

23. HILLARY COMMISSION SPORTS FUND/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME REPORT

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Sharon Ogden, DDI 354-1705
Corporate Plan Output: Public accountability	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the funds allocated at the meeting of the Funding Committee held on May 17 2001 (see attached report and schedule).

The Funding Committee resolved to hold an official presentation ceremony for applicants who had their funding approved. This would need to be a presentation of the letters approving funding, not actual cheques.

The Community Advocate advises that the data base of applicants as set out on the schedule automatically generates the letters to all applicants, and payments are made direct to the applicant groups' bank accounts. To inform applicants of their success or otherwise at a ceremony would necessitate writing to them inviting them to a function, where they would be given their letters. The letters to the unsuccessful applicants would need to be posted, otherwise it would be unfair to invite groups along to be told they were unsuccessful. The letters cannot be generated until all the decisions have been made, and as there are three applications still awaiting a decision no letters can be sent. In the meantime, a number of applicants have already contacted the office to find out what has happened to their application

It is considered that to hold off informing groups of the decisions until a presentation ceremony is arranged would create unnecessary delay. There is also the question as to whether applicants would come to such an event considering they will have already been informed of their application being approved. The cost of such a presentation may be better utilised in a function held prior to the funding round to inform groups about the availability of funding, this could include information on all the Board's funds, for example, Discretionary Funds and the Project Fund process.

Recommendation: That the presentation of letters to successful applicants not take place, but that community groups be invited to a forum for the purpose of providing information on what funding opportunities are available.

For discussion