

2007/08 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 11 May 2007

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 28 May 2007 and Tuesday 5 June 2007.

Are you completing this submission:

On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing, how many people do you represent?

More than 50

Name:

Christine Scrase, Coordinator

Organisation:

Elder Care Canterbury (Presbyterian Support)

Contact Address:

PO Box 13171
44 Bealey Avenue
Christchurch

Daytime Phone:

363 8225 or 366 5472

Evening Phone:

Email:

christines@psusi.org.nz

Date:

10/5/2007

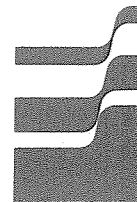
Your Submission:

Please refer to our written letter attached to a hard copy of this covering sheet. We want Council to REJECT a proposal to increase car parking charges at the Hospital Car Park Building.

We want Council to consider the implications of increased charges on older people using hospital services, and to consider alternative actions. We provide justification for our views as well as a number of ideas for consideration.

Elder Care Canterbury

*Working together to integrate and improve
health services for the well-being of
Canterbury's older people*



Presbyterian Support
Upper South Island

10 May 2007

Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch

Draft Annual Plan 2007/08 – Submission Regarding Hospital Car Park Charges

The Elder Care Canterbury Consumer Group wish to make a submission to Christchurch City Council (CCC) to **REJECT** a proposal to increase car parking charges at the Hospital Car Park Building.

Although the draft Annual Plan 2007/08 does not include reference to increasing charges at this site, it was resolved at an Extraordinary Meeting of CCC on Friday 23 February 2007 to increase charges from 1 July 2007 in line with other car parks and Council policy.

We ask Council to consider alternative pricing plans for hospital car park sites. We believe that Council needs to take a more specific, targeted approach, which makes it **less expensive** for older, often less physically able people to access hospital car parking.

We also draw to your attention a discrepancy between the Council's resolution at the 23 February meeting and it's website, which states a "*proposed change to \$2.20 per hour from the end of March 2007*". We ask that this statement be either, withdrawn from Council's website or edited so that it provides the public with accurate information about the proposed increase to charges.

We believe that Council should consider alternative pricing plans for older people accessing hospital car parking sites for the following reasons:

- Car parking is a necessity for most older people using Christchurch Hospital services. Alternatives such as bus transport are generally not an option for older people who may be frail and physically limited. Furthermore, older people using hospital outpatient services cannot simply "be dropped off at the gate", as they need to be physically assisted to appointments e.g. wheelchairs, walking aids etc. Thus, the use of hospital car parking facilities cannot be avoided.
- Even if older people are physically able to use bus services, negotiating the bus exchange can be a confusing and time consuming experience when trying to get to hospital appointments.

Presbyterian Support Upper South Island
44 Bealey Avenue, PO Box 13 171, Christchurch 8031
Telephone (03) 366 5472 Facsimile (03) 379 6235
Website: www.ps.org.nz/uppthersouthisland/

People helping people to help themselves

- Many older users of hospital services are beneficiaries on fixed incomes who will struggle to afford higher parking charges. Furthermore, they are generally high users of hospital services who will be most affected by an increase.
- There are often long waiting times for outpatient appointments resulting in, not only significant parking cost but also a great deal of anxiety for patients

Some specific ideas raised by our group include:

- Allocating certain floors in the car park building to patients only
- Introducing a "high user" card or voucher system to waive parking costs to patients that meet certain criteria. This should include people using the Accident & Emergency department. The system must be **widely advertised** and **easy to obtain**.
- City Council could collaborate with Canterbury District Health Board to include window stickers or car dashboard coupons with outpatient appointment letters. This would allow the patient free or discounted parking for a certain period.
- Setting up designated drop off areas that are sufficiently flexible to accommodate escorts helping people with impaired mobility to appointments.
- Introducing a mini bus shuttle service between the bus exchange and the hospital
- Providing more metered parking in the vicinity of Accident & Emergency and Riverside to accommodate people with limited mobility who find the car park building difficult to negotiate
- Making the "pay and display" machines more user friendly

We request an opportunity to present this submission at a hearing and ask that this written submission be considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully



Christine Scrase

Coordinator, Elder Care Canterbury

On behalf of the Elder Care Canterbury Consumer Group

Based at Presbyterian Support

E-mail: christines@psusi.org.nz

DDI: 363 8225