

LTCCP 2006-16 Submission - Received by Email

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CC:

Sent: Fri 5/05/2006 00:11

Your Submission:

Individual submission relating to proposal to Cut Library Services on pg 86 of the full LTCCP

LTTCP SUBMISSION ON LIBRARY CLOSURES.

This submission is for the removal of the proposal to close some Christchurch libraries set out on page 86 of the full Draft Long Term Council community plan. Cuts to libraries would cause disproportionate harm in relation to the minute saving on rates.

The Plan lists outcomes which the Council has found the community think important to its well-being. One is A City of Lifelong Learning. This says that desired outcomes are - 'Our learning opportunities help us to participate in the community and the economy. Quality education is available for people of all ages.' Success is when - 'Christchurch people are skilled people. A broad range of learning opportunities is available in Christchurch'. Among progress indicators are 'Numbers of children who have attended early childhood education. Literary and numeracy performance.'

We all understand the enormous importance of getting children to read and enjoy books as the first step to competency in developing the skills essential to success in their future lives. Comprehension, communication skills, computer use, mental flexibility and awareness of the cultural and scientific world all depend on literacy. Books are the most potent tool for building this.

It is most important that people can continue to learn and educate themselves. Being of Ngai Tahu descent I am aware of the place education plays in progress for all peoples. Reading is the gateway to this, promoting literacy was one of the greatest gifts the missionaries brought and access to schooling and further education has been our pathway to success in the modern world.

Nga Tapuwai Hou is the document in the Strategic Directions for Christchurch City Libraries 2002-7 plan which highlights the importance of this link. Among its principles are the need to develop and establish relationships with the community, to encourage and support learning, to improve access to information by creating appropriate resources and services and to make our libraries welcoming places and easy to use.

These are noble sentiments. It is therefore important to defend them and ask why the Christchurch City Council, for very little financial gain, proposes to reduce access to these treasured library services.

Why should some parts of our population be disinherited? Maori, Pakeha, Tangata Whenua or new migrants, all should be able to share the riches and resources our libraries hold, to learn and grow and play their full part in building a multi-cultural New Zealand society we can all be proud of.

Libraries are a treasure. Civic spending on these brings incalculable benefits to Christchurch and the wider community.

Please cancel this very ill-considered proposal.

Signed. Catherine Ann Purcell
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