

ITEM NO: 11**SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF COMMUNITY BUILDINGS AGREEMENTS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS****FILE NO: F04643 - 08/348998**

Recommendations:

1. *That the Council formally approve the renewal of Community Buildings Agreements with the Community Groups listed in Attachment 1 for a period of four (4) years.*
 2. *That the Council formally approve the continued occupancy of the Mount Riverview Youth Centre by the Mountains Youth Services Team Inc up to March 2009 when a review of the trial "outreach" program, the centre based programs and projected future programs is to take place and the future occupancy and use of the Mount Riverview Youth Centre determined.*
 3. *That the Council formally approve staff to investigate the option of another community group or groups entering into a short term agreement for access and/or occupancy of the Mount Riverview Youth Centre during the days and times not currently required by the Mountains Youth Services Team Inc for centre based programs.*
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Report by Group Manager, Community & Corporate:**Reason for report**

The reason for this report is to advise the Council of the recommendations from the 28 November 2008 meeting of the Premises Review Panel in regard to the proposed renewal of the Community Buildings Agreements with community groups.

In accordance with the adopted Community Buildings Policy clause 4.1.5 (19 February 2002 Minute No. 59) non-profit organisations wishing to establish, or continue to use all or part of a community building must apply for such use on a four-year basis and within six months of a Local Government election.

Background

In accordance with clause 4.1.6 of the Community Buildings Policy the Premises Review Panel will assess applications received from community groups for exclusive use of all or part of a community building against the following criteria:

- The group provides services, activities and/or meeting places which address community needs;
- The premises will be used as a place from which community services, activities and/or meetings can take place;
- The organisation promotes the development of voluntary, special interest and/or mutual support associations and networks between these associations, interests and activities to meet community needs;
- Access and equity principles are implemented by the organisation;

- The organisation works in partnership with community organisations and with other government and non-government agencies to meet identified community needs; and
- The organisation promotes leisure and cultural activities which enrich the quality of life of local residents.

To assist the Premises Review Panel in their deliberations the most recent Annual Reports, Financial Statements and Access and Equity Policies received from the community groups were tabled.

The Premises Review Panel concluded that the non-profit community groups providing services to the community who currently occupy all or part of the community buildings (refer Attachment) should continue to have occupation, except for those services provided at the Mount Riverview Youth Centre.

Mount Riverview Youth Centre – 19 Calver Avenue

In 2006 the Winmalee Youth Service Inc and Blue Mountains Developmental Youth Recreation Service Inc amalgamated and became the Mountains Youth Services Team Inc. (MYST).

As of 1 July 2008 the Upper Mountains Youth Services Inc and Mountains Youth Resource Organisation Inc also amalgamated under the umbrella of MYST. The amalgamation meant that there are now two (previously there were five) organisations providing services to young people in the mountains being Youth Futures Group Inc in Lawson and MYST which now incorporates seven Department of Community Services (DoCS) funded projects. These projects operate out of the premises known as the Katoomba Youth Centre, Manners Park building Springwood, Winmalee Youth Centre and Mount Riverview Youth Centre.

With the amalgamation of the various youth services the Management Committee of MYST felt they were in a position to consider new methods and models of service delivery. In consultation with DoCS, MYST is trialling an “outreach” model of service delivery which replaces “drop-in” but retains centre-based structured programs. The trial period for the Lower Mountains Youth Outreach Team finishes on 1 July 2009.

The “outreach” model of service delivery proposes to provide:

- Targeted outreach/street work in Blaxland, Springwood, Winmalee and surrounds;
- Three in-school support programs in Blaxland;
- In-school programs in Springwood;
- Referral and administration base in Manners Park Springwood; and
- Co-ordinated structured programs for Winmalee and Mount Riverview Youth Centres.

The current structured programs being run from the Mount Riverview Youth Centre on a weekly basis are:

- Friday Jammin – offers young people a space to play basketball, play music and have a BBQ whilst accessing youth services. On average 20-25 young people attend each week. They are aged 15-19 years and many attend regularly; and
- Tuesday Hammertime - creates a safe and supported environment for young people to play board games and role-playing games. A light meal and transport is provided by staff.

Both programs run from 2.30pm – 7pm. Potential future projects for the Mount Riverview Youth Centre are outlined in Attachment 2.

In recognition of the trial of an “outreach” model of service delivery which replaces “drop-in” but retains centre-based structured programs, the Premises Review Panel concluded that:

- MYST should continue occupying the Mount Riverview Youth Centre up to March 2009;
- In March 2009 a review of the trial “outreach” program, the centre based programs and projected future programs was to take place with the view to determining the future occupancy and use of the Mount Riverview Youth Centre; and
- Council staff are requested to investigate the option of another community group or groups entering into a short term agreement for access and/or occupancy of the Mount Riverview Youth Centre during the days and times not currently required by MYST for centre based programs.

Sustainability Assessment (Triple Bottom Line Reporting):

Effects	Positive	Negative
Environmental	Nil	Nil
Social	Use of facilities by various community groups maintained	Nil
Economic	Nil	Nil

Financial implications for the Council

Continued holding, maintenance and opportunity costs of the community buildings occupied by community groups.

Legal and risk management issues for the Council

There are no known significant legal or risk management issues associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

External consultation

All current users of the subject community facilities were invited to make submissions to the Council for consideration by the Premises Review Panel. It is considered that no further external consultation is required in relation to this matter.

Conclusion

In accordance with clause 4.1.7 of the Community Buildings Policy it is the Premises Review Panel recommendation that the Council formally approve the renewal of the Community Buildings Agreements with the non-profit community groups listed in Attachment 1.

In recognition of the trial of an “outreach” model of service delivery which replaces “drop-in” but retains centre-based structured programs, the Premises Review Panel recommends that the Council:

- Support MYST by permitting continued occupancy of the Mount Riverview Youth Centre up to March 2009 when a review of the trial “outreach” program, the centre based programs and projected future programs is to take place and the future occupancy and use of the Mount Riverview Youth Centre determined; and

- Give approval for staff to investigate the option of another community group or groups entering into a short term agreement for access and/or occupancy of the Mount Riverview Youth Centre during the days and times not currently required by MYST.

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Attachment

List of community groups occupying community buildings who have applied for renewal of their Agreements with the Council

<i>The Community Groups who have sole use of a community building are highlighted with an *</i>	
GROUP NAME	ADDRESS
Children's Services	
*Winmalee Preschool Kindergarten	56 Whitecross Road
*Wentworth Falls Preschool Kindergarten	Cnr Day & Armstrong Streets
*Katoomba Preschool Kindergarten	34 - 36 Lett Street
*Glenbrook Preschool Kindergarten	Cnr Dean & Lennox Streets
*Lapstone Preschool Kindergarten	173 Explorers Road
*Katoomba Children's Cottage	5 Westend Street
*Springwood & District Preschool Kindergarten	9-11 Macquarie Road
Advocacy, Social Justice & Community Development	
Mountains Community Resource Network / projects	Old Lawson Depot Building, Cnr San Jose Ave & Loftus Street Lawson (Designated offices & meeting room within building)
Support Services	
Blue Mountains People Living with HIV/AIDS	10 Station Street Katoomba (Designated office and meeting / activity room within premises)
*Blue Mountains Family Support Service	2 Station Street Katoomba
Blue Mountains Food Services	<u>Meals on Wheels</u> – Mid Mountains Community Centre, 9 New Street Lawson. <u>Community Restaurants</u> at Blaxland Seniors & Community Centre, 33 Hope Street, Springwood Civic Centre, 106-108 Macquarie Road, & Katoomba / Leura Seniors & Community Centre, 87-89 Katoomba Street. (Designated times of operation)
Home Care Service - Blue Mountains Branch	Mid Mountains Community Centre, 9 New Street Lawson. (Designated office space within complex)
Blue Mountains Recreation & Respite Service	106-108 Macquarie Road (Shared designated office space shared within premises)
Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces	106-108 Macquarie Road (Designated office space within premises)
Anglicare – Springwood Host Family Programme	106-108 Macquarie Road (Shared designated office space within premises)
*Red Cross - Blue Mountains Branch	107 Macquarie Road, Springwood
Senior Citizens Clubs	
Katoomba / Leura Senior Citizens Club	Katoomba/Leura Seniors and Community Centre 81-87 Katoomba Street (Designated meeting space & activity room within the complex. Area also available to hirers)
Blaxland Neighbourhood Club for Senior	Blaxland Seniors & Community Centre, 33 Hope

Citizens	Street (Designated meeting space within the complex. Area also available to hirers)
Neighbourhood Centres	
Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre / projects	Mid Mountains Community Centre, New Street Lawson (Designated offices and meeting room within the complex)
*Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre / projects	Nos 8 - 10 Station Street. (Note: With regard to number 10 see B.M. People living with HIV/AIDS)
Springwood Neighbourhood Centre / projects	106-108 Macquarie Road (Designated office and meeting rooms within complex)
Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre / projects	Blaxland Seniors & Community Centre, 33 Hope Street (Designated office space within the Complex)
Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre / projects	Blackheath Community Centre, Cnr Gardiners Cres & Great Western Highway (Designated office space and meeting room within the complex)
*Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre / projects	62 Whitecross Road
Legal Assistance	
*Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre	4 Station Street Katoomba
Cultural	
*Springwood Creative Arts Centre	22 Ferguson Road