

Christchurch City Council Community Plan Submission

- ❖ Below is a written submission on behalf of the Pacific Community here in Christchurch.
- ❖ I would also like to present an oral submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006.
- ❖ I'm completing this submission on behalf of the Christchurch Pacific Communities.
- ❖ We represent about 8,000 Pacific people within the Christchurch community.

My submission refers to:

Page No 8 – Services and activities' reductions proposed

Second bullet point:

“Rationalise community libraries (closing Redwood, Bishopdale and Sreydon) saving up to \$450,000”

- ❖ A lot of our people in the areas mentioned above, have financial difficulty travelling from their abode to the Public Library. They know the local librarians and their children go there after school before being picked up by the parents.
- ❖ Money saved from closing down these libraries doesn't appear to be much at all (\$450,000) compared to the current and future benefits families young and old enjoy from utilising these libraries.

First bullet point on the right hand side

“Close Sockburn pool: Saving \$130,000. This ageing asset has high operational costs. In 2004/05, the pool had only 23,000 users”:

Pacific community view (directly from the community)

- ❖ Sockburn Pool – The City Council should not close Sockburn Pool as it is our only form of family outing that is available to families in Sockburn and Upper Riccarton. Sockburn Pool is ideal as it is an outdoor pool and has a BBQ area, a volleyball area and an area where families can lie in the sun while their children run around. A lot of families look forward to the summer days when they can just walk down to Sockburn pool for a fun day out. This brings up the issue of travel if we have to use other swimming pools. Bus fares and petrol have increased and this will be a barrier for families in the low socio economic ladder.
- ❖ Pacific churches have also used the indoor spas for baptism ceremonies. A lot of Pacific Christians in small sized church fellowships do not have the means to have pools like other established churches therefore rely heavily on the indoor spa pools.
- ❖ Riccarton Library was opened this year and it is hoped that we're not losing the swimming pool in place of the library. We are all aware of the benefits of having a library but how many children would go and sit in the library during

the summer season, rather than a swim in the pools. Why can't children in the Sockburn/Riccarton area enjoy both facilities?

- ❖ Summing up the cost of closure of different pools and libraries amounts to \$1.3m, compared to \$132.5 million (page 4 of the summary) proposed spending Banks Peninsula, and \$59.2 to new bus exchange (page 4 of the summary) to name a few.
- ❖ The document refers to these assets (pools) as high operational costs and "only 23,000 users in 2004/05. Has the Council looked at the type of users who utilise the facilities, for instance, their socio economic background, the geographical factors these users face. The number of users may be relatively low, but it may be a totally different story when we approach these rationales from a "need" basis instead of relying heavily on absolute figures.

Below are initiatives that were not in the Community Plan however the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs would like to provide a submission on.

Aranui Learning Centre

- ❖ Aranui area has a high concentration of the Pacific communities. Most of the families in this area are also on the low socio economic ladder. These families struggle to send their children to other learning centres such as the one in Fendalton for a number of reasons. Finance, transport, parents working shifts hours, unfamiliarity with other centres/areas are a few of the key barriers.
- ❖ Learning Centre in Aranui would most definitely help the Pacific communities in the area to use and it would positively contribute to changing their mindset, that learning is for everyone, and not necessarily for those who have the money.

RAPU/CDC Funding

- ❖ Canterbury Development Corporation's (CDC) budget had been reduced by Christchurch City Council (CCC) by about \$350,000 per annum. About \$350,000 happens to be the same amount of money it takes to keep RAPU running. MPIA understands from CCC and CDC that due to budget constraints, expenditure for CDC had to be trimmed and it appears that Pacific and Maori are the most vulnerable. A protocol agreement between CCC, CDC and MPIA was signed at the end of last year to ensure these organisations are responsive to Pacific issues. Youth is one of the most important issues for Pacific in the region
- ❖ MPIA is highly supportive of RAPU due mainly to its customised approach to Pacific youth. This initiative is perhaps the only one of its kind which has a customised approach to improving the outcomes for a section of Pacific Youth that has traditionally disappeared from the radar. MPIA is of the view that with genuine commitment from Senior Management of CDC to such an initiative could well be an example for other regions to follow, but CDC needs to drive this from CEO level to guarantee quality delivery and outcomes.

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