

PEETO The Multi Cultural Learning Centre

PO Box 13-380, 1st Floor, 201 Peterborough St,

Christchurch, New Zealand

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5 May 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a submission for the Long Term Council Community Plan from **PEETO, The Multi Cultural Learning Centre.**

As indicated we request the opportunity to speak to the submission.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick O'Connor
DIRECTOR

Summary submission form

Instructions

You may send us your submission...

Please read before completing your submission

It will help us process your submission if you clearly state the issue you want the Council to consider, what specific action you think the Council should take, and why that should be done.

If you wish, you can present your submission at a hearing. (If that is the case, please tick the box). The hearings will be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006. Generally, 10 minutes are allocated for hearing each submission, including time for questions.

It will help us if your submission also refers to the page of either the full version or the summary version.

Please note: we are legally required to make all written or electronic submissions available to Councillors and to the public. This includes the name and address of the submitter. All submissions will be published on the Council's website from 10 May 2006.

No anonymous submissions will be accepted.

By mail

Please mail your submission (no stamp is required) to:

Freepost 178
Our Community Plan
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8003

By email

Please email your submission to:
ccc-plan@ccc.govt.nz
Please make sure that your full name and address is included with your submission.

On the internet

You may enter your submission using the form provided on the Council's web site at
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>
Please follow all the instructions on the web site.

Please remember to indicate if you wish to present your submission in person at one of the hearings.

Please ensure your submission arrives no later than Friday 5 May 2006.

Your submission

You may use this form for your submission on the draft Our Community Plan if you wish. Whether you use this form or not, please include your name, address and contact telephone number with your submission.

Tick one I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered
OR
 I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006

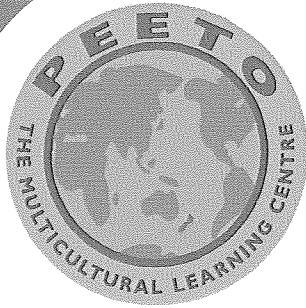
Are you completing this submission: For yourself On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent? 200

My submission refers to: Full version various Page No. Summary version Page No.

Do you also want to respond to: Development Contributions Aquatic Facilities Other

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LTCCP Submission – Community Support. Category.

From: **PEETO, The Multi Cultural Learning Centre**
- Director: Patrick O'Connor

Issues

To promote cultural diversity in Christchurch via a range of measures.

Action(s)

1. to **invest** in the existing **Refugee and Migrant Centre** and its expansion to include more agencies, local government and central government
2. to explore the concept of “**Everybody’s Cultural Centre**” – one of 4 recommendations resulting from a Council funded project to research strategies to promote diversity in Christchurch

The Everybody’s Cultural Centre concept includes:

- a a centre (a renovated existing or purpose built facility) which acknowledges, and celebrates the inherent beauty of **all** cultures and ethnicities
- b a centre with facilities to host a variety of activities including
 - an interactive I.T facility for students, the public, tourists etc to explore the city and New Zealand’s migration history
 - space for relevant exhibitions
 - space for meetings
 - space for celebrations
 - space for food & drink refreshments (a café)

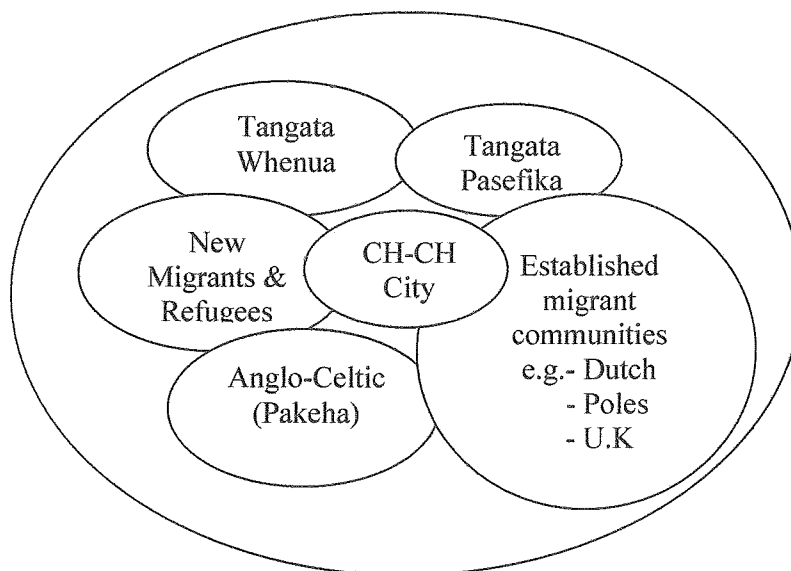
Note:

Extensive research has already been undertaken (council funded) on both the above concepts, both of which may be able to be incorporated on one site.

3. to strengthen CCC commitment to diversity via

- further CCC staff appointments
- further investment in the Refugee and Migrant Centre
- the formulation of a “city immigration policy”
- the active promotion of and employment of an ethnically diverse CCC staff workforce
- a significant increase in multi-lingual information on council processes. Civil defence information access to services etc etc
- a pro-active initiative re **Export Education** (worth \$503 Million to the city in 2003) greatly reduced now. The ratepayer investment for this return in 2003 was about \$150, 000.00. Investment in this industry is badly needed. The city is operating way below potential.
- Greater liaison (joint projects) with central government
- Investment into research about “best practice” in international models especially Australia (Melbourne) to avoid “reinventing the wheel” whilst preserving and exploring an indigenous model – with reference to the Tangata Whenua, but also crucially, well established and emerging ethnic communities.

The model could be:



Why

Such a pro-active approach will recognise:

- That (according to 2001 Census – which will change once 2006 Census figures are released) 168 ethnicities dwell in Christchurch

- That bi-cultural and multi-cultural issues have
 - a Moved on significantly
 - b Been much more significantly recognised
 - c Emerged as having
 - i. Potential for a bright, vibrant, dynamic community evolving
 - ii. Potential for positive race relations/issues
- That (via Wuhan/Seattle etc) the potential exists for little (big) old Christchurch to make an international impact with huge benefits for our citizens
- That we are a city on the move
 - no longer are we a mono-cultural backwater
 - truly international
 - genuinely multi-cultural
 - able to take the blinkers off

Financial investment and policy development will ensure Christchurch not only remains astride of the evolving realities of cultural diversity and the “global village” but is committed to the pro-active pursuit and exploration of a model and reality that can and will ensure the quality of life of all citizens.

Contributions to Outcomes

Genuine, informed, strategic, consultative, investment, planning, research policy formulation and practical implementation in a comprehensive and focussed city diversity programme will:

- a recognise the reality of city demographics
- b provide intelligent, pro-active: ideas to respond to the challenges
- c render the city a sought after destination for newcomers
- d help to ensure racial harmony via the juxto-position of all the components of ideal integration

In terms of **contributions to outcomes** the following are our submissions:

1 Safety

A harmonious multi-cultural society is clearly a place that is safe. Christchurch is hugely multi-cultural without, (despite, misguided North Island generated propaganda) an insidious presence of racial disharmony or racism. An inclusive, consultative council culture will ensure the safety imperative is achieved.

2 Community

With a predominant Anglo-Celtic and Maori base culture, the fact that 168 plus cultures/ethnicities now dwell in Christchurch graphically demonstrates that civic initiatives by elected representatives and appointed employees can, via cohesive policy and implementation thereof, achieve a **community** that is eclectic, diverse, and vibrant.

3 Governance

Empowerment/enfranchisement of ethnic minorities, via coherent council policy, will ensure that a diverse range of people representing various communities will emerge as leaders, contributors, role models, movers and shakers etc 'in an evolving multi-ethnic community' Representatives of the governance of the City should reflect the demographic realities of our citizenship.

4 Prosperity

Collectively as a city we will prosper if all members contribute to our growth. This can only occur if people (all cultures) are **equipped** to contribute. Innovative (local – central government) schemes, programmes and initiatives are needed to

- a Respond to who is here now
- b Create a profile of whom we wish to attract

New communities/individuals bring many ideas – there needs to be a flexible, dynamic, less red tape, culture and structure to invite, support and promote the x factor that newcomers bring.

5 Health

Health is a broad word. It incorporates

- mental health
- physical health
- emotional health
- intellectual health
- community health
- social health
- family health
- personal health
- civic health
- etc etc

With respect to ethnic diversity, our city needs to respond via the recognition that our demographic is multi-dimensional, and that within such a characteristic there exists many variations. To ensure that such complexity is recognised and responded to requires intelligent CCC analysis, policy formulation and project implementation, in **partnership** with a variety of agencies.

There is a need to evolve from the (largely discredited notion) of **assimilation** to the culture of **integration**

Assimilation is based on identifying a universal culture always weighted in terms of the current dominant culture.

Integration stresses the celebration of both similarities **and** difference (culturally) and makes no assumptions/generalizations about culture.

Optimum community/ civic health can be achieved when it is widely recognised that the journey to such an ideal necessarily involves:

- learning/listening
- policy development and implementation

- flexibility
- consultation with new communities
- broad ranging think tanks
- civic investment – based on realistic cost analysis
- translation/interpretation always/everywhere

In conclusion, Christchurch has a huge opportunity to further develop a formula for cultural diversity which can be a national and indeed international model about which we can collectively be proud.

Thank you,



Patrick O'Connor
DIRECTOR
PEETO, The Multi Cultural Learning Centre