

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee

FROM: Mike Tasman-Jones

DATE: 1 February 2008

SUBJECT: Nelson Tasman Te Rito Memorandum of Understanding

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

This report is to discuss the request for the Tasman District Council to sign the Nelson Tasman Te Rito Memorandum of Understanding.

BACKGROUND

The Nelson Tasman Te Rito Family Violence Coordinator Gayle Helm met with Tasman District Mayor, Richard Kempthorne, and the Community Recreation Advisor on Friday 14 December 2007 to invite the Tasman District Council to become a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding (copy attached). It was agreed that the Memorandum of Understanding would be presented for consideration with an accompanying staff report to the Tasman District Council Community Services Committee's first meeting in 2008.

The Te Rito Family Violence Protection Strategy is a national strategy lead by the Ministry of Social Development and was launched in 2002. The strategy's vision is to create a society where families/whanau are living free from violence. This national strategy is led at a local level by the coordinator Gayle Helm who coordinates the local Te Rito Network. The purpose of the Te Rito Network is to enable agencies to work together to form initiatives around Family Violence in the region.

The networks objectives include:

- Exists to lead an integrated regional approach to reduce Family Violence.
- Have all Government and non government agencies working collaboratively to provide solutions locally.
- Develop training to be delivered to all network members to increase effectiveness of service to families across Nelson/Tasman.
- Develop appropriate early intervention services for children affected by family violence.
- Effective case management approach to all current family violence cases in Nelson/Tasman to reduce recidivism.
- Media campaigns to highlight public awareness of Family Violence.

- Identifying and highlighting service gaps.

Tasman District Council Mayor, Richard Kempthorne, spoke at the local launch of the National White Ribbon day in November 2007. This form of public endorsement would be considered as consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding.

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

The invitation to sign the Memorandum of Understanding includes an invitation to join this network and provide a staff point of contact within council. Support for specific projects may be received via Community Grants which is contestable funding. Support for projects via grants is not influenced by whether council is a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding or not.

Council does not and is not perceived to have a direct role in family violence but does have an overall focus on Community Wellbeing. By becoming a signatory Tasman District Council is publicly demonstrating support of the initiatives to protect the districts families from violence.

On Community Wellbeing and in particular the LTCCP states:

Our vibrant community is safe, well, enjoys and supports those with special needs.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Status Quo

Advantages: No change in expectation by the community of Tasman District Councils role in family violence prevention.

Disadvantages: Not signing the Memorandum of Understanding may be interpreted as lack of concern for family violence prevention.

Option 2: Sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Advantages: Tasman District Council would signify its support to the community that family violence is not acceptable. Involvement with the network would keep Council informed on local initiatives.

Disadvantages: Expectation could be raised on the level of support Council would be able to offer.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommendation is Option 2, Sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

The level of direct Council commitment to the Te Rito Network is limited due to staff time available. However by signing the Memorandum of Understanding Council is showing leadership in its support for this local initiative. Discussion has taken place with the Te Rito Coordinator on these limitations on Tasman District Councils level of direct involvement. It is felt that by offering a point of staff contact via the Community Recreation Advisor and political endorsement by signing the Memorandum of Understanding Council is making a valued contribution.

RECOMMENDATION

That Tasman District Council sign the Nelson Tasman Te Rito Network Memorandum of Understanding.

M Tasman-Jones
Community and Recreation Advisor

http://tdctoday:82/shared_documents/meetings/council/committees_and_subcommittees/community_services_committee/reports/2008/rcs080214_report_te_rito_memo_of_understanding.doc