

Our Community Plan Submission - Received by Email

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I do NOT wish to make a personal submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered.

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Sent: Tue 4/05/2004 13:03

Your Submission: ***Submission Form Long Term Council Community Plan***

On reading the Long Term Council Community Plan a number of re-occurring themes became apparent. Alister James states in his introduction that the point of local government is to "promote the social economic, environmental and cultural well-being for our communities in the present and for the future" (vol. 1, pg 5).

The Council is to be commended for it's commitment to the people and the development of "strong and inclusive communities" to ensure that "our people have the knowledge and skills needed to participate in society and value life-long learning" (vol. 1 pg25). The Council in this plan, recognises the support that non-profit organisations "whose activities are seen to benefit the community," give to the citizens of Christchurch. A strong emphasis is on "activities and programmes which are designed to bring people together and reduce isolation" (vol. 1 pg43).

The OSCAR (Out of School Care And Recreation) Network is an example of such an organisation. Set up to reduce the isolation of individual OSCAR programme staff and volunteer management committees, the OSCAR Network continues to provide support, advice and opportunities for programme personnel to meet, discuss issues and challenges, gain work related skills, share information and energy, recognising that there are multiple benefits in being involved in OSCAR;

- As part of a community group links and connections are made for adults and children, learning about their community, having a commitment to and a sense of belonging to their local environment.
- Children in OSCAR have the opportunity to enjoy a range of recreational activities and become familiar with their city.
- Children learn and develop a wide range of life-long skills that range from self-care, conflict resolution and mediation, to recreational and leadership skills.
- Children in OSCAR have the opportunities to work and play with adult role models who interact with their peers, children and whanau in positive ways.
- OSCAR supports the community by providing a safe, fun environment where children aged 5-13 years can be involved, occupied and active and valued by others during their out of school hours. Parents may be in employment or training – an OSCAR environment ensures peace of mind for children and families and works towards providing a practical solution to the 'Home Alone' problem.
- OSCAR itself provides job opportunities. The sector employs growing numbers of motivated adults, both young and old.

**Your Submission
(Cont'd):**

The OSCAR Network is appreciative of the support provided by Christchurch City Council for both the services it provides and the contribution of OSCAR programmes themselves, to the well-being of future adults. Ongoing support contributes to the future of the city, making sure it's citizens are active and healthy emotionally, economically and culturally.