

5. CHRISTCHURCH WEST CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

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The purpose of this report is to advise the outcome of discussions with representatives of the Christchurch West Citizens' Advice Bureau, as requested, in regard to investigating other options for funding Bureau activities and to propose that the Board give consideration to approving a grant towards its operational expenses.

BACKGROUND

At the 2 April 2002 meeting a deputation was received from Raima Marr and Bob Shearing in support of the application for funding by the Christchurch West Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) towards the cost of paying a co-ordinator. Attached for information is material relating to the CAB's original application for funding. The Beckenham Advocacy Team was asked to assist the Bureau in making applications for funding to Task Force Green, COGS and other funding providers.

A meeting was subsequently held with CAB representatives and options discussed and investigated as detailed below.

TASKFORCE GREEN

Contact was made with the local WINZ office to discuss possible funding avenues, but as the co-ordinator position involved only 20-25 hours per week WINZ was unable to be of assistance. The possibility of increasing the hours to 30 to meet WINZ criteria was subsequently discussed, but was not considered viable.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS GRANT SCHEME (COGS)

The CAB is pursuing this option but, at the time of writing, had not received advice of the outcome from COGS.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT GROUP (CEG)

Discussions were held with a CEG worker regarding the proposal and the possibility of funding, but it was advised that, due to the nature of their work, the CAB does not qualify for CEG funding.

CONCLUSION

One of the main avenues for fundraising for the CAB has been an annual golf tournament, the proceeds being used mainly for operational costs. The suggestion was made that if the Board was agreeable, these proceeds might be put to wages for the co-ordinator position and the Board might instead give consideration to making a grant towards operational costs for the CAB.

It is anticipated that with the Joint Board Review of funding Citizens' Advice Bureaux to be initiated in the near future a more consistent source of funds for the three Bureaux in Christchurch will be identified.

Recommendation: That the Board give consideration to making a grant of \$5,000 from its 2002/03 Discretionary Funds towards the operational costs of the Christchurch West Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the Board support the recommendation as a one-off grant to the Christchurch West Citizens' Advice Bureau.