
REPORT 4
(1215/53/03)

REALLOCATION OF THE MAYOR'S RELIEF FUND

1. Purpose of Report

This report considers the allocation of the \$20,000 per annum Mayor's Relief Fund for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2009. This was an annual grant but has been set up as a three year service contract under the new grants framework after the Grants Effectiveness Review.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Subcommittee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Recommend to the Strategy and Policy Committee that the Mayor's Relief Fund be allocated to the Wellington City Mission for 2006/09.*

3. Background

The Mayor's Relief Fund was established in the 1930's to provide relief to individuals and families in need. Since 1935 the fund was given annually to the New Zealand Smith Family to distribute on Council's behalf. In the past the bulk of the assistance has been targeted to the needs of women and children for emergency assistance with food, shelter or clothing.

On 16 September 2003, the Subcommittee considered a report regarding options it could take in reallocating the Mayor's Relief Fund for 2003/04. This was required as the New Zealand Smith Family Inc. (NZSF), which was previously responsible for distributing the fund wound up in June 2003. The Subcommittee agreed that the Mayor's Relief Fund should continue to be allocated to a community organisation that provided emergency assistance to individuals and families on low incomes (that is, which replicates the way it was distributed by the NZSF).

The Planning and Performance Committee (the parent committee of the Grants Sub-committee in the 2001-04 triennium) allocated the fund annually to the Wellington City Mission for 2003/04 and 2004/05 and the Strategy & Policy Committee allocated it to the Wellington City Mission in 2005/06. The Grants

Effectiveness Review of 2005 recommended that a three year service contract be established.

Expressions of interest were called for in two advertisements alongside the general grants information with the intention of getting the Grants Subcommittee to make a decision at the first grants meeting of the year. Only one expression of interest was received and that was from Wellington City Mission. This is attached to this report as Appendix A.

4. Discussion

The Mayor's Relief Fund exists to assist those who require emergency assistance with food, shelter or clothing. In the past the bulk of the assistance has been targeted to the needs of women and children.

In 2003 the Planning and Performance Committee agreed that the Fund should be given to one organisation to:

- Maximise the benefits of the fund.
- Enable officers (including the Mayor's Office) to direct people in need towards one organisation when they request help through the Mayor's Relief Fund.

The Wellington City Mission (WCM) met the other requirements established for the fund, in that it:

- Targets families on low incomes (particularly women and children, refugees and migrants).
- Assists the families by providing food parcels, clothing and paying bills.
- Provides a budgetary service.
- Is able to administer the fund without incurring any additional administration costs, enabling the full \$20,000 to be spent addressing need.

The Wellington City Mission has reported back satisfactorily on the use of the fund. The Wellington City Mission provides the greatest number of food parcels of any organisation in the city and the bulk of the fund has been applied to this need.

\$20,000 per annum is available for allocation to an organisation for a three year service contract for the period 2006/09. In line with all other three year service contracts managed by the Grants Team a suitable contract would be prepared that requires a satisfactory report back to be supplied annually before the next year's payment is made, and sets clear outcomes expected for the fund's use.

5. Conclusion

The Mayor's Relief Fund is currently unallocated for the 2006/09 period. It is recommended that the Subcommittee allocate the fund to the Wellington City Mission for 2006/09.

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Supporting information

a) Strategic fit

This project supports outcome 6.3:

Wellington residents will be actively engaged in their communities, and in recreation and leisure activities.

b) Annual Plan reference

Relates to C678: Social & Recreational Grants.

c) Annual Plan and Long Term Council Community Plan implications

The Mayor's Relief Fund is currently budgeted for in the LTCCP. The object of this paper is to reallocate the Fund to an organisation for distribution for the 2006/09 financial years.

d) Treaty of Waitangi implications

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications.

e) Consultation

No public consultation will be undertaken on this issue.

f) Legal implications

There are no legal implications.