

11. 2001/02 BURWOOD/PEGASUS COMMUNITY BOARD DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Board Funded Activities 6.1.9	

The purpose of this report is to seek Community Board funding support consideration for the Aranui Community Child Care Centres (Inc), in relation to E Tipu e Rea Child Care Centre, and to inform the Board of the referral of an application from the Rainbow Early Learning Centre to the Ministry of Education funding round.

E TIPU E REA CHILD CARE CENTRE

E Tipu e Rea has to complete health and safety building work in the Centre's nappy changing area/storage area as soon as possible, to comply with Health and Educational operational requirements.

Project information and supporting documentation is being forwarded under separate cover.

E Tipu e Rea Child Care Centre provides a Monday to Friday early childhood care and education service that has involved 40 children during the past year, including a maximum of 12 child spaces for under two's. One of their objectives is to provide childcare at a low cost, and to this end last year's fees were maintained at \$2.35 per hour and \$82.25 full time. The Pre-school conducts parenting courses and invites guest speakers in at regular intervals to address staff and parents on a variety of health and parenting issues. E Tipu e Rea also has a library of books dealing with parenting, and the Centre sees this as an important part of its parent support programme. The Centre Supervisor also has established close networks with local community groups, including primary schools and other early childhood community groups.

The Pre-School has to complete health and safety building work in the nappy changing area/storage areas as soon as possible, to comply with health and educational operational requirements. The work has not been scheduled in the Pre-School's current budget and to complete such work will place a pressure on their current financial year. The Pre-School's (unaudited) accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002, show Operating Expenses totalled \$325,399, with an Operating Deficit before Capital Expenditure totalling \$5,832, with investments representing approximately three months operating expenditure.

Aranui High School owns the Centre's building. The Christchurch City Council pays the annual rental costs met by the Council's annual budget provision for early childhood education services. Last year this totalled \$22,575. A Trustee has confirmed with me that their contract with Aranui High School specifies that internal maintenance and alterations are to be met by the Centre, whilst exterior maintenance is to be met by the school; therefore because of these contract provisions Aranui High School has not been approached for funding.

E Tipu e Rea made an application to the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board's March 2002 Project Funding round for a grant for the above alterations. This application was turned down. The reason given was pressure on funds. It was recommended by staff that the Trust put in another request to the Board's Discretionary funding pool.

RAINBOW EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

An application also came in from E Tipu e Rea's counterpart, Rainbow Early Learning Centre. Rainbow have requested funding support for upgrading the kitchenette and separating the food preparation and nappy changing areas.

This request was turned down by the Ministry of Education in September 2001 because the quote provided came in under \$5,000, and the Ministry has a \$5,000 minimum threshold for grants of this nature. However, the quote now stands at \$5,317 (excluding GST), which is above the Ministry's threshold. Therefore, Rainbow Early Learning Centre has been advised to reapply to the Ministry of Education funding round in July 2002.

Recommendation: That E Tipu e Rea be allocated \$1,705 from the Community Board's Discretionary Fund for the building code work and that any allocation be subject to written approval for the building work by Aranui High School.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendation be adopted.