

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Name: | Faye Blakemore / OSCAR Network in Christchurch |
| Address: | Christchurch Community House, 141 Hereford Street, Christchurch |
| Telephone: | 03 379 3915 |
| Email: | manager@oscarnetwork.org.nz |
| Date: | 26/4/06 |

We would also like to make a personal submission at the hearing.

WHO ARE WE

The OSCAR network is a support training and resource agency to a membership of over 100 providers. Most of these are community-based non-profit out of school care and recreation programmes catering for well over 1,000 children daily.

OUR HISTORY

The partnership between the OSCAR Network and the Christchurch City Council was forged when our expertise in this area was acknowledged by council and the idea of a 'one stop shop' be provided to support the families in our city. This has proved successful with a consistent, high quality, up to date and reliable service.

OUR PRIMARY CONCERN

While we acknowledge the LTCCP looks good we would like to state that we would strongly oppose any cutting of finances to the not-for-profit community sector.

OUR VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

- The OSCAR Network assists individual Not-for-Profit programmes to provide **quality service**. Our service is utilized by over 60 Not-For-Profit OSCAR programmes within Christchurch City boundaries.
- All OSCAR programmes must gain CYFS approval for funding purposes. As this process is **lengthy and complex** we work to ensure that providers know what is expected and assist them in the process.
- While the Ministry of Social Development contract provides for one annual visit to programmes, the Christchurch City contract enables the OSCAR Network to provide in depth support such as: -

- Ongoing visits to programmes, staff and management.
- Training sessions for staff, management and volunteers.
- Developing resources
- Quarterly newsletter.

Without this support, the Council's Strategic Plan would not be effectively implemented for Christchurch families and communities.

- The OSCAR Network is proactive in understanding the diverse needs of communities, families and children within Canterbury. We are in the process of developing closer relationships with ethnic minority groups.
- The OSCAR sector is diverse, valued and celebrated by the communities.
 - ◆ A safe environment is provided for the children that redirect them from potential problem activities to creative leisure and recreational options. **The safety of neighbourhoods and schools can be positively affected** if OSCAR programmes are run within the local community.
 - ◆ The sector assists in long-term employment and or educational prospects through the provision of OSCAR programmes. This has a big impact on **child poverty**, plus the fact that **healthy families contribute to the community**.
 - ◆ Programmes value the support and training of the OSCAR Network. This assists in the successful and diversity of the sector.
 - ◆ Positive and **healthy nutrition** is encouraged.
 - ◆ Constructive opportunity for children to use their leisure time creativity in a caring and positive environment. This encourages children to **actively participate** in physical and sporting activities.

CRITICAL POINTS

1. **We are THE VITAL SERVICE that supports quality out of school care and recreation.**
2. **It is crucial that the council continues to provide and keep on providing the current level of funding.**

Faye Blakemore

Faye E. Blakemore

Manager

OSCAR Network in Christchurch