

15. ASSISTANT HORNBY YOUTH WORKER ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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The purpose of this report is to request funding from the Youth Initiatives Project Fund, to cover the costs related to the training and salary of the Assistant Hornby Youth Worker. This report also seeks funding to cover the 'shortfall' related to the 'overall' costs of running the Hornby Youth Worker Project for 2001/2002.

BACKGROUND

In 1997 the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board contracted Community Development Network Trust (CDN) to provide a Youth Worker for the Hornby to initiate and facilitate programmes and activities for young people in this area. This partnership between the Community Board and CDN was the outcome of the need for a youth worker, which was identified by a research report on youth in the Riccarton/Wigram wards. Lael Schwartfeger has been employed as the Hornby Youth Worker since September 1997, and has developed this role through the provision of camps and recreational programmes suitable for young people in Hornby between the ages of 11 and 18. Over the last twelve months Lael has had contact with 216 young people and their caregivers.

NEW VENUE AND BUDGET SHORTFALL

In April 2001, Lael moved office from Hornby Primary School to Hornby Community Care Centre as there was a need for a venue with more space to accommodate the female assistant youth worker. This has been a positive change as noted in Lael's annual report, "young people who live down that way visit us on their way home from school, and it has also been positive because parents use the community centre regularly dropping young people to the library". However, the new venue has incurred additional costs to the amount of \$600. In addition to the latter amount, the need to increase the number of spaces available on the camps/programmes as well as the number of programmes, has led to a total shortfall for 2001/2002 of \$1900. Unless this amount is found, one of the programmes will need to be dropped or numbers on some of the programmes reduced. Additional new programmes have come from the demand for programmes aimed at the specific needs of young women, which was identified by Lael in his report to the Community Board last year and the creation of the new position of an assistant female youth worker.

A copy of the Programme Budget for 2001/2002 is attached to this report along with the issues and recommendation related to youth in Hornby, identified in Lael's annual evaluation report for 2000/2001. A complete copy of this report (12 pages) can be obtained from the Community Development Advisor upon request.

FEMALE YOUTH ASSISTANT

In August 2000 Lael presented his annual evaluation and report to the Community Affairs Committee. One of the main issues identified by Lael was the need for a female assistant who could address the specific needs of young women, as well as provide appropriate individual support and follow up. The outcomes expected by the Community Development Network Trust of the latter position were as follows:

- Improved networks with Hornby Mall and other Hornby agencies as appropriate.
- Run three family days.
- Increased involvement of females in recreation/activity programmes run by the Hornby Youth Project.
- Increased ongoing contact with female young people in Hornby.

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board decided in January 2001 to allocated \$8,800 towards the salary of the female Assistant Youth Worker from the Youth Initiatives Project Fund (2000/01).

CURRENT SITUATION

In March 2001 Sharon Clare took up the position of female youth assistant for the Hornby Youth Project. Below is an extract from the annual evaluation report for the Hornby Youth Project.

Assistant Youth Worker Sharon Clare

Since I was fifteen I have been involved in leadership. I started at the YMCA as a small group leader for day programmes and camps. Last year I worked in America for three months as a camp counsellor. Previous to that I completed a certificate in makeup and design, for film and television at the Arts and Design College of New Zealand.

I am learning a lot about all the different aspects of youth worker and what the job requires, and how to run programmes effectively. I am currently assisting in the running of teenage camps, intermediate day programmes and holiday camps. I have also run one girls camp for the teenagers and have planned one more this year.

My goal for the rest of this year is to continue to strengthen relationships with the young people. To be someone they can talk to if they have issues that they want to deal with and to steer them in a positive direction.

Girls only weekend – Early May I organised a weekend away at a private home in Akaroa. With one other leader I took a vanload of girls away. We spent our time shopping in the township. Our bush walk rained out so we went back to the house and played twister. We had a fondue for supper (which was a big hit). The combination of having a small group, excellent venue and just girls provided a very different dynamic to the camp. We got to know the girls much quicker than on a mixed camp. They all loved the camp and look forward to more camps like this in the future.

(The Task Force Green position CDN originally applied for, for Sharon could not be secured back in March due to financial constraints within WINZ.)

From the period March 2001 to August 2001 Sharon was paid for 10 hours per week (\$60.00 per week) as well as receiving a WINZ benefit. This meant that Sharon was contributing 20 hours per week on a voluntary basis.

TRAINING AND SALARY

On 27 August 2001 CDN was able to secure an ACE position for Sharon which finishes in February 2002.

From the original \$8,800 that the Community Board gave in January 2001 there is \$5,600 left. This amount will be used to pay Sharon \$9.10 per hour (20 hours per week) until the end of August 2002.

CDN have applied to Riccarton Youth Trust and Riccarton Rotary for funding assistance towards formal training as a youth worker for Sharon through the Praxis Training Solutions Certificate in Youth Work. This is an autonomous organisation and the course is NZQA accredited. This training course has been highly recommended by the YOUTH Advocate of the Christchurch City council, Robyn Moore. In order for Sharon to be accepted on this course, which commences in February 2002 a deposit is required with the application, and the fees (\$2,700) are due within a week of commencement. If Sharon were to be accepted on the course she would attend training two days per week, and work for the Hornby Youth Project two days per week. In order for her salary costs to be covered until the training is completed (December 2002) there is a shortfall of \$2,600 to cover the period from September to the end of November 2002 (Sharon is not eligible for a student allowance). It is hoped that the Riccarton Youth Trust and Riccarton Rotary will respond favourably to the request for financial assistance towards the training. However if this does not occur, CDN have requested that the Community Board consider funding Sharon's training as well as the shortfall related to the salary.

Sharon has given many voluntary hours to the Hornby Youth Project and has a strong commitment to the young people in Hornby. This is evident in the positive relationships she has developed and her enthusiasm to initiate new programmes, especially for young women. Continuity of staff has been recognised as an essential component of the development of trust with young people. It is important to continue to provide this where possible, as well as appropriate training for staff.

The Riccarton Wigram Community Board has always supported the Hornby Youth Worker Project, as indicated by the high priority it is given on the Community Plan Matrix. Reference to Community Board Objectives and Council Policies related to youth are also noted on the Matrix. However, in order for this project to expand, and continue to meet the needs of young people the above issues need to be addressed.

The current balance of funds in the Board's Youth Initiatives Fund is \$37,500, and the following recommendations are for a total of \$7,200.

Recommendation: That the Riccarton Wigram Community Board allocate (from the Youth Initiatives Project Funds) to the Hornby Youth Worker Project:

- The sum of \$1900 to meet the shortfall in the overall programme budget.
- The sum of \$2600 to cover salary during the period of training.
- The underwriting of \$2700 for fees towards training.