

9. TE KUPENGA O ARANUI TRUST

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The purpose of this report is to provide the Community Board with an update on the whanau support and community engagement work of Te Kupenga o Aranui Trust's Family Worker. This 2002/03 year is the third of a three year funding agreement between Te Kupenga o Aranui Trust, the Community Board and the Community Advocacy Team.

Trust and Family Worker annual reports, audited accounts, programme plans and operational standards documents are on file and will be available at the Community Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

Te Kupenga o Aranui is based in the Annex of the Wainoni Aranui Family Centre facility. The Trust was formed in 2000 to develop, manage and co-ordinate:

- In partnership with Aranui High School, an off-campus alternative education programme for secondary school aged young people experiencing "difficulties" with traditional/formal learning.
- Youth and whanau support programmes/services for the individual young person involved in the education programme and his/her family.
- Social, cultural and recreation programmes in collaboration with other local community groups.

Such an alternative education programme and social support service was developed as a response to concerns being expressed by local schools, families, community and youth organisations that there were ineffective support networks for young people (13-15 year olds) who were falling through the gaps of mainstream education causing them to be exposed to an increase of risks.

The Trust is directly responsible for the employment of the Family Worker who manages the Trust's youth and whanau support services and the social, cultural and recreation programmes. The Trust shares the management and development responsibilities of the alternative education programme with Aranui High School.

The Community Board has allocated \$20,000 per year (June 2000-July 2003) from its Community Development Worker Project funds and, through its Discretionary funds, has allocated grant monies towards the costs of specific events, programmes and activities. Within the Council's Community Relations Unit budget, the Community Advocacy Team has contributed to the project through a waiver of any rental charge on the Trust for its use of the Annex. This waiver of the 2002/03 year Council's Property Unit annual rental charge is \$14,400.

2001/02 ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES

The alternative education programme of the Trust involved 23 students of whom 11 were Maori, nine Pakeha, two Pacific Peoples and two Asian. The programme is provided Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 2.30 pm with curriculum/topics including: mathematics and numeracy; language, reading and literacy; drivers education; career education; work experience; food and nutrition; adventure and outdoor challenge; art and recreation; community work and visits.

An Individual Management Plan is developed by the student, his/her parents/caregivers/family/whanau, Aranui High School and the Trust. The 13 to 15 year olds who are in some "difficulty" that is preventing them from participating fully in mainstream education are first referred to the Eastern Cluster Group. The Group is made up of eastern city secondary school representatives who then refer the young person on to the appropriate alternative education programme.

The Trust Family Worker's role is to work with the family/whanau, the alternative education programme, local schools, local community and recreation/sports groups, and government agencies to enhance and support the educational, social, personal development and career opportunities of the young people. This includes home visits, family/whanau support, Family Group Conferences, government agency advocacy, after school and holiday programmes, membership with sport clubs, participation in cultural development, negotiating with potential work experience providers and community work providers and collaborative work with local community organisations. This collaborative work with community organisations has included Crossroads Youth with a Future Trust, Canterbury Youth Workers Collective, Agape Street Ministries, Aranui High School, Te Kaupapa Whakaora, Aranui Community Renewal, Positive Directions, Hou Ora Matauraka, 0800 Hungry Ministries, Youth Alive Trust, Aranui Village Mission, Nga Hau e Wha Marae, Portsmouth Kindergarten, Child, Youth and Family, Project Pegasus, Te Rawhiti Medical Centre, and the Police.

Presenting issues of the young people include truancy, poor involvement in education and learning, consistent drug and alcohol use, poor health and nutrition, defiant and violent behaviours, poor relationship history with family and neighbours, and low self esteem. Positive changes in the lives of the young people are being achieved through involvement with the Trust's education and learning, personal and group support, advocacy and mentoring, and family and community engagement opportunities. These include:

- A sense of stability in family and peer relationships.
- Better connections between the family and school.
- Improved parent responsibility with the child's educational and personal development.
- A greater sense of being included and acknowledged.
- Choosing and participating in a much wider environment of education and learning with greater levels of attainment and recognition.
- Recognition of and respect for others.
- Improved sense of self well-being through development of whakapapa, emotion and spirit.

December 2001 audited accounts show a \$20,694 operating surplus on \$37,925 expenditure with net cash assets of \$28,898. Community funding has also been received from the Community Trust, the Council's Community Sports Fund and COGS. The Ministry of Education grant is administered through Aranui High School.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGING ISSUES

Due to an increase in student numbers (currently 23 from an initial ten in 2000) on the alternative education programme and the resulting increase for social support services, the Trust has outgrown its Wainoni Park two room facility. The Trust is also wishing to respect the call of the local community through the Aranui Community Renewal consultation for a specifically designated youth centre facility to be based within the Hampshire Street shops/Wainoni Park environs. The Trust is presently in dialogue with Aranui High School, local community organisations, Housing New Zealand and the Council in exploring alternative accommodation options that would then release the Annex as a youth facility.

The more complex life situations of the students are demanding more social support hours, programmes and services from the Family Worker. This is increasing the cost of such support services from \$25,000 in 2000 to a current year operational budget of \$45,000. Though the Trust has a reasonably healthy cash reserve (equal to eight months' operating expenditure), pressure is increasing for the Trust to access other funding especially with major reductions in the availability of community funding by the Community Trust and the Lottery Grants Board. The Trust also recognises that it is now in the last year of its Community Development Worker funding agreement with the Community Board.

There is also the wider discussion emerging in the community that if such alternative education programmes continue to achieve successful outcomes and there continues to be increases in young people and family numbers seeking such programmes and social support, should not the schools and education system be looking more closely at the way "mainstream" education is being provided so it becomes more inclusive of all students.

CONSULTATION

Strong support and recognition for Te Kupenga o Aranui Trust was received from Agape Street Ministries, Te Ora Hou, Aranui Village Mission, Supergrans, Aranui Community Renewal, Canterbury Youth Workers Collective, Ministry of Education, Crossroads Youth with a Future and from the young people and their families at the Trust's annual Open Day with the community .

CONCLUSION

From its formation in 2000 following a series of community meetings, Te Kupenga o Aranui Trust has developed a very successful alternative employment programme and family/whanau support service that continues to receive strong community recognition for its work. The project meets many of the Community Board's Objectives and Key Issues and various Council strategic objectives and policy priorities and outcomes. This includes participation in community life, the support for social well-being, recognising the Treaty of Waitangi and cultural diversity, the promotion of economic well-being, co-ordination amongst community organisations, youth and social well-being.

Staff

Recommendations: 1. That the information be received.

2. That staff continue to work with Te Kupenga o Aranui and local community groups in exploring alternative accommodation for the programme.
3. That staff continue to work with the Aranui Community Renewal in exploring the possibilities of the Wainoni Park Annex building being utilised as a youth centre facility.
4. That the Community Board continue to include Te Kupenga o Aranui Trust as a priority grant in its annual Project and Discretionary allocations to community organisations.

**Chairperson's
Recommendations:**

1. That the abovementioned recommendations 1 to 3 be adopted.
2. That staff work with Te Kupenga o Aranui to find funding from Vote Education.