

HOATU FUND GUIDELINES – Updated February 2025

The Hoatu Fund is a fund of the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch, which assists vulnerable women, children and families with material and spiritual needs.

In the 1880's, Father Ginaty, a priest of this Diocese, raised money by donations and bequests to establish an institution which would provide care for women with spiritual or social needs in Canterbury. He asked the Good Shepherd Sisters from Australia to run this institution known as 'Mount Magdala'. It closed in 1966 and the land transferred to the Good Shepherd Sisters. This land was later sold by the sisters and a portion of the money from this sale was returned to the Diocese and placed in a Trust to carry out the original purpose and intention of Fr Ginaty in the changed circumstance which now apply.

The Bishop is the sole trustee of the Hoatu Fund. Matt O'Connell administers the fund on the Bishop's behalf.

The Hoatu Fund funding allocation process is also used to distribute the funds the Bishop receives annually from The Tindall Foundation, through the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference. The process of making a funding request remains the same, and there is no need to identify which fund the request is targeting. If your request aligns with The Tindall Foundation funding priorities, we will make an allocation from this fund.

Funding Rounds

In 2025, there is one funding round, through which parishes, schools and charities can request funds.

In 2025, this funding round will close at 5pm on Friday 16th May.

Making a Request

Requests for funding can be made by way of a letter on letterhead outlining the area of need, and the amount requested. Letters of request should be sent to: hoatu@cdoc.nz

Please note, where the request will benefit an individual or family, identifying details are not required.

If you are making your first request to the fund, please also ensure a bank deposit slip is attached to your letter of request.

What the Hoatu Fund Supports

Requests can be made to the Hoatu Fund either for direct support for individuals or families, or for wider projects which seek to support vulnerable women, children and families in areas of material or spiritual need.

Areas of need which have previously been funded include: providing meals for people in times of particular need, support with bill payment where there has been illness or bereavement, costs associated with education such as uniforms, transport or education outside the classroom.

Projects which have previously been funded include: parenting programmes, support for young parents finding and maintaining accommodation, initiatives to assist migrants integrating into their local community, programmes for people who have experienced domestic violence, and the creation of a 'loan library' of items for babies.

Hoatu Fund - Exclusions

The fund does not cover:

- Medical or dental costs
- Funeral costs
- Costs associated with immigration
- Legal costs
- School attendance dues
- Retrospective needs

While in many instances funds will be used to benefit individuals or families, requests must be made through a school, parish or charity, and individuals cannot receive funding directly.

Please note that individuals should not benefit from an amount more than \$1,500, and families should not benefit from an amount more than \$2,000 in a 12 month period.

Please also note that cash is not to be given directly to an individual or family, however vouchers can be provided.

Additional Notes for Schools

Please keep in mind that the core purpose of the fund is to cover welfare needs, as opposed to costs associated with the schools education budget, such as classroom resources or Teacher Aide funding.

The preference is also that funds are used in a targeted manner to enable students to participate where cost is a barrier, instead of providing an across the board subsidy to reduce overall costs.

What The Tindall Foundation Fund Supports

Each year, The Tindall Foundation sets priorities which guide the allocation of funding. We are able to allocate funds from the Tindall Foundation in the area of Family.

“Tamariki/children, rangatahi/young people and their whānau/families are resilient, secure and thriving. Our work prioritises whānau who experience multiple disadvantage across generations”.

The Tindall Foundations Goals for Whānau/Families are

- Healthy and happy families in which everyone has a strong sense of self and is connected to their identity and culture.
- A country where all New Zealanders live in affordable, healthy, safe and violence-free homes.
- A place where whānau/families have sufficient means to raise their tamariki/children.
- Parents and carers feel confident and supported, tamariki/children and rangatahi/young people are attached and secure, and families get the support they need.
- Rangatahi/young people are resilient, connected, able to participate, have a strong sense of self.

For more information about what can be funded please go to <https://tindall.org.nz/family/> and carefully read what can and what cannot be funded.

The Tindall Foundation – Exclusions

- Projects relating to health
- Individual needs
- Retrospective needs
- Religious advancement
- Arts/cultural initiatives

Receipt of Funds and Accountability

You will receive a letter advising the outcome of your request, via email. Within a fortnight of receiving this letter funds will be transferred to the bank account of your school, parish or charity. Please note that a receipt is not required.

Should you receive funding, you are required to write an accountability letter, detailing how funds were used. The outcome letter you receive will identify the date by which this accountability letter needs to be submitted. If you are making a further request for funding, you are required to submit an accountability letter at the time of this new request.

Other Notes

- Please ensure only one request is made per funding round from your school, parish or charity. Your request can cover more than one need or project.
- In the case of schools, it is preferable that funding requests are made by the principal, or their delegate, to avoid multiple requests coming from the same school.

Should you require further guidance around making a request for funding, please contact Matt O'Connell on 366-9869 or hoatu@cdoc.nz