss" of land that was required for the Woolston - Burwood Expressway intersection on Wainoni and Bexley Roads.

The project involves new fencing, landscaping, sand pit area, water play area, screens and plants and a storage shed. Play equipment and the challenge/climbing area are being upgraded to meet current safety and health standards.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$34,000. The Ministry of Education has allocated \$18,000 from its discretionary funds and has transferred some of Wainoni Primary School's land to the kindergarten for this relocation of the play area. The Canterbury Westland Kindergarten Association has allocated \$5,000, Trees for Canterbury has donated \$500 of trees/shrubs and the kindergarten has allocated \$1,000 from its own fundraising. The project shortfall is currently \$10,000. Committee members, parents and family members are involved in regular working bees, fundraising and obtaining of donated materials/equipment and sponsorship. Application is being made to the Lottery Grants Board.

The Ngaire Larcombe Kindergarten has a register of 70 families with 45 children attending the morning session and 30 in the afternoon. It has a Ministry of Education/Kindergarten Association "Exceptional Education Needs" classification with the Association meeting the employment of a Resource Person. Information obtained from the Association included the statement that the Association has a social responsibility towards Ngaire Larcombe that outweighs operational viability just based on financial criteria.

Nearby Wainoni Primary School has a Ministry of Education Decile 1A ranking.

This project meets:

- Community Board Objectives 2.6.
- The principles and priorities of the Council's Children's Policy and Early Childcare Policy.
- Priorities 2, 5, 6, 7 and 9 of the Council's Social Wellbeing Policy.
- The projects also confirms many of the education indicators in the Quality of Life in New Zealand report.

A funding contribution from the Community Board is recommended along with the project being referred on to the Council's City Streets and the Early Childcare Units for discretionary funding support.

### **South Brighton Playcentre**

The Playcentre is based alongside the South Brighton Domain and is seeking Community Board support for the upgrade and development of its outdoor play area. The play area is approximately 20 years old with some areas requiring major repairs due to the unsafe conditions of the old wooden type structures. The play area and equipment is not suitable for today's play and challenge needs of children.

Playcentre committee members state that the new play area will be a community facility and will remain open after Playcentre hours. The nearby South Brighton Domain playground has no under five years of age child play facilities.

The project includes new climbing and challenge frames, sandpit and water play area, play hut, fencing, gates, plants/shrubs and garden areas. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$24,350 with the Playcentre allocating \$6,500 from its own funds leaving a current shortfall of \$18,000. The Playcentre is applying to other funders such as the Community Trust, the Lottery Grants Board and local philanthropic trusts and pub charities. Committee members and parents are involved in working bees and donating of time and equipment/materials.

The South Brighton Playcentre has a register of 40 families with 50 children involved during the two daily sessions.

The South Brighton Primary School has a Ministry of Education Decile 6 rating.

This project meets:

- Community Board Objectives 2.6.
- The principles and priorities of the Council's Children's Policy and Early Childcare Policy.
- Priorities 2, 5, 7 and 9 of the Council's Social Wellbeing Policy.
- The project also confirms many of the education indicators in the Quality of Life in New Zealand report.

The recommendations take into account that this project is a lower priority for funding than Ngaire Larcombe when taking into account socio-economic indicators, the project need priority and that the project shortfall is much larger. It is also recommended that the application be referred on to the Council's Early Childcare Unit for discretionary funding support.

### **Maori Legal Services**

In partnership with Te Rawhiti Family Centre Aranui, Maori Legal Services (MLS) provides a free legal help clinic at the Portsmouth Street Medical Centre every Thursday between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm. MLS is seeking Community Board funding support for operational costs such as administration, secretarial, office overheads and receptionist costs. The annual operating cost is approximately \$6,300 with MLS contributing \$1,500. MLS applies to community funders for assistance in meeting these operational costs.

The Board's Community Development Scheme has allocated \$1,750 to the project leaving a shortfall of approx \$3,000.

The Free Legal Help Clinic began in July 2000 with the assistance of a \$3,500 establishment grant from the Community Board's Discretionary fund. The idea of establishing a legal help clinic in Aranui first came about in late 1999 during a conversation between an Aranui Community Worker and MLS. This was explored by MLS and a Christchurch East law firm and MLS conducted a survey at the April 2000 Aranui Community Day. Strong support for such a legal service was confirmed by the questionnaire that resulted in MLS forming an agreement with the local medical centre to hold the clinics at Te Rawhiti Family Centre. The legal advice is provided by a fully qualified lawyer.

Forty new client files were opened during the July 2000 - March 2001 period.

This project meets:

- Community Board Objectives 2.6 and 4.2.
- Priorities 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Council's Social Wellbeing Policy.
- A number of local service and family assistance needs/solutions being identified in the Aranui Community Renewal.
- The project also confirms many of the social deprivation indicators in the Quality of Life in New Zealand report.

Funding support from the Board's newly established Community Development Initiatives Fund is recommended.

## **Nga Hau e Wha Marae**

The Marae Trust Board is seeking Community Board funding assistance for a six-month pilot free medical centre service at Nga Hau e Wha Marae. The Trust is specifically seeking wage cost assistance for employing a registered nurse. The Trust is meeting all whare, office and administration overhead costs. Medlab South has donated \$5,000 towards refurbishment and furnishing costs.

The health centre facility will be based in the whare on the Pages Road frontage of the Marae.

GPs from six local practices will provide a roster service for the health centre during its doctor open hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. As well as these GP hours there will be a registered nurse available during those Tuesday and Thursday hours. The Trust will be working with community based health support services such as Pegasus Health and Crown Public Health to provide hui and community seminars/education workshops as a way of improving the community's health and social well-being.

This health initiative by the Trust Board is a response to a recently completed strategic and operational review of the Marae undertaken by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu on behalf of the Christchurch City Council. The review identified a number of social initiatives for the Trust Board to consider including kaumatua housing, the development of a Maori health facility and the establishment of a kohanga reo.

The aim of this project is to provide a free service to the local community in an attempt to address the health needs of those who are currently not accessing healthcare because of cost, locality, medical centre environment, medical service delivery or cultural barriers.

Such a community health initiative aims to improve the health status of low-income people and reduce the number of admissions to hospitals because of poor health care. Research is clearly showing that low income localities and those specifically with Maori and Pacific People residents have high instances of glue ear, poor dental hygiene, diabetes, asthma, cardiovascular complaints, poor diet and exercise regimes, and high levels of smoking. The Trust's hui and community education hours will be focussing on those health issues.

On page 49 of the Quality of Life in New Zealand report, the second sentence in the second to last paragraph says:

*“Social, cultural and economic factors influence the use of preventative and treatment services and the more affluent generally have better access to high quality health services” and the paragraph concludes with:*

*“Therefore, improving the affordability of general practice services, and addressing issues of availability and appropriateness of services for different ethnic groups would assist with reducing socio-economic differences in health status.”*

This project meets:

- Community Board Objectives 2.5, 2.6 and 4.2.
- Priorities 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Council's Social Wellbeing Policy.
- A number of local service and family assistance needs/solutions being identified in the Aranui Community Renewal.
- The project also confirms many of the health indicators in the Quality of Life in New Zealand report.

The recommendation is for funding support from the Board's newly established Community Development Initiatives Fund. It is important to note that there are two further community based health and medical centre facilities being established in Burwood/Pegasus. One is on the corner of Pages and Woodham Roads and the other is on the corner of Rookwood Avenue and Bowhill Road.

- Recommendation:**
1.
    - (a) That the request from Positive Directions Trust be declined as the current project is outside the Burwood and Pegasus wards.
    - (b) That a letter be forwarded to the Trust recognising the Board's support for such community work and inviting the Trust to forward a further submission when a programme is established in Burwood/Pegasus.
    - (c) That this current submission from the Trust be referred to the Council's Metropolitan Fund and the Social Initiatives Fund Out of School Programme Support for consideration.
  2.
    - (a) That Kidsfirst Kindergarten Ngaire Larcombe Wainoni be allocated \$3,000 from the Community Board's 2001/02 Discretionary monies.
    - (b) That this current submission from the kindergarten be referred to the Council's City Streets and Early Childcare units for discretionary funding consideration.
  3.
    - (a) That a funding decision on the request from South Brighton Playcentre be deferred until there is further clarification on how the shortfall on the project will be met.
    - (b) That this current submission from the South Brighton Playcentre be referred to the Council's Early Childcare Unit for discretionary funding consideration.
  4. That Maori Legal Services be allocated a \$1,250 grant from the Community Development Initiatives Fund.
  5. That Nga Hau e Wha Marae be allocated a \$5,000 grant from the Community Development Initiatives Fund.

**Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:**

That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.