



SUBMISSION 13

P. O. Box
Christmas Island.
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Email: Melville@pulau.cx
12th September 2002

ATT: Joint Committee On National Capital and External Territories
Care of: Quinton Clements, Enquiries Secretary.

Regarding: Request for support of youth group known as Club HI operated by the Christmas Island Youth Coordination Group.

Club High is run by the Christmas Island Youth Coordination Group (C.I.Y.C.G) The young people that make use of the facilities we provide prefer to call the group Club HI. Activities specifically directed at teenagers on C.I are very limited. Because of this and at the request of teenagers on island the C.I.Y.C.G, which has been in operation on and off for many years was revamped and is now generally known as Club High. This group offers a venue where young people can socialise and play games in a supervised environment.

Each Friday night Club High is open to teenagers over the age of thirteen. There is a volunteer parent on site to supervise the evening. These nights are very popular and include teenagers from all sectors of our multicultural community. The club provides activities for our young people so that there is a place where teenagers can play games and socialise in a supervised environment.

Support from the community over the past two years has been outstanding with all the facilities available at the moment including 3 computers {thanks to Advantra}, networking {thanks to Anthony Colquhoun}, Darts board {thanks to CI Darts Association}, table tennis table, CD player {thanks to Liyana Pereria}, playstation {thanks to G. Melville-Maguire}, a fridge, microwave and TV {thanks to AFP}, along with tables and chairs {thanks to CI Administration}, carpet squares {thanks to GHD}, all donated by individuals and groups on island.

The C.I.Y.C.G wish is to see this club expand to become an integral part of C.I. To help us in this endeavour we need to have more activities available to our members at no cost or minimal to them

as they are school children with no income of their own. That is, a place where teenagers can play games and socialise as they would in any other small community on the mainland.

Over the past two years parents and teenagers have organised membership, a committee, regular fundraisers, club cleanups, some equipment and a parent roster. This group has demonstrated a keen interest in the club through the willingness of people to dedicate their time to ensuring teenagers have access to this facility. Even though there has been commitment by all involved the club will close without ongoing support. The facility that we are using at the moment is at the neighbourhood Centre. The Commonwealth Government owns these rooms.

We have found no grant that covers ongoing expenses and require assistance to meet the needs of teenagers in our community. Ideally this club would have quality facilities and equipment rather than hand-me-downs that are at the end of their life span. Teenage boys require extended facilities rather than sitting in parks or walking around in groups at night. Teenage girls require equipment that caters for their needs as they too are often lost for entertainment.

We would appreciate the Joint Committee On National Capital and External Territories consideration of support of this section of our community. Teenagers have only this one venue dedicated to them.

Support from the Joint Committee On National Capital and External Territories would be a welcome relief. We have approached the Shire, Island Administration and Senator Crossin (see 30.5.2002. Senate Legislation. RRA&T397) with our problems regarding facilities but are unable to establish who or how to arrange assistance as groups mentioned in the paper sent by Senator Crossin have been approached.

We have met with the Island administration and secured a lease and rent agreement. The lease will be backdated to 1/04/02 and rent will begin on 1/04/03. This will mean more fundraising and further work for a dedicated few. In essence we will be running a business. Parents have jobs and families to care for, none of us want to forfeit what free time we have to run a business to support rent to the government, power supply etc. Caring for teenagers is a community issue and needs to be addressed as such. Leaving the welfare of so many in the hands of so few is a burden we cannot bear. Without support we will be forced to close this facility.

Our immediate concerns are:

- Payment of rent in 2003.
- Payment and securing public liability
- Payment of electricity accounts.
- Water Rates
- Cleaning common areas

Our ongoing requirements include:

- Replacement of furniture that was retrieved from the rubbish tip.
- Paint for walls.
- Storage cupboards and other general furnishings
- Replacement of donated equipment and computers.

On our wish list would be:

- A paid coordinator able to direct teenagers for activities, organise out-door activities and one off events away from the venue.

Proposed annual rent was listed as \$1800.00. Public liability is an issue which we are unable to address or afford. While we have dreamed of providing such things as computer parts so that the teenagers can learn to build computers from the frame up and then use them for networked games (Quote of \$14,569.00) we are unable to plan for the future on any level while this situation continues. We would be most appreciative of your consideration of our application for assistance.

Regards E. R. Sorrenson

C.I.Y.C.G. Secretary

difficult before that. Essentially we have reached a situation now—and correct me if I am wrong, Andrew—where all but private motor vehicle insurance and home insurance has now been provided.

Mr Wilson—It is possible to get private home insurance, but the building must pass a cyclone standard.

Senator CROSSIN—Who have you been negotiating these packages through?

Mr Wilson—It is across a range of insurance companies. I believe at the last estimates I gave you a list of the companies. I am not certain whether they have changed since then.

Senator CROSSIN—You were in initial discussion with them at that stage, I think.

Mr Wilson—I believe we have been in discussion with them since we were advised last year that the current insurance company was withdrawing from the marketplace.

Senator CROSSIN—Can I ask you to take it on notice and provide me in writing with details where all that is at with regard to the different sorts of insurance, who will now provide insurance for the island and who you are still having discussions with about what types of insurance?

Mr Mrdak—We can do that.

CHAIR—You need to provide that to the committee, not to individual senators.

Mr Mrdak—Yes.

Senator CROSSIN—You may know something about the youth club. I understand there is a youth club on the island. Can you confirm for me whether or not the Commonwealth has decided to begin charging rent for the use of a room at the Christmas Island Community Centre by this club?

Mr Mrdak—That is correct. The building involved, which was the old technical school and neighbourhood centre at Poon Saan, was a building which was vested in the shire council and then returned to us in a somewhat poor condition, I understand. As part of our asset management of the island, we are seeking to introduce leases and payments for use of those facilities. That is being handled through the administration on the island, as part of their management of buildings on the island. My advice is that there are four groups who tenant the building in various ways: Indian Ocean Training Group, the creche, an arts group and the youth club. The other three groups have not entered into leases. We are providing quite generous discounts from the valuation rates, but the youth group is the only group using the building at this stage who has not entered into a lease agreement with the Commonwealth for that building.

Senator CROSSIN—Can you explain to me why you would still want to pursue that with the youth group and not offer it as part of a service from the Commonwealth given that the youth group has operated for 20 years from that building and has never been charged rent or asked to sign a lease?

Mr Mrdak—My understanding is that none of the groups using those Commonwealth buildings has previously been charged rent and what we are trying to introduce is proper asset management into the island for their use. We have offered them a lease, but that is not to say we are not disposed to seeking alternatives for them. I understand that the shire council is now considering providing assistance to the group in relation to that. We have a range of grant programs and the like that may be available to the group to assist them, and there will be ongoing discussions with the shire's CEO in relation to that, so we have not precluded trying to find them alternatives. This is just an initial offer to them for that particular site that they are currently using.

Senator CROSSIN—Are you talking about finding alternative accommodation or perhaps waiving the requirement to pay rent and put it down as a service provided by the Commonwealth?

Mr Mrdak—We would like to introduce a proper lease-rent arrangement for the building to try and introduce proper management arrangements for the site, but that is not to say we would rule out trying to find them alternatives. My understanding is they do not use the site all that often—I think it is one evening a week or of that order. I have spoken to the administration officers, and we are more than happy to look at other alternatives for them if they do not wish to do that. I am not saying that we can necessarily find them something suitable, but we are happy to work our way through that. It is just that we would like to introduce proper lease arrangements for that particular building.

Senator CROSSIN—What should they do? Make representation to your administration offices on the island?

Mr Mrdak—That is right. If they make representation also with the shire's backing in relation to the needs of a group as a community group, we can see what we can do in relation to our programs.

Senator CROSSIN—Let us just jump to Cocos Island now. According to page 27 of your PBS, the new freight and passenger facilities on West Island are to be funded in part by redirecting \$5.6 million from other projects in the Indian Ocean Territories Capital Replacement Program. Is that correct?

Mr Mrdak—That is correct.

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Email: wifs@q-net.net.au

3 September 2002

Christmas Island Youth Coordination Group
Att: Julie Colquhoun
Po Box 452
CHRISTMAS ISLAND WA 6798

Dear Julie,

RE: PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Thank you for the opportunity to assist with sourcing terms for renewal of your Public Liability insurance this year.

We have to date sourced terms from 3-4 dozen insurance companies Australia wide, and from many other specialist insurance brokers who advertise they are able to place liability insurance for clubs, associations, community groups and the like.


Unfortunately we have been unsuccessful in obtaining Public Liability insurance on your behalf. Many of the specialist brokers advised that if they were able to obtain terms for the Association's needs the annual premium would be in excess of \$5,000.

Those operating within your field have been hardest hit by the recent changes in insurance companies underwriting philosophies. Much of what is reported in the media regarding Public Liability insurance has originated from voluntary, social and community groups. Hopefully at some point the commonwealth government will offer some assistance or additional funding to offset the rising costs.

We have data based your Liability insurance cover needs and should an insurer be able to offer terms in the near future our office will contact you accordingly.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you wish to discuss any matter.

Kind regards


Simon Chaplin
Account Director
Westralian Insurance & Financial Services.

Business, Motor, Home, Liability, Trade Packs, State Insurance,
Group & Personal Superannuation, Income Protection, Term, Trauma, Bonds, Annuities

Benchmark Holdings Pty Ltd ABN 99 900 654 627

Estimate of Common Outgoings based on 2001/02 figures

ORGANISATION	LETTABLE AREA m2	% SHARE of TOTAL AREA	% SHARE OF OUTGOINGS
IOGTA (incl Cyberlink area)	282.2	28.28	\$ 530.04
OP SHOP	60.4	6.51	\$ 123.67
DAY CARE CENTRE	90.8	9.77	\$ 185.50
SOCIAL WORKER	36	3.77	\$ 71.66
CLUB HI	120	12.83	\$ 245.69
AHELEMON MUSIC	22	2.37	\$ 45.04
GYM	32	3.45	\$ 65.52
ARTS & CULTURE	305.58	32.04	\$ 625.88
TOTAL	927.78	100	\$1,899.59

52% \$987.00
 7% \$132.00
 7.5% \$142.00
 3%
 2.5% \$47.50
 3%
 2%
 6%

Common 15%

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To: C.L.D.H.S.

From: Yong Swee Teck

Attn: Julie Colquhoun

Date: 20/06/2002

Fax No: 91648544

Yr Ref: C.L Youth Coordination Group

QUOTATION

		Qty	Unit \$	Total
1/	Panasonic 51cm mono CTV	1	\$ 530.00	
	Konka K2966EZ 68cm, AV Stereo, Super Woofer Sys, Calendar, Game, Child lock	1	\$ 780.00	
2/	Conia M-281 DVD Multi Region, S-VCD, VCD, CD, MP3, CD-R, CD-RW, Karaoke digital echo	1	\$ 450.00	
3/	Sony PlayStation2 Console PAL (not modified)	1	\$ 399.00	



Yong Swee Teck

Computer parts quote

Leadtek 64mb geforce4 mx440	199	
Lian-li Aluminum case	199	
DVD lite-on	89	
AMD XP 2000+	349	
SB Audigy entertainment	169	
Realtec NIC	19	
17" CTX flatscreen .24mm	399	
256 333mz pc2700	199	
logitech wireless KB + Mouse	150	
40GB seagate barracuda	139	
Asus a7v333	259	
Total	2170	x 5

AMD XP 2000+	349	
SB Audigy eX	489	
Realtec NIC	19	
19" Hitachi CM721 .20mm	680	
256 333mz pc2700 X 2	398	
logitech wireless KB + Mouse	150	
80gb seagate barracuda	199	
Asus a7v333	259	
Leadtek 128mb geforce4 mx440	739	
Lian-li Aluminum case	199	
DVD lite-on	89	
Sony 24x10x40 cxr175e	149	
	3719	x 1