

## Volunteering Canterbury

4 May 2006

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

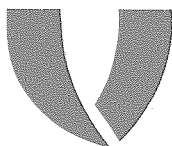
Dear Friends

Enclosed is our submission to the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan.

We wish to speak to the main points in our submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Gardner  
Manager



## Volunteering Canterbury

### Submission to the Christchurch City Council on the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan – LTCCP 2006

N.B. For the purpose of clarity the term Voluntary Sector will be used throughout this submission to describe what is variously called the Community or Community Sector, the Non Government or NGO Sector, or the Not-for Profit Sector.

#### Introduction

Volunteering Canterbury is an Incorporated Charitable Trust which has been operating since September 1988. The purpose of Volunteering Canterbury is to promote, support and uphold the integrity of voluntary work with commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Volunteering Canterbury supports all volunteering – in whanau/hapu/iwi, in the voluntary (third) sector, the government (public) sector (local, regional and central), the commercial (private) sector and the household sector. This support is essential in upholding the integrity of voluntary work done informally as well as formally.

#### Observations

1. Voluntary work and Voluntary Sector organisations contribute immeasurably to the social fabric and the general wellbeing of the citizens of Christchurch by providing a wide range of essential services and offering opportunities for participation. In the main, the recipients of these services are the city's most vulnerable people.
2. Voluntary Canterbury acknowledges that Christchurch City Council has made a commitment to maintaining financial assistance to the Voluntary Sector.
3. Volunteering Canterbury notes the strategic activities included in the LTCCP for Community Support and acknowledges the Council's intention to develop a Community Development Strategy to facilitate its involvement with the Voluntary Sector.

## Recommendations

1 We are concerned at the absence of reference to volunteering in the LTCCP, and recommend that the City Council develop a policy based on their already agreed adoption of the definition of volunteering used by Volunteering Canterbury.

*[Our submission to CCC Long Term Council Community Plan made in May 2004 said:*

*"This submission.....*

*Asks that the City Council formally adopts our definition of Voluntary Work, viz: Voluntary Work is done of one's own free will, unpaid, for the common good. Aroha ki te Takata a Rohe"*

*We received a letter dated 28 July 2004 from Julie Sadler, Committee Secretary which says:*

*"With regard to the specific issues raised in your submission I have been requested by the Council to advise you as follows:*

*.....*

*The suggested definition of volunteering has been adopted. The only exception will be where staff are reporting on data collected by other agencies which may from time to time use a different definition."*

2 We call on the City Council to use the term Voluntary Sector to describe what is variously called the Community or Community Sector, the Non Government or NGO Sector, or the Not-for Profit Sector.

3 Volunteering Canterbury notes that the LTCCP's view of the Council's association with the sector is somewhat at variance with the view held by the sector itself, (P 97 Full Version, **How does the Council's work contribute towards our Community Outcomes?**) It states:

*1 By working with community organisations to help them support their communities, and*

*2 By providing funding and staff advice to community organisations.*

Volunteering Canterbury believes that the nature of the Voluntary Sector's relationship with the Council is somewhat more symbiotic/interdependent in nature than that expressed in the LTCCP and that to achieve the best possible outcomes for the city, neither the Council nor the Voluntary Sector can do without the other. We recommend that the wording in the LTCCP document is amended to reflect appropriately the interdependent nature of the relationship between the Christchurch City Council and the Voluntary Sector.

4 We note that Voluntary work, and its contribution to social fabric and strength of our communities is not mentioned in the LTCCP and ask that it be acknowledged.

5 We recommend that the proposed amount of funding to be made available to the Voluntary Sector in the Draft LTCCP be maintained in the final plan.

6 In order to clarify its relationship with the Voluntary Sector, the Christchurch City Council, in consultation with the Voluntary Sector, should develop a policy statement outlining its relationship with the sector. The policy needs to recognise the importance of seeking advice as well as providing advice which is the current emphasis.

7 We affirm the decision to have a review of the Community development Strategy and ask that, as part of this review, all the \$9.05 million Community development funding be considered.

8 We submit that the Council's vision should more directly reflect the intent of the Local Government Act 2002 which states that the purpose of the Council is to promote the well-being of our communities.

Volunteering Canterbury wishes to speak in support of this submission.

This submission has also been submitted electronically.



Ruth Gardner  
Manager

for  
Jan Harrison  
Chair  
Volunteering Canterbury

Mgr/Data/Ruth/CCC LTCCP VC Submission 03.05.06