



20. 11. 2003

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

PART A - MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

1. RAINBOW EARLY LEARNING CENTRE - LEASE TO KIDSFIRST

Officer responsible Acting Community Relations Manager	Author Peter Mitchell, DDI 941-8549
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The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to:

- (a) grant a lease to the Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association Inc of the premises at 284 Breezes Road to operate an early learning centre; and
- (b) pay an operational grant of \$26,400 to the Association for the rental of the crèche until 30 June 2006.

BACKGROUND

The Council owns the land and building at 284 Breezes Road which is currently leased to Aranui Wainoni Community Childcare Centres Inc to run the Rainbow Early Learning Centre.

Aranui Wainoni Community Childcare Centres Inc ("the AWCCC Board") has now directed to close the Rainbow ELC from 21 November 2003. The AWCCC Board's other centre, E tipu e Rea Early Learning Centre, run from Aranui High School, will continue in operation and is unaffected by the closure of the Rainbow ELC.

The AWCCC Board, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, sought alternative providers to enable the centre to continue providing services in the Aranui Wainoni community. The AWCCC Board has now accepted a draft proposal from the Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association Inc, trading as Kidsfirst, to operate the centre commencing on Monday 24 November 2003. Kidsfirst will arrange for the appointment of staff and it is anticipated that the operating hours and fees would be the same as they currently are. Kidsfirst intend to continue to operate the centre as a full-time day care facility, and not as a kindergarten. This is the first time in Christchurch that Kidsfirst has operated a daycare centre.

The Council has a lease with the AWCCC Board until 30 June 2010 with an annual rental of \$26,400 plus GST. That rental is paid by way of the Council making a grant to the AWCCC Board and the AWCCC Board paying the rental from that grant.

KIDSFIRST PROPOSAL

Kidsfirst seek to obtain a new lease from the Council with the same expiry date and with the same financial arrangement regarding the payment of the rent all with the AWCCC Board. In a letter to the Council Kidsfirst advises that its preliminary budget for operating the Rainbow Creche is based on the availability of the full amount of the current Council operational grant and without that grant being available and without a commitment for the grant being available for a three year period, then Kidsfirst will not proceed with the project.

The Council allocates these operational grants three yearly and the next allocation commences on 1 July 2006. The rental for the crèche is paid up to 28 February 2004.

Consequently, at this time Kidsfirst is seeking from the Council the balance of the three yearly operational grant allocation to 30 June 2006.

CCC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STRATEGY

The Council's 2001 Early Childhood Education Strategy sets out its Early Childhood Education Policy and a strategy for implementing that policy.

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The Policy states:

"The Christchurch City Council is committed to proactively promoting equitable access of all children and their family/whanau to quality early childhood education in Christchurch. Priority will be given to the least advantaged and those with special needs or abilities."

The strategy implementing that policy has as an objective:

"To provide financial assistance for not-for-profit early childhood education services, with priority for those serving the least advantaged, where the need for both the service and the assistance is proven, using the guidelines outlined below."

The eligibility criteria for funding from the Council is:

- The organisation operates on a not-for-profit basis.
- Is recognised by the Ministry of Education.
- It can demonstrate there are no other options for assistance and funding from the Ministry of Education or user charges etc.

Selection criteria include:

- Large population of pre-school children.
- Lack of appropriate early childhood education services.
- Low socio-economic status.
- Particular cultural needs not currently being served.

All of those eligibility criteria and selection criteria were considered by the Council to be met in its decision to make the grant to the Aranui Wainoni Community Childcare Centres Inc and the same eligibility criteria and selection criteria would be equally applicable to the Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association. That organisation, as with the Aranui Wainoni Community Childcare Centres Inc, is an incorporated society and therefore a not-for-profit organisation.

Officers believe, as does the Ministry of Education, that the Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association Inc proposal to take over the running of the Rainbow ELC is the best opportunity for the continuation of childcare facilities in this part of Christchurch and the proposal should be supported by the Council.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council accept the surrender of the lease dated 11 November 2002 with the Aranui Wainoni Community Childcare Centres Inc of the premises at 284 Breezes Road as from 21 November 2003.
 2. That the Council grant a lease to the Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association Inc of the premises at 284 Breezes Road commencing on 24 November 2003 for the operation of a early childhood education facility on the same rental as the lease dated 11 November 2002, and generally on the same terms as the 2002 lease.
 3. That the Council make an operational grant to the Canterbury Westland Free Kindergarten Association Inc of \$26,400 per year until 30 June 2006.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.

CONSIDERED THIS 20TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2003

MAYOR