

## **The Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme) is an annual programme which started in 1998 to support worthwhile community projects that promote equal opportunities on ground of different sexual orientation.

2. Any registered organization or sub-group of a registered organization may apply. The maximum sponsorship for each project will normally be \$100,000. The annual budget is usually around \$500,000.

### **STATISTICS**

3. Below is the statistics of the Funding Scheme in past years –

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Applications received</b>	<b>Applications approved</b>	<b>Amount approved</b>	<b>Actual amount reimbursed</b>
1998-1999	21	11	\$495,000	\$458,592
1999-2000	14	6	\$360,000	\$321,701
2000-2001	22	12	\$598,380	\$471,913
2001-2002	20	12	\$464,000	\$416,201
2002-2003	13	12	\$487,000	\$448,050
2003-2004	21	11	\$549,194	\$520,935

4. Projects approved under the Funding Scheme in the past include drama performance, webpage and workshops, hotline and volunteer training, productions of publications, exhibitions and workshops, etc.

5. In this financial year (2004/05), a total of \$550,000 has been earmarked for the Funding Scheme. Out of the 10 applications received, 7 were approved with a total approved amount of about \$340,000. There is a remaining sum of about \$210,000. Other than the funds earmarked for the Funding Scheme, we also have \$117,000 available for activities relating to promotion of equal opportunities on the ground of sexual orientation.

6. We would like to develop worthwhile activities for the promotion of equal opportunities on the ground of sexual orientation by making best use of the total available amount of \$327,000. The forum could provide resourceful ideas in this regard.

**Home Affairs Bureau**

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