

## 10. FUNDING FOR EXPANDING PREMISES – LAMB OF GOD

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Facilities	

The purpose of this report is to seek funding from the Board to enable the Lamb of God Covenant Community to expand their present premises so as to more adequately meet the needs of the community.

### POLICIES AND VISIONS

This project contributes to the Council's vision relating to community facilities, viz: "Community Facilities and Services that meet community needs efficiently and effectively." It also contributes to the Board's vision of "promoting recreation, leisure and continuous learning."

### THE PROJECT

Members will recall that a deputation from Lamb of God was received at the previous Board meeting. An outline of the proposed facility extension was presented during this deputation.

The Lamb of God Covenant Community wish to extend and upgrade their present facility so as to make it more accessible and available to community groups and meetings. Specifically, the project involves:

1. The provision of wheelchair access.
2. A covered entrance foyer which would enable pushchairs to be kept undercover on rainy days.
3. The provision of more toilets that are more readily accessed than at present.
4. The provision of a "baby-changing table".

### NEED

Many of the proposed changes are driven by present need. One of the regular uses made of the facility is 'Mainly Music'. This programme runs weekly and is an interactive music and movement programme for babies, pre-school children and parents.

At the time that the Community Development Adviser visited the premises, the hall was completely full of babies, children and their parents. There were approximately a dozen pushchairs outside and little space was available for any increase in numbers. Had the day been raining, either the pushchairs would have become wet, or the numbers attending would have been significantly lessened.

This programme provides a meeting point for parents, a social outlet for those without access to transport as well as the obvious developmental learning for the children.

A variety of other groups use the facilities (located in Thames Street) including Country Women's Institute, aerobic instruction, church groups and youth groups. The nearest similar facilities are at least 1.5 km away; the St Albans Community Resource Centre and the St Albans Baptist Church.

The extensions planned by Lamb of God would add significantly to the facility base in the area without a large expense being incurred.

### FUNDING

Lamb of God purchased the building six years ago from the St Albans Baptist Church. Since then they have funded the repayment of the debt largely through sales of lamington cakes.

Furthermore, the sale of these cakes has had a secondary benefit for other community organisations. Over 90% of the lamingtons sold by Lamb of God are sold in bulk to other groups who then sell them as part of their own fundraising efforts.

The estimated cost of upgrading this facility is \$10,000 - \$12,000, plus GST. Lamb of God have not presently applied elsewhere for assistance with this project but are aware of other funding options, which they intend pursuing.

## **CONCLUSION**

As this project will significantly increase the availability and accessibility of community facilities in the northern St Albans area, it is a project to which the Community Board may wish to allocate some funding.

**Recommendation:** That an allocation of \$3,000 from Discretionary Funds be granted to Lamb of God Covenant Community for the purpose of upgrading their facility.

**Chairperson's Recommendation:** That the officer's recommendation be adopted and that the allocation of \$3,000 be specifically for the provision of a wheelchair access ramp.