

Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 6 May 2004

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings.

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Your Submission:

On behalf of the Dean and Chapter, I am delighted that the City Council has included in the Community Grants Budget of the Council's Long term Community Plan, an annual grant of \$240,000 for a period of three years towards the costs associated with the cathedral's availability as a visitor attraction and icon of the city, with such assistance to be reviewed at the end of three years..

Councillors have copies of the submission that I made on behalf of the Cathedral to the Strategy and Resources Committee in December 2003, and the report made by Bob Lineham to the Annual Plan Committee.

I simply want to emphasise the importance that this funding is in enabling us to play the role that we do in the city and broader community. We are delighted to have this responsibility.

We are working hard with the small full time staff that we have, and the significant number of volunteers who support this role, to enhance the experience of visitors. We also are very happy to continue to offer and respond to the many opportunities to be a focus for the city's civic celebrations, commemorations, community events and discussions. Our relationship with the City Council and with other community groups is most positive and enabling.

The development of the partnership we have with the other venues of the cultural precinct is also extremely important to us, and I am very glad that the Council is supporting the initiatives that we as a group are taking.

As well as all the above, the grant will enable us to address issues related to the care of the fabric of the Cathedral. I look forward to further discussions with the Council's Heritage Team as we develop a conservation and management plan for the building.

This funding is vital if we are to continue effectively. Entry to the Cathedral must always be free, and the opportunities for our visitors to contribute need to be appropriate and clearly add value to their experience.

I therefore respectfully make this submission in support of the grant to the Cathedral and ask that my submission be heard.