

#### **4. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT**

##### **Dr Alfred Dell'Aro, HealthLink South**

Dr Dell'Aro addressed the Committee on the work being done in respect to "destigmatisation" of mental illness.

He gave details of the early background to mental illness and society's attitudes towards this, and stressed the fact that mental illness was of a biochemical/genetic nature which, like other diseases, was subject to treatment and cure.

He advised that discrimination in respect to mental illness was a learned condition and briefly outlined the steps being taken in terms of public education to try to change attitudes in society.

Currently HealthLink South has some 53 sites within the Christchurch city area, treating 12,000 patients per annum.

The opportunity was taken to seek information from Dr Dell'Aro regarding emergency contact services and follow-up care on release from hospital, and what treatment options existed in respect to glue sniffers within the city.

With respect to the latter, Dr Dell'Aro advised there was no mandatory law in this matter, it was an alcohol and drug dependency issue and that unless those involved wished to receive treatment it was extremely difficult for this to be enforced.

The Chairman sought confirmation from Dr Dell'Aro as to how the City Council could possibly help HealthLink South in terms of its destigmatisation education programme. It was agreed that staff give further consideration to this matter and report back in due course. The opportunity existed for dissemination of information within Council units and elected representatives, however, as a means of changing attitudes.

##### **Ms Carla Potter, Blah Blah Entertainment Trust – BRAT CD**

Ms Potter spoke about the BRAT CD which had recently been compiled by herself with funding assistance from Creative Communities and Christchurch City Council, and showed a video of publicity relating to this from national television. The compact disk showcased upcoming local bands and arrangements had been made for national distribution, and it was hoped to sell some 500 copies in the next six months.

Any profits would be returned to the Blah Blah Entertainment Trust to assist with compilation of a further CD, and it was suggested that Carla should discuss with appropriate staff the possibility of promoting this via Christchurch's Sister Cities.