

4. **MAYOR'S WELFARE FUND CHARITABLE TRUST - SIX MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2003 TO 31 DECEMBER 2003**

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the status of the Mayor's Welfare Fund (the fund) and information on the number of clients accessing the fund. Comparative figures for the same period of 2002 are shown in brackets.

During the period covered by this report 932 (982) people approached the fund for assistance. Of those 536 (627) were granted financial assistance with a further 383 (339) assisted through the fund officers advocating on their behalf with vendors and landlords and through referral to appropriate welfare agencies.

The highest demand on the fund was in the following areas:

Electricity	\$39,287 (\$28,578)
Rental	\$28,713 (\$39,713)
Firewood	\$5,685 (\$9,473)
Furniture	\$4,798 (\$5,224)

Grants from the Child Enrichment Fund for the period were \$18,908 (\$26,929). These payments are made to provide children with the same opportunities as their peers to attend school camps, trips, sporting and cultural events and to subsidise childcare costs for children in 'at risk' situations.

Grants from the Making it Happen Fund for the period were \$2,107 (\$3,778). The Making it Happen Fund is available to individuals where it can be shown that such support will result in ongoing benefits, allowing them to make the most of their talents and abilities and to ensure that rare opportunities are not lost through lack of funding.

Total assistance given over the six months was \$109,099 (\$128,865).

During this period an audit of the fund's accounts for the year ended 30 June 2003 was undertaken by the Council's Internal Auditor, on behalf of Audit New Zealand. An unqualified audit report was received.

A financial statement for the 1 July to 31 December 2003 period is attached.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the information be received.