

Media Statement: Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury

9 April 2020

The Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury Board met virtually for the first time in its history on the 6th of April 2020 after the scheduled meeting for the 30th of March was postponed as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury chair David Forman said that the Trustees discussed the best way they could support the region in response to COVID-19. Mr Forman said "the COVID-19 pandemic will bring significant and unprecedented challenges throughout our communities. We want to assure grantees and the wider community that we are well placed to meet whatever needs arise through this period of heightened risk and uncertainty. First and foremost, the annual funding available to not for profit organisations will be maintained for the upcoming 2020/21 funding year. The application rounds advertised on the MSCCT website will also remain the same."

"Although our investments have taken a hit due to the significant drop in investment markets, our portfolio was structured to weather this type of event. We have a good level of cash reserves and dividend paying investments to be able to fully support the Mid & South Canterbury regions in the coming year and beyond."

Looking forward the Community Trust will be assessing where the greatest needs lie and where to best focus its resources. Organisations are invited to contact the Community Trust to discuss any needs they have that require immediate assistance. The Trust is also willing to be flexible with grants already made in the previous financial year. If organisations need to make changes to planned activities due to COVID-19 and would like to discuss a change of purpose or extension for their funding, please contact the Community Relations Manager, Lorel Hallinan, by email crm@comtrust.org.nz or phone her on 021 819 060.

For comments on this Media Release feel free to contact Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury chair David Forman on 021 672 056.

The Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury uses returns from investments to fund its philanthropy. The Trust supports not-for-profit organisations and projects which contribute towards achieving a region of healthy, vibrant and caring communities. To learn more please visit www.comtrust.org.nz

END

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