

## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Community Services Committee  
**FROM:** Community and Recreation Advisor  
**REFERENCE:** C752  
**DATE:** 27 April 2005

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### YOUTH WEEK

The annual national youth week runs from 9-15 May with a range of events and projects across the district, Tasman District Council have been supporting two major regional projects.

1. **Youth Volunteer Recognition Scheme** which will acknowledge the work done by youth volunteers at a function on 12 May at 6.00 pm at the Hub in New Street, Nelson. We have had 12 nominations in from the Tasman District and the Deputy Mayor, Tim King, will be presenting certificates. The certificates have been designed by Zenaida Beatson a design student at Motueka High School.
2. **Photovoice “Redefining Stereotypes”** disposable cameras were given to youth organisations to respond to the theme. Youth from Golden Bay, Motueka and Richmond have been involved and the photos will be on display at each of the local libraries during Youth Week.

### TASMAN YOUTH COUNCIL – WAIMEA REPRESENTATIVES

Kate Allnut, Sophie Lay and Stephanie Stephens will attend the Community Services Committee at 12.05 pm to introduce themselves and begin communication with the Committee on youth related projects and how the Youth Council can inform Council and visa versa.

### MUDCAKES AND ROSES

The new A4 stapled format for Mudcakes and Roses was launched in the April/May addition and has been well received. The magazine has a print run of 6000, half of which are direct mailed to individuals.

### BOREDOM BUSTERS

The Magazine also underwent a change to A4 stapled format. The magazine has a print run of 6750 and is printed each term holiday and distributed to every primary and intermediate student across the district.

## **RURAL TRAVEL FUND**

Have received 8 applications and these will go the Grants and Facilities Subcommittee on 24 May 2005.

## **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PLAN**

The Community Consultations for the Nelson Tasman Physical Activity Plan have finished with sector groups including schools, recreation providers, walking cycling groups being undertaken in early May. These will inform the draft plan which will be prepared in June 2005.

## **FUNDING FOR RECIDIVIST YOUNG OFFENDER CASE MANAGEMENT**

The joint Tasman Nelson funding application has been finalised and forwarded to the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) following the meeting with their community advisor Laven Christine.

The primary objective is to reduce overall Dishonesty, Drugs and Antisocial, Property abuses and Violent Offending in Nelson Bays by providing intensive support and case management for 15-20 recidivist young (under 20 years) offenders per annum.

Outputs will include:

- Development of a protocol and assessment tool
- Development of a referral process form the three statutory agencies (CYF, Police, Corrections)
- Referral, assessment and case management of 15-20 youth offenders per annum

Outcomes will include:

- Reduction in risk factors
- Increased engagement in pro social activities
- Reduction in offending

In the Nelson Tasman Region, a small handful of young offenders commit a large percentage of offences. These offenders are generalists committing violence and disorder offences, property crime and car related offences. Typically they are not positively engaged in school, training or ongoing employment, have weak ties to family and have alcohol and drug problems. While alcohol and marijuana are the drugs of preference, other options including solvents are used. This resulted in the recent death of one of this group from butane inhalation.

The recidivist young offenders range in age from the early teens to 19 and number around 35-40 at any one time.

Anecdotally, there has been an increase in the number of recidivist young offenders and the amount of their offending. Nelson Bays Policing Area Community Policing Sergeant and YOTS committee chair Ross Leinert recently stated that "The high number of

offences before the Youth Court would normally be recorded as a blowout but has been sustained since the middle of last year” (quoted in Nelson Mail 17/1/2005).

Discussions with Community Probation Service and Nelson Police reveal that young people with social needs are sentenced to community service through the District Court or Police Diversion. However the sentence parameters allow only for management of completion of community service – not in enabling support for the young person to address barriers to successful completion of the sentence. Thus a trend is developing where young peoples offending is not considered serious enough to warrant a supervision sentence. The social issues remain unaddressed leading to further offending or breach of community service hours. This in turn leads to reappearance in the court system, possible breach of service and entrenchment in the court system. Targeted intensive support and intervention at this early point may produce a decrease in offending and reduction in those young people who breach sentences and thus escalate in sentencing outcomes.

Analysis of the age of offenders emphasises the need to target interventions at the under 20 year old age range. At the 2001 census 15-19 year olds comprised 7% of the region’s population. However, they are significantly over-represented in crime statistics for a range of offence categories. In the apprehension data for the 2003/04 year 16-20 year olds represented 45% of those apprehended for dishonesty offences, 33% of those apprehended for drugs and antisocial offences, 40% of those apprehended for property abuse, 48% of those apprehended for property damage and 23% of those apprehended for violence offences.

It is important to note that overall Maori comprise only 9% of the region’s population but Maori young people are accountable for 29% of all youth offending in the 6 months to December 2004. For the same time period 81% of offences were committed by males and 19% were committed by females.

## **“WAY TO GO”**

Way to Go is the title of the Active Community Funding application to SPARC. The application is in a finalised form and will be considered by SPARC in May for role out in the next financial year.

The primary objective of “Way to Go” is to increase the activity levels of the community. Intervention will be specifically aimed at those who are currently insufficiently active and at those who are aware they should be active but currently are not.

Intervention will target key motivators and barriers. Key motivators include: awareness that physical activity is good for you, desire to maintain a healthy weight, and desire for approval by others.

Key barriers include: lack of time and/or energy, lack of encouragement or support from others, lack of information on how and where to be active and difficulty in sticking to a routine.

Mike Tasman-Jones  
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