

submission form

Your Submission

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Signature))(-it

Please tick which applies:

I do NOT wish to make a personal submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered.

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Tuesday 7 June and Friday 10 June 2005.

The Christchurch City Council has a proud tradition of providing financial support to promote social development and to strengthening the wellbeing of communities. Such assistance has been critical in the wake of ^{the} devastating consequences of the socio-economic restructuring process of the 1990's which was particularly felt by disenfranchised groups and marginalised communities.

Funds such as the Metropolitan Grants Scheme, the Community Development Fund and the Social Initiatives Fund have been important instruments in addressing need and disadvantage. The Council's willingness to provide 3 year funding

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Submissions close on Friday 13 May 2005

has provided community groups with much needed financial stability and ensured greater programme effectiveness. Such stability has long been advanced by the Community and Voluntary Sector.

While some commentators point to the booming economy and the labour shortage as being indicators of more prosperous times, social service workers are acutely aware that this wealth is unevenly shared and that little has changed for society's vulnerable.

The Wave Rowan is deeply concerned to read that the Council proposes to significantly cut the projected financial assistance available to individuals and groups, and for grants to community projects and activities. We believe such cutbacks will seriously undermine the Council's ability to meet its goals outlined in the Council's long-term Community Plan.

We are also deeply concerned that many of the projects supported by the Social Initiatives Fund will be threatened. Of particular concern are those projects located in Council-owned buildings such as the Linwood Community Arts Centre, St Albans Resource Centre and the Bromley Community Centre. Without Council assistance such projects will be rendered inoperable.

We strongly urge the Council to rethink these cutbacks and to restore these levels to that identified in the 2004/5 budget.

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