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VOTE: COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

1. SECTOR OVERVIEW: COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

More than one million New Zealanders undertake some form of voluntary work in their communities. Over \$1.3 billion of taxpayer and other funds is invested annually in the services provided by community sector organisations. There are approximately 23,000 incorporated societies and 10,000 charitable trusts operating in New Zealand.

The Community and Voluntary Sector Portfolio was established in 1999 to develop an improved relationship with the Voluntary Sector. The portfolio also provides an opportunity to co-ordinate government's interventions and strategies at a community level.

The areas delivered by the Department of Internal Affairs through its Community Development Group are:

- Community Policy Advice - advice with a community development perspective
- Grants Administration - services to the Lottery Grants Board and administration of other community-oriented grants schemes and two Crown Trusts
- Community Advisory Services - development assistance and information services to the community sector.

A "virtual community portfolio" has been formed through collaboration between the Community Development Group of the Department of Internal Affairs; the Community Employment Group of the Department of Labour; Child, Youth and Family; and the Ministry of Social Development.

2. STRATEGIC AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK: COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Strong communities, iwi and hapū have the ability to take up opportunities for economic development and to achieve well-being for community members. Strong communities, iwi and hapū are also better able to deal with their problems without government help.

The Department works alongside communities in two ways:

- as the major government funder of community groups

- supporting community groups through its network of community advisors.

The success of these two strategies is underpinned by co-operation between government agencies working with communities, iwi and hapū. This co-operation is aimed at overcoming problems faced by communities as they interact with government. There is further opportunity for co-operation between government, the business sector and community organisations.

3. MINISTER'S ROLE: COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The Ministerial role is to be a focal point for the government's interventions and strategies at the community level. It is also to lead the government's relationship with the community and voluntary sector.

There are strong linkages in this work with the role of the Minister of Local Government, given the potential for local government to be more involved in community planning and the identification of community outcomes, and with the Minister of Māori Affairs.

The Minister is also seen by many people working in the sector as the appropriate person to whom to express concerns about their resourcing needs, ongoing viability and frustration with government systems.

4. DEPARTMENT'S ROLE: COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The Department is responsible for:

- *Policy Advice* - providing policy advice for community development
- *Administration of Grants* – Department administers eight Crown and five non-Crown funding schemes (funds to be allocated in 2002/03):

Crown Funded Schemes

- *Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)* (\$12.355 million) – grants for community organisations
- *Community Project Worker Scheme: Social Entrepreneurs* (\$0.980 million) – salaries for development workers
- *Community Internship Programme* (\$0.450 million) – provides for placement of interns in community organisations
- *Crime Prevention Community Project Worker Scheme* (\$0.207 million) – salaries for youth development initiatives

- *Youth Development Fund* (\$0.473 million) – funding for youth development projects for youth at risk
- *Youth Work Training Scheme* (\$0.200 million) – provides training opportunities for youth workers
- *Māori Community Development Workers* (\$0.200 million) – funds community development works in Māori communities
- *Support for Volunteering* (\$0.467 million) – projects to support local volunteer centres.

Non-Crown Funded Schemes

- *Lottery Grants Board Grants to Statutory Bodies* (\$56.318 million) – grants to Creative New Zealand, New Zealand Film Commission, Sport and Recreation New Zealand (formerly the Hillary Commission) and New Zealand Film Archive
 - *Lottery Grants Board Grants to Community Organisations* (\$43.599 million) – Nine distribution committees make grants to community organisations, with administrative support provided by the Department
 - *Minister of Internal Affairs’ Lottery Grants Discretionary Fund* (\$0.083 million) – discretionary grants outside the scope of the distribution committees
 - *Winston Churchill Memorial Trust* (\$0.100 million) – fellowships for short-term practical research projects
 - *Norman Kirk Memorial Trust* (\$0.045 million) – funding for individuals and groups in New Zealand and South Pacific.
- *Community Advisory Services* – advisors work with communities to build services and relationships between other government agencies, local authorities and community organisations as well as provide support to organisations to develop organisational capability plans.

The Department can work credibly and effectively with Māori and Pacific communities as one third of the advisors are Māori or Pacific people.

Advisory staff are based in 17 regional offices:

Kaitia	Whangarei	West Auckland
Auckland Metro	Manukau	Hamilton
Rotorua	Gisborne	New Plymouth
Napier	Palmerston North	Wellington
Nelson	West Coast	Christchurch
Dunedin	Invercargill	

5. KEY ISSUES/THEMES FOR NEXT THREE YEARS: COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY

SECTOR

- *Championing the community.* Having one champion Minister for community will ensure that there is a single point of leadership and accountability across the government's community strategies and initiatives
- *Increasing the number and investing in the development of the capacity of government's community development advisors* to work as "brokers" between communities and government and other parties (such as local government and businesses)
- *Amalgamating key government funding and programmes* and, where appropriate, aligning other schemes by developing common application processes (such as applying the COGS on-line process to other funding schemes)
- *Improving the ability of government to respond to communities* by increasing the use of multi-year funding agreements, allowing greater flexibility around funding so agencies can respond to communities, and reducing the output focus of programmes by moving to a focus on government and community outcomes
- *Supporting Māori self-determined development.* Māori seek to determine their own outcomes for their communities, iwi and hapū, and to be actively involved in the delivery of services for Māori. Increased investment in community advisory services would also support this goal
- *Supporting Pacific peoples to achieve economic development for their communities through exploring opportunities in new and innovative industries.* Community development services will be a key factor in the economic development of Pacific communities
- *Ensuring effectiveness for ethnic communities.* Community development services need to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of emerging and well-established ethnic communities. Responding to the needs of increasingly diverse New Zealand communities will require an increased investment from government
- *Evaluating Community Outcomes.* Mechanisms to evaluate the impact of community development services and funding schemes on community outcomes need to be developed. This will allow a better assessment of the "return" on government's investment in working with communities.

6. KEY STAKEHOLDERS: COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

- government agencies with a community focus - Ministry of Social Development; Child, Youth and Family; Department of Labour; Te Puni Kokiri; Youth Affairs and Pacific Island Affairs
- local government
- Iwi and Māori organisation leaders
- community leaders and organisations
- other voluntary organisations.