

15. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

COMMUNITY WAGE

Mrs Katherine Peet and Ms Ann Fass addressed the Committee on behalf of the Council of Social Services and the Canterbury Volunteer Centre respectively and raised concerns about a number of aspects of the Community Wage scheme, including the legal status of community wage recipients, job displacement, limitations of employment, sanctions and the effect on community work and volunteering. Concerns were also expressed about the exemption CDC had negotiated with WINZ from the sanctions requirement of the scheme and the possible implications to the Council.

Specifically the deputation requested that:

- CCC reconsider its view that the community wage is solely an employment issue, refer the matter for overview to the Strategy and Resources Committee and thereby to other relevant sections of CCC.
- CCC clarify for citizens the relationship between the CCC Community Development and Well-Being Policy and the CCC involvement in the Canterbury Development Corporation Policy and actions.
- CCC advocate the removal of legal sanctions from WINZ Community Work contracts.
- CCC become a “community with a conscience”.
- CCC support the “Jobs with Justice Campaign”, supporting the NZ Council of Christian Social Services’ minimum employment standards.
- CCC ascertain the legal status of a community wage recipient both when they are, and when they are not, involved in an “organised activity”.
- CCC develop a deliberate policy of recognising and resourcing the third sector of society, which stands alongside the other two sectors of Government and commerce.

Mr Jim Lamb and Ms Susan Stewart addressed the Committee on behalf of Jobs for Justice and endorsed the concerns raised by the previous deputation in respect of the community wage scheme, outlined their particular concerns and urged the Council to use the set of minimum standards developed by the New Zealand Standard of Social Services as a starting point for the development of a Council policy for its own employment practices and strategies and for any other group it promotes or supports.

Mr Ewan Coker, Poor People’s Embassy, also addressed the Committee on this issue.