
5.9 HILLCREST COMMUNITY PUBLIC FUND

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council make a donation of \$30,000 to the Hillcrest Community Public Fund.

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL'S PLANS & POLICIES

Council's Strategic Plan 2009-2030:

Strategy 4.4.1 Support the community in emergency management response and recovery

SUMMARY

A Fund has been established to support the Hillcrest Primary School community, and this report recommends Council make a significant donation to the fund.

BACKGROUND

One of the most tragic events in Tasmania's history occurred on the 16th December 2021, when six young children lost their lives in an accident involving a jumping castle at Hillcrest Primary School. At the time of writing this report a further two children remain in a critical condition in hospital.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

There are no direct legislative requirements

DISCUSSION

Devonport City Council, My State and the State Government have established the Hillcrest Community Public Fund to raise money to support the Hillcrest School community and family members impacted by the tragedy. A Go Fund Me page set up by Zoe Smith in the hours following the event has been rolled into the public fund to ensure the necessary oversight and governance of the money raised.

Administering donations through this centralised mechanism will ensure careful consideration of how best to spend the money raised for maximum benefit of the Hillcrest community.

A Board consisting of the Mayor, the School Principal, Zoe Smith, a My State representative and a State Government Representative will oversee the fund.

In addition to the fund the State Government have made available an initial allocation of \$500,000 to provide immediate support to the families affected.

It is suggested that Council contribute \$30,000 to the fund.

Council staff are heavily involved in supporting the Devonport community through this difficult time and are key participants in the regional social recovery committee that has been established.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There has been no community engagement associated with this report

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any donation would be become an unbudgeted expense item.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

With any donation such as this, there is always the risk that some members of the community may not agree with Council's actions, however on the whole the community have been very supportive of the fund and understanding of the need to support the Hillcrest community.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council contribute \$30,000 to the Hillcrest Community Public Fund.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil