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Christchurch City Council.**Submission****May 4 2004****Draft****Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14****Gary L Watts***Project Manager**Slgjaws**C/- 2a Camden St**Redwood**Christchurch 5***Ph/fax (03)352-0441****Email whats45@paradise.net.nz**

The document, outlining information, indicating, a future ten year of operations for the Council, is comprehensive and very descriptive.

However, it lacks considerable depth, in quality standards, regarding an, on going, commitment, for providing, assistance to people in the community of Christchurch, who are, severely, disadvantaged.

I am referring to and including the disabled¹ community, living in Christchurch. I believe this would include information, outlined in, pages 26/27 of the publication, explained as "Summary of Community Outcomes"

In 2001, a detailed consultation project, was conducted by the Council, requesting appropriate information, concerning people with disabilities, within Christchurch. The purposes of this particular subject, was to complete a specific policy, indicating the Councils, obligation, in providing, assistance, for people with disabilities²

Many, people with disabilities, were consulted, by a method of a survey and a comprehensive analysis, of information, was produced.

This information, clearly outlined, the concerns in the disabled community of Christchurch, regarding the Councils lack of obligations, because of misunderstanding, towards issues, affecting people with disabilities.

¹ A person with a disability is a person with a physical, intellectual, sensory, or age-related disability or mental illness (or combination of these) who faces barriers in the social and physical environment that prevent them from fully participating and contributing to community life.

² Those representing people with physical, intellectual, sensory, age-related disabilities, visual impairments, blindness, the deaf community and mental health needs. Also representatives such as family members, staff of service providers and other external expertise.

The "Policy on Equity and Access for People with Disabilities" was formally agreed, by this Council, in 2001, and adopted in principle, in, 2002

The financial, budget, for implementing this policy, was agreed, upon, despite concerns of the disabled community.

Apparently the figure mentioned \$20,000 was considered a suitable figure, instead of the proposed \$70,000

In fact a great deal of disappointment, frustration and personal dissatisfaction was expressed, over this exercise, by many disabled people whom, contributed a huge amount for this process.

This is mainly, because the Council has refused to address the concerns of people with disabilities.

The contributors, had offered there own personal (voluntary) time, expense and considerable effort, to enable participation, in this issue.

Only a few of the original, suggested strategies have been eventually adopted..

In fact one, only a month ago. (reference groups)

The goals mentioned in this Policy, to my knowledge, have never been fully, achieved.

I consider this a public disgrace for this Council and definitely, confirm a direct lack of accountability, within the structures of internal power, governing our great City, of Christchurch.

Obviously, a lack of confidence, regarding the council's misunderstanding, of disability issues currently, exists, within the local community.

Producing a document, (Draft plan) which, omits to provide clear evidence, of disability issues, has produced a feeling of intense anxiety and lack of confidence, of your Council.

We (people with disabilities) require comprehensive knowledge or evidence of your ongoing commitment to provide assistance.

Obviously, this requires some clear evidence by reference of information, within this draft plan.

This would surely, obtain an increased amount of respect, and loyalty, from people (living in Christchurch) whom are severely disadvantaged, including people with disabilities, towards the Christchurch City Council.

I wish you well, for the forthcoming 10 years.

I wish to make the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Tuesday 1 June and Friday June 2004-05-04

Thanks.

Gary L Watts :

G L Watts

Date:

4/5/04