

5. APPLICATION TO THE RICCARTON/WIGRAM 2009/10 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SCHEME – LUKE COSSEY

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services Group DDI 941 8607
Officer responsible:	Unit Manager, Community Support Unit
Author:	Ian Burn, Community Development Adviser

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present a request for funding of \$500 to Riccarton/Wigram 2009/10 Youth Development Scheme from Luke Cossey, a 17 year old University of Canterbury student studying Chinese, who is seeking to participate in an exchange programme with the University of Kumning in Yunnan, China.
2. At the time of writing this report there is an unallocated balance of \$2,250 remaining in the Riccarton/Wigram 2009/10 Youth Development Scheme.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. Luke is a student of Stage 2 Chinese at the University of Canterbury. He is intending to participate in a summer exchange course with the University of Kumning in Yunnan, China.
4. Luke is described by his lecturer, Mr Xiaoming Wu, as 'hardworking' and as having made 'remarkable progress in his study' of the language. Mr Wu considers that by participating in this exchange Luke will be 'exposed directly to the language he is studying and greatly benefit from this valuable academic and cultural experience'.
5. Staff note that while this trip starts on the date the Community Services Committee are considering this application, Luke does not leave Christchurch until 8.30pm, which is after the time a decision will be reached by the Committee. Consequently, staff do not consider this application to be retrospective.
6. Luke has previously been involved with Chinese people in Christchurch, assisting his friends and fellow students in their understanding of English. He is keen to further his interest in Chinese people and their language.
7. On his return he is keen to complete his Stage 2 Chinese course at University, and further his fluency in the language, with a focus on assisting Chinese people with regards to their needs in the area. Once his language is at a sufficient degree of fluency he is keen to further his involvement with the Chinese Club which meets at Riccarton Baptist Church which he attends.
8. Luke also has a considerable interest in Computer Science, which is his main course of study at University. He started his tertiary education at 14 completing a Diploma in Computer Software Engineering prior to starting at university.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. A breakdown of the costs involved is as follows:

Expenditure	Amount	Amount requested of Council	Amount recommended
Flights	\$1,680		\$400
Travel Insurance	\$184		
Course Fee	\$782		
Accommodation	\$456		
Visa Application	\$140		
Vaccinations	\$150		
Food	\$380		
Passport renewal	\$150		
Total	\$3,922	\$500	\$400

10. Staff do not consider that food and passport renewal costs are legitimate items for Council contribution.
11. While the pressures of study have precluded Luke from having a job to assist with funding of this exchange, he is contributing \$782 from his student loan. He is also economising on travel and other expenses while here in New Zealand in order to save money and is close to having saved sufficient money for this exchange.
12. At the time of writing this report there is an unallocated balance of \$2,250 remaining in the Riccarton/Wigram 2009/10 Youth Development Scheme.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

13. Yes. See page 172 of LTCCP regarding Strengthening Communities.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

14. There are no legal implications for this application.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

15. Aligns with LTCCP and Activity Management Plans.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

16. Yes. See page 172 of LTCCP regarding Strengthening Communities.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

17. This application aligns with the Strengthening Communities Strategy.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

18. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee approve the funding application and allocate \$400 to Luke Cossey as a contribution towards the costs of attending a Chinese Language Exchange programme in November 2009 from the Riccarton/Wigram 2009/10 Youth Development Scheme.