



1st March, 2005

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANDWICK WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, 90 AVOCA STREET, RANDWICK, ON TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2005 AT 5:30 P.M.

Committee Members: His Worship, the Mayor, Cr M. Matson, Bastic, Kenny, Nash, Procopiadis, Tracey (Chairperson) & Woodsmith (Deputy Chairperson)

Quorum: Four (4) members.

NOTE: AT THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2004, THE COUNCIL RESOLVED THAT THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE BE CONSTITUTED AS A COMMITTEE WITH FULL DELEGATION TO DETERMINE MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.

1 Apologies

2 Minutes

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2004.

3 Declaration of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests

4 Addresses to Committee by the Public

5 Mayoral Minutes

6 Community Services

6.1 DIRECTOR CITY PLANNING REPORT 8/2005 - OVERSEAS STUDENTS PROGRAM. 2

7 General Business

8 Notice of Rescission Motion

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GENERAL MANAGER



Director City Planning Report 8/2005

SUBJECT:	Overseas Students Program
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DATE:	16 February, 2005	FILE NO:	F2004/07648
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REPORT BY: DIRECTOR CITY PLANNING

INTRODUCTION:

Council at its 14 December, 2004 meeting resolved that:

- a) Council establish the Welcome Overseas Students Pilot Program as outlined by Councillor Hughes in the background document circulated prior to and tabled at the meeting;
- b) Council allocate \$3,500 from Council's contingency fund to fund the pilot program;
- c) Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee be given authority to guide the development and implementation of this pilot program;
- d) Council's Community Services staff undertake the development and implementation of the pilot program, as determined by the Multicultural Advisory Committee; and
- e) A report on the effectiveness and value of the Welcome Overseas Students Pilot Program be brought back to the March or April 2005 Council meeting to allow determination as to whether this program could be expanded and conducted annually.

ISSUES:

Council officers undertook an investigation into what services are currently available to assist overseas students, both fee paying students and those who are classified as humanitarian entrants.

It was identified that the University of NSW provides a comprehensive support service for overseas students. Students who are refugees or humanitarian entrants are also provided with support services (funded through the Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, DIMIA) by a number of agencies such as Anglicare and Mercy Arms.

There does, however, appear to be a need for support services to assist overseas High School students. It should be noted that all overseas students of 18 years of age or

younger by law should have a guardian. However, it has been expressed to Council that a family support program would benefit these students. It is proposed to aim the program at high school students who are either living or studying in Randwick City, and who could benefit from a volunteer support program, as envisaged by Councillor Hughes.

At the February, 2005 Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting, it was recommended that the pilot program should be focused on assisting overseas students attending a local high school, as it would be more manageable in light of the legal obligations now required when using volunteers.

It was further suggested that representation be made to Randwick Boys High School which has a significant number of overseas students attending the school, to see if the school and its students would be interested in participating in the pilot program.

As the school has just recently reopened for the 2005 school year, contact has as yet not been made with the Principal of the school.

It is proposed that contact will be made with both the Principal of Randwick Boys High School and the Regional Office of the Department of Education in Bondi to discuss whether the school would be interested in participating in the pilot program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Council previously voted at its meeting on 14 December 2004 to allocate \$3,500 from Council's contingency fund to fund the pilot program.

CONCLUSION:

The Welcome Overseas Students Program proposal has been favourably received by organisations providing settlement services to students, particularly those classified as humanitarian entrants by DIMIA.

Over the next few weeks contact will be made with the Principal of Randwick Boys High School to discuss establishing the pilot program and a further report will be prepared for Council at the conclusion of the pilot program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

- a) The information contained in this Report on the Welcome Overseas Students Pilot Project be noted; and
- b) A further report be presented to Council at the conclusion of the Welcome Overseas Students Pilot Program.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Nil

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SIMA TRUUVERT
DIRECTOR CITY PLANNING

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RACHELLE LEWENKOPF
COORDINATOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT