

10. ST ALBANS PLAYCENTRE BUILDING

Officer responsible Community Development Adviser	Author Bruce Meder, DDI 941-5408
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The purpose of this report is to seek funds from the Community Board towards the cost of a purpose built centre for the St Albans Playcentre. This project helps to meet the outcomes of the Council's Early Childhood Education Policy.

BACKGROUND

The St Albans Playcentre has been located at the Glenmoor Primary School (in Philpotts Road) since 1974. For the past seven years a classroom has been used by the group. However, because of an expansion in the number of sessions per week and the numbers of children attending issues of space and safety have meant that this room is less than desirable.

Currently the Playcentre operates five morning sessions and one afternoon session per week (the greatest number of sessions by any centre in Canterbury). The Centre is licensed for 18 children per session. Rolls are full and there are at least six children per day on the waiting list. The current roll is 31 families (47 children) and because of pressures the waiting list has been closed to new families.

The Playcentre is run by a parent co-operative and employs a qualified Playcentre Supervisor and three assistant parent helpers per session.

NEW FACILITY

In September 2001 the Playcentre negotiated with Glenmoor Primary School for the use of the old swimming pool site immediately behind the current Centre's playground. Copies of the architect's plans are attached for information. The new building will be licensed for up to 25 children.

FUNDING

The cost of the project is \$200,000. Canterbury Playcentre Association are funding 80% of these costs, with the remaining \$40,000 being the responsibility of St Albans Playcentre to raise. Funding efforts to date by the Centre include:

- Putting aside 10% of Centre income into a separate building fund.
- A grant of \$15,000 from the Early Childhood Discretionary Grant Scheme.
- Fund-raising activities including garage sale, sausage sizzle, Christmas trees, Trike-a-Thon and photos.
- Sponsorship in the upcoming City to Surf fun run.
- An application to the Christchurch City Council Loans Scheme for a maximum of \$15,000 to be paid back over 10 years at 2% interest per annum.

Monies raised to date amount to \$28,600.

The Playcentre has been visited by the two Shirley City Councillors who have endorsed the project.

Staff

Recommendation: That a grant of \$4,000 from Discretionary Funds be allocated to the St Albans Playcentre towards their building costs.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: For discussion.