

7. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – 2003/04 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

Officer responsible Community Advocate, Beckenham	Author Elaine Greaves, Community Secretary, DDI 941-5105
---	--

The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to an application for funding from its 2003/04 Youth Development Fund.

The applicant is a 14-year-old girl residing in the Hoon Hay area, who is seeking funding to support her attendance representing New Zealand at the Oceania Synchronised Swimming Competition being held in Fiji in May 2004.

Board members will recall supporting this applicant previously (August 2003) when funding was sought to assist with costs associated with attending the New Zealand Development Squad Camp and participating in the New Zealand Synchronised Swimming Championships in Wellington last year. The application was successful, with the Board allocating \$500 towards costs. At the time of last year's application, Board members were advised that the applicant must attend the Development Camp in order to remain in the New Zealand Squad, and that the Squad was aiming at competing overseas this year, with the applicant planning to represent New Zealand in the Junior World Championships in 2006.

The total cost per swimmer for attendance at the Oceania Synchronised Swimming Competition in Fiji was originally \$2,500. However, Synchronised Swimming New Zealand has obtained funding of \$5,000 from Scottwood Trust and a further grant of \$14,000 from the New Zealand Community Trust, which has reduced the overall amount each swimmer now requires to \$2,000.

The applicant has also sought funding from Century Foundation Limited, but to date, the outcome of that application is not known. Fundraising has been difficult as the applicant is the only swimmer from Christchurch in the team, and the Pioneer Club is fundraising to help towards the cost of the Club Coach travelling to the competition to undertake training whilst there.

When the applicant is not training she is volunteering her time to help the synchronised swimming beginners at Pioneer Leisure Centre. She also assists with the KidsFest synchronised swimming programme. Her experiences in volunteering have enabled her to develop her leadership and communication skills, as well as cementing her dedication for her chosen sport.

The applicant has affiliations with Synchronised Swimming New Zealand and the Pioneer Synchronised Swimming Club, the latter having provided a letter of support.

In accordance with the criteria for applications, the applicant's family is happy to speak to the Board after the Competitions being held in Fiji. It should be noted that there is no mention in the current criteria to prevent previous Youth Development Fund recipients from reapplying for further funding. The Board has previously lent its support to this particular applicant. She has now attained the level of representing New Zealand and requests further support.

By supporting this application the Board would meet its outcome of "effort and excellence acknowledged in the community" by recognizing high achievers in the Spreydon/Heathcote areas.

In the event that the application to Century Foundation is successful, the applicant's mother has undertaken to advise the Board and repay any grant as considered appropriate. There is a balance of \$440 currently available in the Youth Development Fund.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board consider allocating a total of \$1,000 to assist with costs associated with the applicant representing New Zealand at the Oceania Synchronised Swimming Competition being held in Fiji in May 2004 (being \$440 from its 2003/04 Youth Development Fund, and \$560 from its 2003/04 Discretionary Fund).

Chairperson's

Recommendation: For discussion.