

13. APPLICATION TO SPREYDON/HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY BOARD DISCRETIONARY 2009/10 RESPONSE FUND – SINGLE MUMS SUPPORT

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services Group DDI 941 8534
Officer responsible:	Unit Manager, Community Support Unit
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present a request for funding from the Project Esther Charitable Trust to the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board from its 2009/10 Discretionary Response Fund.
2. The request is for \$15,000 towards the costs of establishing and implementing a new One On One Support project in the Trust's Single Mum's Support programme.
3. There is currently a balance of \$22,641 remaining in the Board's 2009/10 Discretionary Response Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. The Project Esther Charitable Trust is located in Lyttelton Street, Spreydon and delivers a range of services to women and their families, particularly those at risk of negative social outcomes. The Trust acts as the umbrella legal entity to the Single Mums Support (SMS) group. Both the Trust and the SMS group have an accountable funding history with the Board, and are long standing, reputable community based support organisations.
5. The Single Mums Support mission is to promote and encourage single mothers and their children towards healthy relationships, positive parenting, and personal growth. A range of activities is provided to achieve this mission:
 - Coffee groups and soup lunch - four groups meeting weekly, each averaging 15-20 women and 10 children.
 - Social and family events – up to 60 women projected to benefit in the next 12 months from various events that often also target other family members.
 - Provision of resources such as books, pamphlets, magazines, donated clothing, DVDs, vegetables, and other service information and referrals.
 - Advocacy and support with service appointments and court appearances; two monthly newsletters; and home visits/one on one support for up to 20 women annually.
6. Over recent years the group has identified an increasing need for the more in depth one on one support compared to the more general support that is offered in the group sessions. A number of women present with depression, related mental health issues, and/or insufficient confidence to take part in group based activities.
7. The current Family Worker deploys a portion of time to some three instances per week of one to one support which is proving inadequate to demand. The group seeks to extend this type of work to a volume level comparable to the established group work by establishing a new 15 hour per week position equivalent. This will enable the group to resource an estimated 432 one on one contacts per year with some 60 women, compared to 144 contacts with 20 women at present. The result is likely to be better quality as well as more one to one support to meet the needs presenting to the SMS group.

8. While there are some other groups with similar services in Christchurch and the Spreydon/Heathcote Ward, Single Mums Support note it is the only service working solely with single mothers in the Spreydon and greater South Christchurch area. The group networks and reciprocates referral with relevant local and government agencies including but not restricted to: Kingdom Resources; Plunket; midwifery local services; Arahura Medical and Counselling Services; Building Blocks Trust Community Early Learning Centre; Work and Income; and Comcare. The group considers that working relationships developed over the past nine years, and attendant credibility with these agencies is contributing to the increased demand through increasing referrals, along with ongoing impacts of the recession such as unemployment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The group has received approval of two grants to a total of \$2,300 from Lotteries and the Tindall Foundation that it intends to apply for the overhead and support costs of the project. The grant sought in this application is intended for salary costs. The project is at risk of not proceeding without Community Board funding, but may be able to proceed with a reduced amount by securing subsequent other sources of funding.
10. Ongoing funding for the project will be sought through the group making applications to future Strengthening Communities funding rounds in addition to other funding sources. Currently, the group has no funds of its own on hand available to support this new project. The total project cost is \$17,300, detailed as below:

Budget item	Cost	Requested
Phone, stationery, power, rent	\$1,642	\$0
Supervision and training	\$658	\$0
Salary	\$15,000	\$15,000
total	\$17,300	\$15,000

Council and Community Board Funding History of Project Esther Trust

- 2009/10 - \$20,000 Single Mums Support salaries (Strengthening Communities Fund)
- 2009/10 - \$2,000 Music and Movement (Strengthening Communities Fund)
- 2009/10 - \$2,205 Strategic Dev and Newsletter (Small Grants Fund)
- 2009/10 - \$3,097 Single Mums Support (Small Grants Fund)

- 2008/09 - \$15,000 Single Mums Support salaries (Strengthening Communities Fund)
- 2008/09 - \$1,500 Instruments (Small Grants Fund)
- 2008/09 - \$2,000 Volunteer recognition (Strengthening Communities Fund)
- 2008/09 - \$1,500 Single Mums Support resources (Small Grants Fund)

- 2007/08 - \$10,000 Single Mums Support salaries (Project Fund)
- 2007/08 - \$2,000 Single Mums Support resources (Community Development Fund)
- 2007/08 - \$1,000 Music and movement (Community Development Fund)

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

11. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

12. Nil.

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

13. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

14. 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?

15. Yes. Strengthening Communities, page 172 (2009 -19) LTCCP.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

16. This application meets the following Council Community Grants Funding Outcomes:

- Provide community based programmes which enhance basic life skills
- Reduce or overcome barriers to participation
- Foster collaborative responses to areas of identified need
- Enhance community and neighbourhood safety

17. The application also meets the following Spreydon Heathcote Community Board Objectives:

- Improve social wellbeing in Spreydon/Heathcote.
- Empower communities and community groups to deliver services that contribute towards achievement of the Community Outcomes.
- The development and maintenance of safe and strong local communities.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

18. Strengthening Communities Strategy
Children's Policy

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

19. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Spreydon Heathcote Community Board agrees to grant \$12,000 from its 2010/11 Discretionary Response Fund to the Project Esther Trust Single Mums Support group towards costs of its One on One Support project.

CHAIRPERSONS RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.