

Report: Educational Fund

The Advisory Committee on the Educational fund is charged with the encouragement, promotion and assistance of secular and/or religious education in Otago and Southland so that the community and/or the Church shall benefit.

Applications to the Fund this year ranged from brain gym for pre-schoolers to tertiary chaplaincy – and many good causes in between. We are constantly reminded of the huge amount of voluntary work performed in our community and the need for some assistance in order for it to be effective. Often, Synod is the major source of financial support for a community organisation.

Our commitment to the salaries of the KCML academic staff is shared with the Ecclesiastical Fund, this year on the basis of \$75,000 from Education, \$150,000 from Ecclesiastical. In other years the ratio has varied, depending on other large calls on the respective Funds.

Allocations to the PCANZ Archives and to the Hewitson Library for staff salaries, which represent our on-going commitment to the National Church, were made at the National Commitments meeting held during the week previous to our meeting.

Our priority is the funding of tertiary projects and we continue to provide much-needed support of the chaplaincies at the University of Otago, Otago Polytechnic and the Southland Institute of Technology. The Committee is mindful of the importance placed on education by the settler Church in our provinces and the tradition of providing religious and spiritual support to places of learning. There is increasing demand for chaplaincy services in our secondary and intermediate schools too. We are happy to continue our support of both the Christian Education Commission and also this year, two parishes seeking to provide school chaplaincies in their areas of the Taieri and Invercargill.

In this, my last report as convener, I should like to acknowledge those who have served alongside me over the past 10 years. Their collective wisdom, informed comment and good humour have helped to turn business meetings into mostly enjoyable occasions, and I thank them.

I should also like to acknowledge the continuing support and encouragement of our Executive Officer, Fergus Sime.

Helen Thew

Convener