



Recreation facilities and services

Users: Individuals, sporting and community organisations

General Benefit: Recreational, economic, social

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Christchurch City Council owns and operates six major and four suburban swimming pools and eight recreation facilities and sports stadia, including QEII, Jellie Park, Pioneer and Cowles Stadium. It is also active in promoting or facilitating sporting, recreational and leisure activities in the community, ranging from assistance for people with disabilities to take part in sports and recreation to a child care service to events which give sporting clubs and associations the opportunity to promote themselves to a wider audience. The Council's recreation service also includes a community assistance grant programme. Recreation facilities and services are provided at an annual cost of \$14.5million.

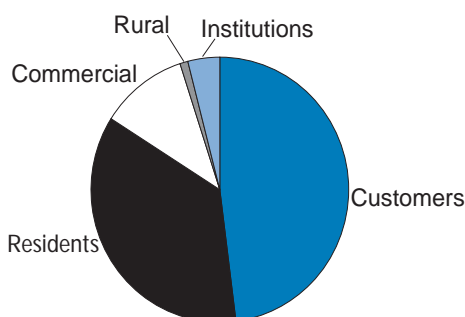
Rationale for assigning benefits

Patrons, spectators and participants benefit directly from the recreational services and facilities of the Council. For parts of the service, direct benefits are paid for from user charges, augmented by sponsorship grants from other corporate bodies and pooled resources with other recreation organisations. General benefit is gained by the community from the increased level of social, physical and economic activity that the services and facilities promote; from access to an international standard facility in the case of QEII; from access to swimming and water safety instruction to a wide range of people and by freeing parents to take a greater part in community life when they would not otherwise have access to child care. The cost of these general benefits is shared between ratepayer groups.

Other considerations

The present funding mechanism for the service is supported by Council's recreational sport policy that it is in the community interest to continue to offer quality, affordable recreation opportunities across the whole community regardless of individual economic means. This policy particularly specifies providing access to recreation to children, young people, people with disabilities and those on low incomes. Increasing existing user charges for recreational services and facilities, or introducing them where they do not already apply, would be an expensive exercise and would risk eroding the purpose of the service where it targets participation for people in these specific groups.

Who benefits?



Who should pay?

