

# Memo

To: Upper Harbour Local Board elected members  
From: Lisa Howard-Smith, Strategic Broker for Upper Harbour

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Subject: **Engaging Red Frogs Support Network for Movies in the Park – Rosedale and Collins Parks**

The purpose of this memo is to:

1. Provide background information and rationale to the recommendation of engaging Red Frogs.
2. Provide anticipated cost and deliverables for the events at Rosedale and Collins Parks

## **Youth behaviour at previous Movies in the Park**

The behaviour of a large group of young people attending the Movies in the Park (MiP) event at Collins Park in Greenhithe, early last year, and to a lesser degree at the following event held in Rosedale, generated discussion both across Council and with relevant external parties such as the local Neighbourhood Policing Team (Troy and Tane), Youth Division, local community trust and business interests.

The council Events team had identified that such behaviour was particular to MiP events on the North Shore and discussions were had about developing proactive response for future MiP events. The Red Frogs Support Network was suggested as a recognised programme of engagement with young people attending events, focusing on harm minimisation, mitigating disruption to other attendees and providing an alternative response to the, often more punitive, actions of site security officers.

## **Background information on Red Frogs**

The Red Frogs support programme originated in Australia in response to the increased prevalence of alcohol at social events frequented by young people, and in an effort to reduce alcohol related harm.

*“Red Frogs is a support program for young people from the ages of 15 – 25. Red Frogs recognize that the culture of young people is dominated by alcohol and that excessive consumption of alcohol and other substances can lead to dangerous and life altering behaviours. Therefore Red Frogs make it their mission to provide a positive peer presence in alcohol-fuelled environments where young people gather, educate young people on safe partying behaviours, and promote and provide non-alcoholic and/or diversionary activities that engage young people in these environments”*

Red Frogs are now operating in New Zealand, with support that extends to festivals and events, where the Red Frogs crew primarily act as an intermediary between the patronage and other service providers, such as security and first aid staff, referring patrons who may be in need to appropriate services.

Crew members provide chill zones, mingle with audiences giving out lollies, water and other forms of hydration and look out for any issues or concerns

## **Anticipated costs and delivery at each event**

For each of the MiP events at Rosedale and Collins Parks, Red Frogs will set up a chill out zone staffed by trained volunteers, with support from an 'oversight' staff member.

Chill out zones, usually consist of marquee, tables, water cooler (or other appropriate water source, such as bottles), cups, Red Frog lollies, bean bags, fairy lights, and games (jenga, uno)

The crew will work in groups, moving around the venue, handing out Red Frog lollies (as an ice breaker approach) and assist with BBQ duties provide food to any young people identified as being 'under the influence'.

Anyone of concern will be invited to the chill out zone and/or directed to other service providers as necessary, such as First Aid.

Anticipated cost per event - \$500

## **Next steps**

Provide a report to UHLB Business meeting for resolution on use of funds from Civic Events budget.

Confirm use of Red Frogs at Rosedale Park on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Collins Park on 16<sup>th</sup> March, through Tim Richards, events organiser - operations, and obtain a formal written quote

Follow up with council officers, Events team members work the MiP at Rosedale and Collins, NPT members, Youth division, Soni Patel and local community trust.