

Youth Suicide Awareness Tamaki Event 2017 – Funding support proposal

Background

There has been a recent spate of youth suicide in Tāmaki which the local community is grappling with. In late September, a local youth, Shanice Mulitalo, who has grown up in Glen Innes, approached the local board for support to enable her to organise a youth-led event to outreach to other young people and the community to support each other. The request from Shanice is included in this document.

Shanice is concerned about the effect and impact this has had on many of her family and friends in our community. She mentioned at a community meeting how the most recent youth suicides have affected her younger brother and his friends and that through this, she has felt inspired to be engaged and bring people together to do something on this issue. She has decided that an event that brings young people together and connect them with each other, with the community and available support eg social services, would be a good start.

Proposed date for event: 25th November or 2nd December (initially proposed for 7th October)

Officer response: The initiative is aligned with the aspirations in the local board – with regards to supporting youth-led leadership and supporting social agencies working on mental health issues because wellbeing of residents is important to the local board.

Youth suicide is sensitive, complex issue and must be handled with care. The best support for Shanice on this issue can come from social service agencies. The board's support can be through a grant to a social service agency to enable them to work with Shanice to plan and fund the event she wants to deliver.

Ruapotaka Marae and Crescendo Trust have both indicated that they will support Shanice by applying through their organisations for the relevant permits needed to facilitate the holding of this event. Both organisations have experience of working on social issues and in holding events in the community.

We recommend channelling any local board funding support via Ruapotaka Marae's Te Amiorangi programme as this is most aligned with the issue and initiative that Shanice is seeking. Te Amiorangi can also ensure there is some continuity and follow up on this initiative with any young person that may turn up at the event and indicate they need help.

Other Community Organisations who have offered to support Shanice are:

- Rakau Tautoko
- Auckland District Health Board

- MADAVE
- GI Library
- Te Oro
- Tamaki College
- Selwyn College –Kapa Haka (Former and/or current students)

Estimated Costs: 6k

- Stage - \$3,000.00
 - Sound System - \$3,000.00
 - Completed event permit application form - TBC
 - Health and Safety Plan - TBC
 - Waste Management Plan - TBC
 - Site Map – TBC
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Shanice Multalo Request for Help to the Maungakiekie and Tamaki Local Board

As many know Suicide is happening more often than it should by our youth in our Tamaki community and country. As a youth myself I propose to hold an event for Suicide awareness and mental health issues at Pt England Reserve Glen Innes on the 7th of October 2017 right before the Mental Health Awareness week begins, in hopes to reduce those who crosses the thoughts of wanting to end their lives.

I believe youth listen more to their own and it would be inspiring if someone heard another struggle with Suicide or someone who has lost a loved one to Suicide. People who have experienced the issue whether it was by themselves or a friend or family member will have the option of sharing their experience with everyone. With this event money will be fundraised for the Mental Health Organisation of New Zealand to put forward to resources for their patients and better support system or even more employees to help out.

The event will consist of performances including songs, dances and the talented performers who attend Te Oro in Glen Innes. Upon this, food stalls will be held around the area with games, prizes and sports for those young ones who want to connect with their wider community.

The main purpose of this event is to get our youth and adults listening to the korero about how Suicide is a real thing in this generation and our young children need to stop thinking it is the answer to their problems. Many people do not address this situation thoroughly enough and there is a point where people just give up on letting people know they are there for them.

Everyone should take away from this event that there is more to life and it is ok to be at a dark place because there is always going to be someone who will really care about them. This is an event about bringing our community together to stand as one, support those in need (especially our young ones) and letting someone know that IT IS OK. It is also an event for those who have lost someone to suicide to remember them and let them know someone is doing something about this.

Thank you.

Shanice Mulitalo