

OIR: 2425/1045

12 August 2024

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Tēnā koe ██████████,

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email of **30 July 2024** requesting the following information:

- 1. I would like to understand why the council is offering ThinkBIG grants to youth using our ratepayer funding to do so when this is far outside of the core functions of the council.***

The Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Act 2019 directly influenced the purpose of local government, and therefore its core functions. This legislation commits Local Government to promoting community well-being. The four dimensions of community well-being as proposed by the Act are social, economic, environmental and cultural.

Council's ThinkBIG grants support the social well-being of youth in our community. Council believes that the ability to participate in community projects or personal development endeavours is important to youth well-being. By offering grants for these activities, Council aims to promote equal opportunities for young people in the Kāpiti Coast.

Some other Councils which offer similar grant schemes to ThinkBIG are Porirua City Council's "Young People's Fund", Hastings District Council's "Hastings Youth Grants", Christchurch City Council's "Youth Development Fund", and Napier City Council's "Youth Development Fund" (also managed by their own Youth Council). This is only a few of the many Youth grants offered by various district councils.

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

- 2. I'm pretty horrified to see what money has been given to as well. To cover Tennis coaching for one, transport costs for another, and a raft of other extra curricular activities. If someone wants to participate in a sport or event, why are they not made responsible for funding this, like I have funded my children.**

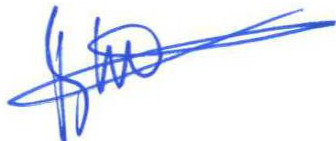
With current financial pressures in the community, the Youth Council's ThinkBIG grants even more important. By offering these grants to young people in Kāpiti, some of the pressure can be taken off families who are struggling to support their children to achieve their goals, as well as encouraging youth to continue to think of beneficial projects for the rest of their community.

All recipients have proved either that they have a long-held dedication to their personal development goals, or that their intended community project will be beneficial to the larger community.

- 3. What is the thinking here when all this money is being handed out and you are asking us for more to cover silly projects like this?**

The Kapiti Coast Youth Council allocated \$9,250 in total to 14 grants to support the social well-being of youth in our community. It is within the remit of one of Council's core functions to promote community well-being.

Ngā mihi,



Brendan Owens

Group Manager Customer and Community
Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū - Kiritaki me te Hapori