

12. APPLICATION TO SPREYDON/HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY BOARD 2009/10 DISCRETIONARY RESPONSE FUND – ROWLEY AVENUE SCHOOL SAMOAN LANGUAGE TRIP

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services Group DDI 941 8607
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present a funding request from Rowley Avenue School to the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board from its 2009/10 Discretionary Response Fund.
2. The request is for \$7,500 towards the costs of the Rowley Avenue School Samoan Language Trip project.
3. There is currently a balance of \$22,641 remaining in the Board's Discretionary Response Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. The Rowley Avenue School is located at 48 Rowley Avenue Hoon Hay. The present school role stands at over 100 primary age pupils. The school is located in an area of Hoon Hay that is recognised for low socio-economic conditions combined with an ethnically diverse population. A large proportion of children belong to families with origin and continuing links to Samoa.
5. A key strategy for the school over the past three years has been to support the development of Samoan pupils through language and cultural learning. Most of the Samoan pupils are New Zealand born and with their families encounter the conflict of values and expectations that living here presents to those brought up in a different tradition. This project creates a significant opportunity for pupils to connect with and better understand the Samoan culture and language that influences their community.
6. In September 2009 the tsunami that hit Samoa affected two villages of familial significant to the school community. This included the loss of two family members and friends for a Rowley Avenue School teacher. The school funded and filled a container with school and household items, that arrived the day before Christmas. Junior pupils had paid for and wrapped small Christmas gifts for the children of the two affected villages. The school Board of Trustees funded the affected staff member to travel with the goods and perform the hand over to the two villages. The school response to the tsunami was the precursor to this project, and demonstrates the importance of the connection and relationship with Samoa.
7. This project involves 25 children from the Rowley Avenue Samoan language programme travelling to Samoa, in the September school holidays, for 12 days. The group will be accompanied by two Matai in the parents group, and has made arrangements to visit the northern side of Upolo as well as the two affected villages on the southern coast of the island. The group will experience living in three villages as well as attending school during their trip: "living the life their parents did."
8. The school believes that its language programme has already contributed to learning improvements, an absence of stand downs or suspensions for three years, provision of music and cultural community performances, regular Hoon Hay Park cleanups, and graffiti removals. This project aims to provide a strengthened connection between the pupils and their heritage in order to better contribute to their own learning and place in the local and wider New Zealand community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The total cost of the project is \$42,000.

10. Children and parents have raised \$15,000 in funds and the school Board of Trustees has contributed another \$10,000. Air tickets for travel have been paid for, however there is a shortfall of an estimated \$17,000 still needing to be raised in order to meet the costs of local transport, school attendances, and accommodation in the villages.
11. Voluntary input to the project is estimated at 1,000 hours. Risks to the project from falling short of the target will be addressed by reducing costs as much as possible and an underwrite of funds by the school paid for by further fund raising after the trip.
12. Social Work in Schools has contributed \$2,000 of funds raised to date, and other potential sources include Canterbury Community Trust, the Blogg Trust and Mike Pero as a total of \$9,500 has been requested across these funders, with decisions pending.
13. The school is requesting \$2,000 for school resources plus \$5,500 for accommodation costs from the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board, a total request of \$7,500.

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

14. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

15. Nil.

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

16. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

17. Aligns with LTCCP and Activity Management Plans – Community Support.

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

18. Yes Strengthening Communities page 172 (2009 – 19 LTCCP).

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

19. This application meets the following Council Community Grants Funding Outcomes:
 - Support, develop and promote the capacity and sustainability of community recreation, sports, arts, heritage and environment groups.
 - Increase participation in and awareness of community, recreation, sports, arts, heritage and environment groups, programmes and local events.
 - Reduce or overcome barriers to participation.
 - Enhance community and neighbourhood safety.
 - Provide community based programmes which enhance basic life skills.
20. This application also meets the following Spreydon Heathcote Community Board objectives;
 - A culturally inclusive Spreydon Heathcote community.
 - The development and maintenance of safe and strong local communities.
 - Formation of a “Spreydon Heathcote identity” for past, present, and future.
 - Improve social well being in Spreydon/Heathcote area.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

21. Strengthening Communities Strategy
Children's Policy
Safer Christchurch Strategy

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

22. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board decline the request from Rowley Avenue School towards cost of its Samoan Language Trip project as other sources of funding are considered more appropriate.

CHAIRPERSONS RECOMMENDATION

That the Board support the funding to meet the Koha for the children's accommodation and local transport costs.