

I wish to talk to the main points in my submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006.

**\*Are you completing this submission:**

On behalf of a group or organisation

**If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent? 12**

**\*My submission refers to:**

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**Do you also want to respond to:**  Aquatic Facilities

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This is a submission to the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan. This submission is being made by Inner City South East Youth workers (ICSEY). ICSEY is made up of youth workers based within the Hagley Ferrymead ward who meet on a monthly basis to discuss local issues for local young people. To contact this group, please call either Hamish Flynn on 021 057 0536 or Tania Smith on 381 8619.

ICSEY feel that youth work agencies seldom respond through submissions and that this has often been to the detriment of youth work in our city and nation. We feel that it is a privilege to be able to convey some of our ideas towards the direction of the city.

The first three points (a-c) within this submission all directly relate to Council Activities and Services, and more specifically the area of Community Support (p. 96-101). The final point (d) relates to Capital Works programme, specifically the new leisure centres discussed within 'Discretionary projects: priority.' (p. 73 & p. 134). The full draft Long Term Council Community Plan document was used for this submission.

**a: Longevity of Funding – p. 101**

ICSEY feels that committed long term funding would be of major benefit to the city as this would enable community organizations more time to focus on their core tasks of working with their target groups. Youth workers, our volunteers, our agencies, our supporters in the community and the young people themselves would be more inclined to invest themselves, their time, energy and money into projects that they know will be there in 3-5 years. Youth work is about building relationships and good relationships take time.

The funding allocated through both Community Grants and Community Support does not cover cost of living increases, particularly from 2010 onwards. This does not bode well for commitment to ongoing long term community based organizations. Young people are looking for stability and ownership. It is therefore imperative that community based projects are there for the long haul.

With many principal funders of youth work putting less into organizations and the funding continuing to be spread thinner and thinner, we are concerned for the future. Salaries are extremely low in this area and stay static for long periods of time whilst workloads are ever increasing. We would like to see focused long term spending on organizations doing frontline youth work within their communities.

**b: Community Ownership – p. 97**

ICSEY supports the Council view of communities taking responsibility for themselves – with the understanding that adequately funding organizations and programmes is vital for this responsibility to be sustainable and effective.

It is imperative that ownership remains within the community itself and not with Council.

**c: Funding of communities groups that link young people into their local communities – p. 97**

ICSEY supports the Council focus on communities and believe that strong community groups are the key for building relationships with young people effectively. This view is supported by research in the 'Youth Development literature review' compiled by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and is also a foundation of the Ministry's 'Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa'. We would like to see an even greater focus on local community groups and activities, thereby encouraging young people to stay connected to their own community and encouraging them to stay away from the inner city.

**d: New Leisure Centres – p. 134**

ICSEY notes that the Eastern city area is allocated to have an aquatic facility in 2017-2020. Whilst we do not wish to deny other areas of the city access to aquatic facilities we feel that Linwood had a stronger case than the Papanui facility. This belief is based on:

- Linwood is a high deprivation area with little access to affordable aquatic facilities, therefore a local facility could have the greatest impact on people with the greatest need.
- Linwood is a key transport hub with people from the city, Sumner and beyond who come through this hub. 7 different bus routes pass through this hub, second only to Central Bus Exchange. Use of public transport will also increase with the rising petrol costs.
- Dense inner city development is occurring in Linwood and with this comes an increasing population.
- An appropriate site within Linwood Park has been identified and partnerships with the Library, Eastgate Mall and local businesses are being forged.

With this in mind we request that the time frame for the Eastern aquatic facility be re-considered and brought forward.