



WHAREORA HOUSE OF LIFE TRUST

Incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957

SPREYDON COMMUNITY HOUSE

8 Athelstan Street, Christchurch 8002

May 1, 2006

Submission on the Draft Christchurch City Council Community Plan 2006

This submission is presented by:

The Whareora House of Life Trust Board which is responsible for the **Spreydon Community House (Whareora House of Life)** situated at 8 Athelstan St, Spreydon, Christchurch 8002.

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Whareora House of Life Trust Board Secretary

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The Board does not wish to present the submission at the hearing and asks that this written submission be considered.

This submission has been approved by the Whareora House of Life Trust Board (8 members) and takes into consideration the views of the house volunteers (24 people), casual visitors to the house (50-60 per week) and members of regular house groups (30-40 per week).

The submission addresses issues related to Question 2, P 24 on the Summary Submission form and in particular refers to the Draft Summary Page 1 comments on Christchurch today and Page 7 Providing strong communities as they are affected by Page 8 Proposals to save money on services, P 10 Community Support and Page 11 Cultural and Learning Services.

The summary draft plan states on Page 1 that:

Christchurch's population is expected to grow by another 16% in the period to 2026 and also that;

Christchurch has an ageing population – by 2016 the elderly (65 years and over) will outnumber children (under 15 years);

On Page 6 under Community Outcomes these statements are made.

All people feel a sense of belonging and participate in the community.

Our city is built on strong communities. ...

Everybody is able to participate, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Then on Page 7 under Strategic Directions some of the following points are made:

STRONG COMMUNITIES

- *Increase involvement in lifelong learning;*
- *Encourage healthy and active lifestyles;*

LIVEABLE CITY

Lead urban development which balances the needs of people and the environment.

The Spreydon Community House (Whareora House of Life) provides services for the increasing number of senior citizens in the Barrington - Spreydon area. Local surveys have shown that the percentage of senior citizens (i.e. 65 and over) in this area is higher than the average for the greater Christchurch area. Page 1 also indicates that the percentage of senior citizens in the community is likely to rise significantly by 2016.

Many of the people who visit Whareora are in the 70+ age group and although they are still active they no longer drive cars and access local services on foot, use mobility scooters or public transport. This group relies on facilities being available in local communities. Even those senior citizens who do drive and can visit facilities citywide are becoming reluctant to do so because of increasing fuel and transport costs. The provision of accessible services locally where people live is extremely important for them to remain independent and concern is expressed every time closures or relocation of services are planned.

This was particularly evident when on Page 8 under proposed reduction of services it was suggested that closing the Redwood, Bishopdale and Spreydon Libraries would save up to \$450,000. Senior citizens visiting Whareora were very upset and angry that that the closure of the Spreydon library was planned in spite of undertakings by the Council that this would not happen when the Christchurch South Library was built. For them visiting another library would require a double bus trip or one bus journey followed by a considerable walk carrying heavy books. People were quick to sign petitions for the retention of the local libraries pointing out that \$450,000 is only a small saving compared to the proposed spending of \$17.2 million on tree renewal. (Page 4 – Essential Projects)

If the Council is to honour the stated objectives under Community in the Vision for our Future Christchurch Page 6, of encouraging strong communities and enabling people to participate in the community especially those who are most vulnerable then it is essential that local facilities should be retained wherever possible. Thus the Whareora Trust Board recommends retaining the suburban libraries and the mobile library and targeted consultation with local communities before reducing other facilities e.g. community halls and payment agencies.



C M Brown – Secretary, Whareora House of Life Trust Board