

Submission to the Christchurch City Council on the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan – LTCCP

Introduction

The Women's Centre is a community organisation, which has been operating since 1986. The Centre is unique in Christchurch in the broad range of information and services it provides, in a safe, supportive, affirming, women-only environment. The Women's Centre works with and for the well-being of all women, by assisting, supporting and encouraging them to make informed choices in their lives. The Centre is committed to a future based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The Centre has over 5,000 client contacts per year.

The Centre is staffed by a Manager and a Centre Worker, a paid counsellor, three volunteer counsellors, plus seven unpaid, trained Support Workers. The Centre is governed by a voluntary board, with members employed in the social and the health sector and the university administration.

Discussion

We are glad to see that the Council wants "Strong and inclusive communities and opportunities to meet and socialize" and includes the following ways to achieve that:

- By giving advice and support to community groups.
- By providing funding that community groups can apply for.

(Draft summary page 10.)

Our concern is that the costs indicated for the first three years of the plan don't show consideration for the rising costs that community organisations are faced with. All the providers of the ways mentioned to achieve "strong and inclusive communities" will be faced with higher costs of the coming years, especially in property rental (e.g. because of substantial increase of rates!) and power, and in the general price rises that are the result of the increasing fuel prices (e.g. bus fares for volunteers).

Recommendations

- That the proposed amount of funding for "Community Support" mentioned in the draft LTCCP will at least come through in the final plan.
- That, at best, the increase in costs that service providers will be faced with in the coming years is reflected by an increase in funding made available for the Community Sector.

The Women's Centre does not wish to present our submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered.

Ardas Trebus, Manager

Women's Centre Incorporated
Level 2, 134 Manchester Street
PO Box 13 476, Armagh Street
Christchurch

Phone 379 7047 (day) 981 4034 (evening)
support@womenscentre.co.nz