

**✦ Appendix IX: Summary of the  
Youth Strategy Consultation**



## Introduction

This section is a summary of the consultation with community agencies, government organisations and young people. (See Appendices IV-VIII for details about the consultation method). 'Who said what' is indicated in brackets after each comment and the key to these is on the next page. The information has been presented together rather than in three separate sections. This is to enable all the views on each topic to be read and understood together. The brief comments from young people tend to illustrate and add to the statements of community and government organisations.

An explanation of the meaning of the heading (as established by the Working Party) is given at the start of each section. It is acknowledged that many issues overlap two or more headings and the six sections should be read together to gain an overall picture of the consultation.

## **Key:**

### **Young People:**

**yCCS** = CCS (formerly Crippled Children's Society), **yCncl** = Christchurch Youth Council, **yCorps** = Youth Service Corps, **yEmpl** = Actionworks clients, **yESL** = Secondary School Students with English as a Second Language, **yGLADYS** = GLADYS (Gay, Lesbian Advocacy Youth Services), **yJunSec** = Junior Secondary School Students (Form 4), **yPICncl** = Pacific Island Youth Council, **ySenSec** = Senior Secondary School Students, **yTOP** = YMCA TOPs course, **yUni** = University Students.

### **Community agencies:**

**ACYG** = Association of Canterbury Youth Groups, **CECC** = Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce, **CEIG** = Community Employment Initiatives Group, **ChdFam** = Child and Family Services, **COSS** = Council of Social Services, **CYWC** = Canterbury Youth Workers' Collective, **DPA** = Disabled Persons' Assembly, **EcuYth** = Ecumenical Youth Leaders' Group, **NZAAHD** = New Zealand Association of Adolescent Health and Development, **SaferCC** = Christchurch Safer Community Council, **YMHF** = Youth Mental Health Forum, **SchCouns** = Secondary Schools Counsellors.

### **Government organisations:**

**ALAC** = Alcohol and Liquor Advisory Council, **CEG** = Community Employment Group, **ComChn** = Office of Commissioner for Children, **ComCorr** = Community Corrections, **CYPFS** = Children, Young Persons' and their Families Service, **DIA** = Department of Internal Affairs, **ETSA** = Education and Training Support Agency, **H&DCom** = Health and Disability Commissioner, **Hillary** = Hillary Commission, **HRCCom** = Human Rights Commission, **IncSup** = Income Support Services, **MinEnv** = Ministry for the Environment, **MinEd** = Ministry of Education, **Police** = Police, **SRH** = Southern Regional Health.

## ✦ Health, Safety and Wellbeing

*The Working Party members defined this topic as physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. They included basic needs being met (including safety) as part of wellbeing.*

### ✦ WHAT ARE THE HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING ISSUES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

#### ✦ *Attitudes toward and understanding of young people*

- ◇ Lack of understanding and tolerance of young people (CYWC, SchCouns)
- ◇ View that young people are 'toxic' (SaferCC)
- ◇ Identifying and dealing with developmental issues (EcuYth)
- ◇ Young people are disenfranchised in Christchurch (ComCorr)
- ◇ Racism (CEIG)
- ◇ Young people are put down and talked down to (yEmpl). Adults (including parents) do not respect young people and sometimes act like they're not there (yJunSec)
- ◇ Adults may understand the problems of young people but young people still feel powerless to address these problems (yEmpl)

#### ✦ *Basic needs not met*

- ◇ General health needs including access to a healthy environment (air and water) (CECC, ChdFam, MinEnv)
- ◇ Adequate housing - impact of restructuring of Housing New Zealand and of substandard housing on health (YMHF, COSS, ChdFam, ETSA, MinEnv, SRH). Overcrowding (yPICncl). The cost of flatting and private boarding is very high (yEmpl)
- ◇ Poverty and the impact of low income (HRCom, SRH, CEG, yPICncl). Lack of resources to get out (YMHF, ChdFam)
- ◇ Almost impossible to get an Independent Youth Benefit until the age of 18 (ySenSec)
- ◇ Impossible to flat (because of cost) unless you quit school and get a job (ySenSec)
- ◇ Structural injustice (YMHF, ChdFam)
- ◇ Adequate and sufficient food (COSS, ChdFam, ETSA)

- ◇ Access to general medical care including free dental care (yEmpl) and help to deal with sexual health issues (SaferCC, DPA, CYWC, SchCouns, ChdFam). Impact of unaddressed health and wellbeing issues (DPA). Access to good quality, affordable health care (MinEnv) (SRH, ALAC)
- ◇ High electricity charges and poor people being controlled by Power Manager (ChdFam)
- ◇ Physical, mental and sexual abuse (ETSA, HRCCom)
- ◇ Income limits access to most resources (eg. camps, clubs) (ChdFam)
- ◇ Many people have major debt (SaferCC, ChdFam)
- ◇ Debt due to high electricity costs (ChdFam)

### ✂ *Crime*

- ◇ Young people who are not occupied may be at risk of becoming involved in crime (SchCouns)
- ◇ Young people in trouble are not just from troubled backgrounds (EcuYth)
- ◇ Increasing number of young adolescents involved in sexual offending (SaferCC)
- ◇ Lack of rehabilitation services to deal with young people who offend (SaferCC)
- ◇ Young people are often misinformed by older ones; they think they "can't be touched" (CYWC)
- ◇ Increase in youth offending in suburban centres but decrease in the central city (DIA)
- ◇ Dishonesty, drug related offences, anti-social behaviour and violence highest in New Zealand (DIA)
- ◇ Young offenders being dealt with in "adult" jail. Huge risk of "contamination" of young people by older, more experienced criminals if this continues. Need for a "Youth Prison" and specialist programmes, both in prison and in the community, which address youth issues (ComCorr)

### ✂ *Drug and alcohol issues*

- ◇ Young people have many drug and alcohol issues which need to be addressed (EcuYth, SaferCC, YMHF, CYWC, ChdFam, ETSA, DIA, HRCCom) (and so do parents) (HRCCom)
- ◇ Lack of access to drug and alcohol prevention/intervention (ComChn, MinEd, DIA, yCncl)

- ◇ Lack of access to respite care and appropriate social services (DIA, ALAC, yCncl)
- ◇ Lack of drug and alcohol residential service (SchCouns)
- ◇ Binge drinking is the biggest substance abuse issue. Binge drinking is 'normal' in weekends but its extent is exaggerated in adult perception (NZAHD)
- ◇ General goal of stopping alcohol use is not viable (NZAHD)
- ◇ Adult perception is that young people are all drinking heavily - this not true (NZAHD)
- ◇ Alcohol has links to other things (eg. unwanted sexual activity and assault) and is symptomatic of other problems (NZAHD)
- ◇ Problem with glue sniffers in Latimer Square (yUni)
- ◇ Whole societal attitudes about alcohol need to be challenged (NZAHD)
- ◇ Cigarette smoking is due to stress and being down (average \$10-\$40 per week) (yCorps). Young people turn to alcohol, drugs and cigarettes to cope with depression and being down (yEmpl)

✂ ***Funding - not enough or misdirected***

- ◇ Funding tends to go to the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff (COSS)
- ◇ Policies are not aimed at long term interventions (ChdFam)
- ◇ Community Funding Agency funding is very focused on vocational services for young people with disabilities. Child & Family funds youth services but none in disability area (CCS is funded for a daily activity programme) (DPA)
- ◇ Services which do exist are becoming more difficult to pay for because bed nights are being reduced (NZAHD)
- ◇ Reduction of Government funding for services (ChdFam)

✂ ***Mental health***

- ◇ Social isolation; young people with disabilities are not in teams and are not invited to go out (DPA)
- ◇ According to the Census 22% of young people with a disability have been diagnosed with mental health difficulties (DPA)
- ◇ Undiagnosed depression plus grief and loss issues (ChdFam)
- ◇ Depression is a key issue (yPICncl, yCorps, yEmpl, ySenSec); the worst time is "waking up, especially Mondays, when everything gets to you" (yTOP). "The day of

the week doesn't matter because when you're on the dole every day is the same" (yEmpl). Being bored and having no money also leads to depression (yTOP, yCorps, yEmpl)

- ◇ Cultural conflict between traditional values and current New Zealand identities (YMHF)
- ◇ Self esteem and belonging - negative stuff from school (yEmpl) and home - young people wanting acceptance (EcuYth)
- ◇ Lack of confidence (yESL)
- ◇ Negative body image (YMHF, yPICncl)
- ◇ Access to appropriate mental health services (ComChn) which are culturally appropriate (DIA)
- ◇ Identity and meaning - knowing where you come from and a sense of hope for the future (EcuYth, ChdFam). Lack of future leading to teenage pregnancy and young male suicide (SRH)
- ◇ High suicide rate (yPICncl)
- ◇ Lack of focus on resources/strategies for youth suicide prevention (ComChn)

#### ✧ *Pressures on young people*

- ◇ Expectations of society reflected in media images (which don't show consequences) (EcuYth, YMHF, ChdFam)
- ◇ Pressure to succeed (yPICncl)
- ◇ Peer group pressure (ChdFam, ComChn, CEG, yEmpl) eg. to have the right labels (yTOP)
- ◇ Children become adults very early when looking after younger siblings (SaferCC)
- ◇ Pressure for Pacific Island young people to reconcile two cultures (yPICncl)

#### ✧ *School/education issues*

- ◇ Students are not treated well in schools - there is an excessive use of rules, manipulation and humiliation (YMHF, CYWC, ChdFam)
- ◇ Huge range of incomes in schools (ChdFam)
- ◇ Difficulties for young people aged 14 and 15 years who don't fit into school - can get no income but hard to get back into school (YMHF)



- ◇ Unfair suspensions (YMHF). Suspension and expulsion situations highlight the need for youth oriented advisory and advocacy services which are accessible and culturally appropriate. Maori and PI are over-represented in these statistics (DIA)
- ◇ Not enough early intervention (YMHF)
- ◇ Contraction of the Special Education Service - students not being picked up (ChdFam)
- ◇ The new health curriculum is still not in schools (YMHF)
- ◇ Tests to get into schools - failing right from the start (YMHF)
- ◇ Lack of support for school leavers (YMHF)
- ◇ School counsellors are out of their depth in trying to cope with sexuality issues with young people with disabilities. It would be better to have support groups and trained adults (who also have disabilities) providing this help (DPA)
- ◇ Disinterest and alienation in/from school (ETSA, CEG)
- ◇ School bullying (ComChn)
- ◇ Access to relevant education, training and employment. Access and attendance (MinEnv, ETSA, SRH, CEG, ALAC)
- ◇ School Counsellors are often perceived in a negative light (YMHF)

#### ✂ *Unsafe places and behaviours*

- ◇ Safety and security on the street, in parks and open spaces (CYWC, SchCouns, COSS, CECC, MinEnv, yESL)
- ◇ Safety in the city, and in Linwood, at night (yEmpl)
- ◇ Safety in the central city (ySenSec) and by the Colombo Street bridge (yESL), especially for women (yUni)
- ◇ Safety in homes and in Police custody (CYWC)
- ◇ Sometimes young people get harassed by the Police because their faces are already known. Police are rude and judgemental (yCorps). One person went to the Police station after being mugged recently. He was bleeding but left the station after waiting one hour without being approached (yEmpl)
- ◇ Holidays can be an unsafe time at home (SchCouns)
- ◇ Minority groups impact on others and are seen as threatening. Young people feel threatened (CECC)

- ◇ Adolescents take risks - they need boundaries (SaferCC)
- ◇ There are many 'at risk' young people (CYPFS)
- ◇ Sexual promiscuity (MinEd)
- ◇ Problem with skinheads in the city who like to antagonise groups of young Pacific Island men (although we can see that the Pacific Island men may also be seen as threatening) (yPICncl)

#### ✧ *Unstable families*

- ◇ Breakdown of families (Police) and unstable family environment (CEG)
- ◇ Lack of positive adult role models (Police)
- ◇ Poor parental control and guidance (MinEd) and parents (especially fathers) not accepting their responsibilities (Police)
- ◇ Multiple crises at home (DIA)
- ◇ Employment of care givers (SRH)
- ◇ Parents (who live separately) arguing about money and access and saying awful things about each other to the kids (yJunSec)
- ◇ It is inconvenient and difficult to move between two home (yJunSec)

#### ✧ *Other*

- ◇ Co-ordination of services (YMHF)
- ◇ Youth workers are restricted by increasing regulations around health and safety (EcuYth)
- ◇ Agencies have problems attracting appropriate people (ChdFam)

### ✧ **HOW ARE THESE ISSUES DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT YOUNG PEOPLE?**

#### ✧ *Age differences*

- ◇ Development of identity and issues affecting development are strongly affected by age (EcuYth, SchCouns)

#### ✧ *Appropriateness of targeting and service delivery*

- ◇ How well a young person is suited to the school system (ACYG)
- ◇ Accommodation by schools of different learning styles (ACYG)

- ◇ Limited access to services by young people and community groups (ChdFam)

#### ✂ *Different interests*

- ◇ Young people have a wide range of interests. Some groups (eg. Skate boarders) tend to be unpopular (SchCouns)
- ◇ Drinking is not a very popular activity for Pacific Island young people (yPICncl)

#### ✂ *Socio-economic status*

- ◇ According to the study by Professor Fergusson study 3-5% of young people have really dysfunctional families. It is possible to predict which young people are at high risk (NZAHD)
- ◇ The high incidence of suicide amongst middle to upper income young people (ChdFam)
- ◇ Socio-economic (income) factors including access to cars, transport, living situation (CEIG, ChdFam)
- ◇ Crime is committed throughout the socio-economic levels but because 'white collar' crime is more invisible it looks as though lower socio economic groups commit more (CEIG)

### ✂ **HOW COULD THESE ISSUES BE ADDRESSED?**

#### ✂ *Challenge some current policies*

- ◇ The proposed Code of Social Responsibility will be bad news for young people (CEIG)
- ◇ Undo the changes which came into effect on 1 January 1998. There should be measures in place to allow young people to be supported away from their parents where needed (CEIG)
- ◇ Challenge structural injustice - the state is still basing analysis on paternalistic model of 'the family' (ChdFam)

#### ✂ *Co-ordination*

- ◇ Still short of an effective facilitative structure which links all these structures together to provide good co-ordination (CECC)

- ◇ Holidays not co-ordinated now with university holidays so we can't get volunteers for camps and programmes (EcuYth)
- ◇ Need more inter-service collaborations - not sure schools are the best place for further service development (ChdFam)
- ◇ Wrap around services for youth at risk (co-ordination of youth work programmes not competition) (COSS)

✂ *Education and change in attitude*

- ◇ Promotion of community feeling - young people need to feel the community is theirs (COSS)
- ◇ Implementation of new health syllabus - teachers also modelling good stuff (NZA AHD)
- ◇ Support for parents and families at a Parent Support Centre (NZA AHD)
- ◇ Parent education on youth issues (eg. drug and alcohol issues) (NZA AHD)
- ◇ Co-ordinator to set up parents groups in schools (NZA AHD)
- ◇ "Parents need to be more accepting of where we're at" (ySenSec)
- ◇ "Adults should give us more respect" (yJunSec)
- ◇ More education for young people on mental health issues (and education about what is really needed) (CYWC)
- ◇ Sex education; young people need good information (CYWC) although this must be culturally appropriate and include a spiritual element (yPICncl)
- ◇ Information about sexual health services could be provided through schools, posters, radio, Youth Employment, advertising in the square and on buses (yCncl)
- ◇ Youth Mediation Initiative should be promoted as an opportunity to train up young people (yCncl)
- ◇ Education on cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana in schools (yUni)
- ◇ There should be an 0800 health hotline for young people (yCorps)
- ◇ Need to take into account needs, values and beliefs of different cultural, religious, social and ethnic groups (H&DCom)

### ✧ *Funding*

- ◇ Fund early intervention not just the 'ambulance at the bottom of the cliff'. Agencies geared to rehabilitation and prevention are just as important as those dealing with existing problems (COSS, ChdFam)
- ◇ Wrap around services for youth at risk (co-ordination of youth work programmes not competition) (COSS)
- ◇ Proper funding which recognises real need (ChdFam)
- ◇ Better funding of youth workers (yCncl)
- ◇ Better resourcing of the 198 Youth Health Centre (yEmpl) and similar services which need to include Pacific Island workers (yPICncl)

### ✧ *New services*

- ◇ Holiday activities for young people aged 13-16 years (COSS)
- ◇ Programmes in schools to stress the existence of community (COSS)
- ◇ Safe recreation places where young people can hang out eg. Jellie Park. Not to be organised, just to *be* (SchCouns)
- ◇ Programmes for young people with disabilities (DPA)
- ◇ Drug and alcohol services especially for young people (NZA AHD, yCncl) with mental health problems (dual diagnosis) (CEIG, SchCouns)
- ◇ Detox and drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre for young people which also deals with personal health and emotional health issues (yCncl)
- ◇ Address gap in mental health services for young people aged 18-25 (CYWC, NZA AHD)
- ◇ A specialist youth centre with young people who can counsel, advise and relate to young people (yEmpl)
- ◇ Appropriate follow-up eg. after diagnosis or being told at high risk (CYWC)
- ◇ Appropriate assessment (CYWC)
- ◇ More transitional housing that allows people with disabilities (aged 17 and 18 years and over) to move towards independent living (DPA)
- ◇ Respite care (DPA)
- ◇ Residential programmes for young people - short term, long term and in a crisis (DPA, CYWC, NZA AHD, SchCouns)

- ◇ Safe and reasonable inner city housing for young people (NZAAMD)
- ◇ Safe house for young people (yUni)
- ◇ 24 hour kiosk in the square where people can go and be safe "A kiosk is pointless if it is not open 24 hours" (yCncl, yUni)
- ◇ More uniformed and visible Police in the central city on weekend nights (ySenSec)
- ◇ City Mission street profile (ChdFam). Street workers around on Friday and Saturday nights (yCncl, yUni)
- ◇ More suburban youth centres (SchCouns)
- ◇ More appropriate initiatives for Pacific Island young people (YMHF)
- ◇ Social workers (not just counsellors) in schools (YMHF)
- ◇ Solutions have to be creative eg. young people, children of addicts - how give up? (ChdFam)
- ◇ Special taxi service with sensitive staff for people with disabilities (yCCS)
- ◇ Subsidised travel for volunteers who work with people with disabilities (yCCS)
- ◇ Free programmes that assist with giving up smoking (yEmpl)
- ◇ Cheap phone card (yJunSec)

✂ **Other**

- ◇ Get rid of Datura in Port Hills (SchCouns)
- ◇ Good role models (young) (NZAAMD)
- ◇ Lower the smoking age as well as the cost of cigarettes (yTOP)
- ◇ We need a community that is accepting of difference (SaferCC, DPA)

✂ **WHAT INITIATIVES ARE THERE AT PRESENT WHICH PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE?**

"There are many many organisations doing good work with young people" (CEIG)

- ❖198 Youth Health Centre ❖4YP ❖Actionworks ❖Aranui Sports Academy
- ❖Asthma Society ❖Bullying/non-violence programmes ❖Camps (through church based organisations) ❖Cancer Society ❖Canterbury Youth Workers Collective ❖Christchurch City Council ❖Christchurch Youth Council
- ❖College of Education ❖Christchurch City Council pools and recreation

programmes ❖General Practitioners ❖Christchurch City Council vans  
❖Youth Education Service ❖Project between 198 and NZPC (working with young people involved in exchanging sex for favours) ❖Youth and Cultural Development Society ❖Diabetes Youth ❖Youth workers ❖Employment programmes in schools ❖Facilities like QEII, privately and publicly owned, which make special concession to groups and therefore encourage group activities ❖FADE ❖All the social service agencies ❖Hebron Young Parents Programme ❖Lots of government and non-government agencies assisting in the transition between school and work (eg. New Zealand Employment Service, Education and Training Support Agency, Income Support, ACC, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Te Puni Kokiri, Careers Service) ❖Youth Mental Health Forum ❖Many sports clubs and societies ❖Police Education Unit ❖Police Youth Aid ❖FPA Peer Education ❖Primetime ❖SADD (Students Against Driving Drunk) ❖Hoon Hay Youth Centre ❖School Guidance Counsellors ❖Student support initiatives in schools ❖Truancy workers ❖Youth and Family Unit at Princess Margaret Hospital ❖Youth centres ❖Youth Speciality Service ❖Youthline ❖Youth work agencies ❖Alcohol Helpline - 12% callers are young people ❖Social workers in schools

### ✠ ARE EXISTING INITIATIVES APPROPRIATE?

- ◇ Important to have variety as young people are not all the same (CEIG)
- ◇ Yes, Jellie Park [4YP] events are appropriate for some young people (SchCouns)
- ◇ Most start from perceived need but can move from this to existing for their own sake (COSS)
- ◇ Models can dominate; 'we know what's best' rather than starting from issues or problems (COSS)
- ◇ Young people are on the fringes of Council events (SchCouns)
- ◇ Some services are not culturally sensitive enough (yCncl)
- ◇ Maybe Pacific Island young people don't use some services because they are not in touch with issues relevant to young people (yPICncl)

## ✘ WHAT ISSUES AFFECT THE ACCESS YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TO SERVICES RELATED TO HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING?

### ✘ *Cost*

- ◇ High costs combined with a lack of money (CYWC, NZAAHD, SchCouns)
- ◇ Inability to afford membership to organisations (NZAAHD)
- ◇ Inconsistency of bus charges (yCCS)
- ◇ Existing taxi-chit service for people with disabilities is very limited; entitlement is only half price up to \$10 (yCCS)
- ◇ Not enough free services for physical and emotional health (yCncl)
- ◇ No cheap dental service available (yCorps)

### ✘ *Issues about existing services*

- ◇ Services aren't able to cater for dual diagnosis (CYWC)
- ◇ Waiting lists; more important for young people because their issues are always urgent! (CYWC)
- ◇ Existing services don't have money to advertise sufficiently (CEIG)
- ◇ Difficulties of making proactive move (COSS)
- ◇ Unknown environment - unwelcoming place etc. (COSS)
- ◇ Appropriate environment - gender, culture, location (eg. Youth Speciality Service is inappropriately located at Sunnyside Hospital) (CEIG, CYWC, yCorps)
- ◇ Youth Specialty Service is only for those under 18 years (yCorps)
- ◇ Services need to be where young people are (YMHF, ChdFam)
- ◇ Large pool of young people outside the school system who are difficult to reach (NZAAHD)
- ◇ Services which are not (youth) culturally appropriate (CYWC, ChdFam)
- ◇ Bus drivers are rude and don't deal well with young people including young mothers (yCCS)
- ◇ The 198 Youth Health Centre doesn't have any Polynesian workers (yCorps)
- ◇ There are insufficient social services (CEIG)
- ◇ There is no physiotherapist especially for young people (yCorps)



### ✧ *Knowledge*

- ◇ Knowledge - awareness of what support there is (CYWC, NZAAHD, COSS, CECC, yCorps, yESL)
- ◇ Don't see own need (CEIG, COSS, CECC)
- ◇ Perception of mental health (seen as crazy/unstable if go to Counsellor). The more specialised the service the worse the label (CYWC, NZAAHD)
- ◇ Unrealistic expectations (ChdFam)

### ✧ *Physical access*

- ◇ Lack of transport - limited bus services (COSS, yCCS). Not enough buses running on many routes, especially Templeton to city and back (yCCS)
- ◇ Bus drivers often refuse to believe we are young and charge full fare (yCCS)
- ◇ Location - can't physically get there (CYWC, SchCouns)
- ◇ Transport - access to things and having the right gear (eg. boots) (ChdFam)
- ◇ Mobility an issue. Only Mum and Dad available for transport if can't afford taxi or if unable to access wheelchair accessible bus (DPA)

### ✧ *Other*

- ◇ Young people complain about dark unsafe places but this is where they go! (SchCouns)
- ◇ Impact of Income Support Service changes (NZAAHD)
- ◇ No privacy at school - young people 'get a hard time' if they have any problems (ChdFam)

## ✧ **HOW COULD ACCESS TO HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING SERVICES BE IMPROVED?**

### ✧ *Schools*

- ◇ Schools need easier referral points for young people with problems (COSS)
- ◇ Address stigma issues - train all teachers in mental health (NZAAHD)
- ◇ Truancy Services (needs to deal with young people between schools - this is a national issue) (NZAAHD)
- ◇ Alternative learning opportunities (NZAAHD)

- ◇ Educate schools/ school counsellors about youth services (CYWC)
- ◇ Make sure that social workers in schools schemes develop an appropriate environment for young people (ChdFam)

### ✧ *Transport*

- ◇ More buses to improve transport options (CYWC, SchCouns)
- ◇ Taxi chits for young people (CYWC)
- ◇ There should be specific youth discounts eg. A student card for young people aged 12 years to university age (yCCS)

### ✧ *Where young people are/ appropriateness*

- ◇ Improved by having local services (within a walk or bike) (SchCouns)
- ◇ Young people go to malls - could link in with this (SchCouns)
- ◇ Mobile services eg. health bus - attached to youth centres (coming into town is a big issue) (CYWC)
- ◇ The Youth Health Centre should expand (ySenSec)
- ◇ Raising profile so it becomes acceptable to use health services (CYWC)
- ◇ More accurate information (YMHF) and look at ways of getting messages across (CEIG, yCncl)
- ◇ Structuring services to accommodate youth (YMHF)
- ◇ Appropriate workers (especially culturally) (YMHF)
- ◇ Make sure youth services are accessible (eg. phone often engaged or answer phone at Youthline) (yCncl)
- ◇ Language should be appropriate (should be in several languages) (YMHF)
- ◇ Kids talking to kids or other appropriate 'front people'(YMHF)
- ◇ Hours (YMHF, yCncl)
- ◇ Income Support and other government departments need to be more sensitive to young people (ySenSec)

### ✧ *Other*

- ◇ Get 'greypower' on side - grandparents care (ChdFam)
- ◇ More networking/working together (YMHF)
- ◇ Improve basic provision of income (NZAHD)

- ◇ Address problems created by the Privacy Act (ChdFam)
- ◇ Lower medical costs and just charge part charges on prescriptions (yTOP)
- ◇ Ensuring young people have access to information which educates them about the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights (H&DCom)

## ✦ HOW COULD YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING?

### ✦ *Consult with directly*

- ◇ Young people need to be directly consulted on issues and decisions that affect them (CEIG, DPA, YMHF, CYWC, NZAAHD, SchCouns, COSS, CECC, ChdFam)

Suggestions for how to do this:

- Access young people's opinions by going to 'where they are' (CYWC, COSS) and linking into young people's networks (eg. Youth Council (CEIG, YMHF, CECC), School Councils (SchCouns), youth forums (YMHF, CYWC, CECC) or youth workers' networks (CYWC)
- Focus groups (NZAAHD)
- Newspapers and 0800 numbers (YMHF, CECC)
- Recognise diversity (DPA, CYWC)
- Recognise own role in consultation process - make sure own credibility is established (ChdFam)
- ◇ Make sure to follow up on young people's input - make it meaningful (ChdFam)
- ◇ Provide services which are accepting of young people and are non-judgemental (ChdFam, COSS)

## ✦ WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL HAVE IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUES RAISED ABOUT HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING?

### ✦ *Encourage community providers*

- ◇ Encourage and support events that already happen (YMHF) including church groups (yPICncl) and youth workers (ETSA)

- ◇ Make workable policies (eg. health and safety compliance for community organisations) (EcuYth)
- ◇ Support and publicise self-defence classes for women (yPICncl)
- ◇ Support workshops (not just when something bad happens) (yPICncl)
- ◇ Encourage and support motivation workshops for young Pacific Island people (by young Pacific Island role models) (yPICncl)
- ◇ Help run sex education workshops run by skilled trained people (yPICncl)

✂ ***Ensure Council events are appropriate for young people***

- ◇ Youth festival and youth events alongside adult events (YMHF)
- ◇ Host responsibility in Council run events (EcuYth, NZAAHD)
- ◇ Where Council has responsibilities (eg. through Resource Consents) ensure internal processes facilitate the development of services for youth (SRH)
- ◇ Address transport issues in conjunction with the Canterbury Regional Council (ALAC)
- ◇ Provide for TOPs students to be classified as students for travel (ETSA)

✂ ***Facilitate, co-ordinate and provide an overview***

- ◇ Provide an overview and information about what services are needed (YMHF, NZAAHD, COSS, CECC, ChdFam)
- ◇ Consult with young people (CEIG, NZAAHD, EcuYth, COSS, CECC, ChdFam, DIA)
- ◇ Facilitate and progress multi-agency responses to the issues affecting children and young people (ComChn, MinEd, SRH, ComCorr, CEG)
- ◇ Facilitate and link groups (EcuYth, COSS, CECC, ChdFam, DIA)
- ◇ Facilitate change through public forums to highlight issues (ComCorr)
- ◇ Facilitate involvement of businesses in service provision (eg. housing partnerships, entertainment) (COSS, SchCouns)
- ◇ Find a funding body for additional life skills courses in Christchurch (ETSA)
- ◇ Stronger links with schools (ALAC)
- ◇ Not direct service provision (COSS)

### ✧ ***Provide leadership***

- ◇ Generating 'spirit' in the whole community (YMHF)
- ◇ Become more representative of diversity - model the processes and structures wanted (CEIG, DPA)
- ◇ Value young people - lead by example (YMHF)
- ◇ Educate people about racism issues including positive media (yPICncl)
- ◇ Encourage cultural awareness (yPICncl)

### ✧ ***Research and advocate***

- ◇ Advocate in young people's interests (CEIG, NZAAHD, SchCouns, ChdFam, CYPFS) and ensure their issues are dealt with in an holistic manner (eg. across boundaries of health, welfare, employment, education) (YMHF)
- ◇ Provide a structured and resourced child and youth advocacy service (ComChn)
- ◇ Challenge and advocate to government on youth issues (eg. welfare issues, benefits) (CEIG, NZAAHD, SchCouns, ChdFam, ComCorr)
- ◇ Ensure young people have access to information which educates them about the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights (H&DCom)
- ◇ Raise the profile of young people (YMHF)
- ◇ Provide feedback so people know what's happening (CECC)
- ◇ Investigate specific issues and needs for rangatahi Maori in consultation with Manawhenua and urban Maori authorities (ETSA)
- ◇ Support the return of the caravan in the square or similar function (CYWC)
- ◇ Acknowledge sexuality issues are important for young people (yGLADYS)
- ◇ Lobby central government on issue of banning cigarettes and alcohol or legalise marijuana (restrictions should remain for under 18 years) (yUni)

### ✧ ***Resource/ provide***

- ◇ Respond to local needs at ward level (SchCouns)
- ◇ Resource and fund community initiatives (YMHF, NZAAHD, SchCouns, COSS, CECC, ChdFam, Police, CEG) and support pilots and new ideas (NZAAHD). Be the lead agency promoting service development (ALAC)
- ◇ To ensure young people are living in healthy environment - air, water, etc. These are wider issues for everyone (CECC, SRH)

- ◇ Provide specific youth funding for young people with disabilities (DPA)
- ◇ Forums for young people such as the Youth Council (CECC)
- ◇ Make sure the issues raised impact on Council strategic planning and allocation of resources (ComChn)
- ◇ Provide suitable, reasonably priced and safe housing available for young people (yCCS)
- ◇ Provide a place for a short time-out from family (yCCS)
- ◇ Provide a secure 'depot' for young people in the central city (yUni)
- ◇ Work to 'gear up' the Police to cope better (yEmpl)
- ◇ Help fund a Pacific Island Youthline (yPICncl)
- ◇ Help fund and promote buddy or mentor systems for young people as a way for young people to link up with positive role models (yPICncl)
- ◇ Support or fund Icebreakers (yGLADYS)
- ◇ Promote positive education to address underage drinking and smoking (yGLADYS)

✧ ***Other***

- ◇ The Council does not necessarily need to own problems by having a Youth Advocate (CEIG)

## ✠ Physical Environment and Design

*The Working Party members defined this as including the perception of the environment as well as the physical environment itself.*

### ✠ WHAT ARE THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN ISSUES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

#### ✠ *Places for young people*

- ◇ Areas where it is appropriate to behave 'youthfully' (SRH)
- ◇ Places for young people to go (CYWC)
- ◇ The city is not necessarily welcoming for young people (ALAC)
- ◇ Safe (ie open areas) and accessible community recreational resources (CYWC, EcuYth, COSS, CECC, ComChn, DIA, SRH) especially available at weekends (CEG)
- ◇ Availability of green space within and outside Christchurch (CEG, MinEnv)
- ◇ Access for all people of varying abilities to amenities that are close by (SRH)
- ◇ Not enough facilities for skateboarding (Police) roller blading and basketball (DIA, yCncl, ySenSec)

#### ✠ *Conflict between different age groups*

- ◇ The needs of young people and adults may be in conflict (CYWC, COSS)
- ◇ Young people are often not welcome in public spaces. They are seen as an intimidating 'gang' (eg. skateboarders). The message is that the city is not for young people (EcuYth, CYWC) . "Why isn't it OK to skate in empty spaces?" (CYWC)

#### ✠ *Planning issues*

- ◇ Quality of design in the built environment (MinEnv)
- ◇ Quality of air and water, waterways, recreation areas, wilderness areas, contamination of land and water (MinEnv)
- ◇ Attention to planning and zoning issues especially when considering access for people with disabilities to community facilities (SRH). The Arts Centre and most central city shops have lots of stairs and not many ramps. You have to go a long way to find a ramp or a safe place to turn around (yCCS)

- ◇ Ability to adapt personal living environments with minimal conflict with planning/permit issues (SRH)
- ◇ Public transport (Canterbury Regional Council) - it's good to see low floor buses but there are still some problems with this (DPA, yCCS)
- ◇ The Square is badly designed (yUni)

### ✂ *Safety*

- ◇ Safe environment - lighting and movement (CEG, SRH). "There are too many dark roads and alleys" (yCorps)
- ◇ Cycle safety and provision of cycle ways (HRCCom)
- ◇ It is dangerous to be in the inner city (EcuYth, CYWC, yUni) (because of drunken adults (EcuYth))
- ◇ Traffic safety including bikes and skateboards (COSS)
- ◇ Suburban bus stops are badly lit and often situated near bushes (yCncl)
- ◇ "People are still being attacked by homies ... young people get off the buses before the square just to avoid the homies. It's good that the Doghouse is gone because that's where the homies hung out" (ySenSec)
- ◇ Skinheads are only a problem towards big groups and gay people (ySenSec)
- ◇ Little street kids outside Venus on Sunday nights are not safe there (ySenSec)

### ✂ *Other*

- ◇ Alcohol is served to underage young people at Council events (EcuYth)

## ✂ **HOW ARE THESE ISSUES DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT YOUNG PEOPLE?**

- ◇ Some young people are deprived of space in their living environment (COSS)
- ◇ Some don't have freedom because of safety issues (COSS)
- ◇ Age is an important factor- young people who are 20 have much greater access (CECC)
- ◇ The different interests of young people determine the kinds of issues they have with the physical environment (CECC)
- ◇ Disability (SRH, DPA, yCCS)



## ✘ HOW COULD THESE ISSUES BE ADDRESSED?

### ✘ *Co-ordination*

- ◇ Schools could do more if there was increased co-ordination of activities between schools (across suburbs) (CECC)

### ✘ *New services*

- ◇ Skateboarding place in the central city (NZAAHD, yTOP) as planned on Moorhouse Ave (yCncl)
- ◇ Maybe boarders and bladers allowed on streets especially where this is a transport issue (yCncl)
- ◇ More recreation/fun places developed in response to young people's wishes (CECC)
- ◇ Spaces for young people (YMHF, CYWC)
- ◇ Underage venues are a good idea (but they take away the things that make young people want to go there!) (EcuYth)
- ◇ Venues for concerts and subsidised attendance (EcuYth)
- ◇ Well lit parks and maintained facilities (YMHF)
- ◇ Central monorail (yJunSec)

### ✘ *Safety/ education*

- ◇ Make public spaces safe - the community has to undertake this responsibility (COSS)
- ◇ Education (COSS)
- ◇ Police security cameras are a good initiative (EcuYth)
- ◇ Safe and well lit bus stops (yCncl, yTOP)
- ◇ Safe places in the central city and safe places to wait for the bus (yTOP)
- ◇ "Skinheads should be banned" (yTOP)
- ◇ Keep the Police kiosk in the square (ySenSec)

### ✘ *Take young people into account in decision making*

- ◇ Take youth culture into account when planning (EcuYth, CYWC, yTOP)
- ◇ Find some really easy solutions to things by consulting appropriately (eg. Low floor buses) (DPA)
- ◇ Making sure young people's views are taken into account in the formulation of planning proposals and any evaluative process (ComChn, yTOP)

## ✠ WHAT ISSUES AFFECT THE ACCESS YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TO ASPECTS OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT?

### ✠ *Mobility*

- ◇ Transport (EcuYth, CYWC, COSS, CECC) and money to pay for transport (COSS, yJunSec)
- ◇ Poor co-ordination of bus times in and out of the square. Bus timetables make it very difficult to get to school on time (yJunSec)
- ◇ Many suburban buses run only hourly or two hourly (eg. Rangiora), particularly outside rush hours (yCncl)
- ◇ "The 3.30pm bus to Southshore never comes" (yJunSec)
- ◇ It is difficult to get home if out late (yCorps, yEmpl, ySenSec, yJunSec) - buses aren't running and can't ring parents because they'll refuse or judge (yTOP)
- ◇ Weekend buses are infrequent and irregular. Morning buses are too late during the weekends. Raves finish between 5am and 8am and there is no way to get home (ySenSec)
- ◇ Monthly bus passes don't seem to apply to all bus companies (ySenSec)
- ◇ Drinking and driving, although this is being addressed by young people. It is important to have commercial initiatives to allow young people to get around (CECC)
- ◇ With an electric wheelchair in a wheelchair-accessible bus two seats need to be folded down instead of one. Assistance is necessary each time but bus drivers are not very helpful (yCCS)
- ◇ Some nice bus drivers but some are grumpy to young people (yCncl, yEmpl). Young people often get the impression that the bus drivers don't believe they're entitled to youth fare (yJunSec) (even if they have identification) (yTOP)
- ◇ Some routes (eg. Halswell) don't have wheelchair accessible buses and people in wheelchairs can't use the older buses at all (yCCS)
- ◇ Disabilities (especially wheelchairs) (ACYG)
- ◇ Physical access eg. gates on paths (ACYG)
- ◇ Buses cost too much (yCncl, yTOP, yJunSec)

### ✧ *Self*

- ◇ Own physical and mental health (COSS)
- ◇ Perception of threat impacts on access (CECC)

## ✧ HOW COULD ACCESS TO ASPECTS OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT BE IMPROVED?

### ✧ *Transport*

- ◇ Bus drivers should be more sensitive to people with disabilities (yCCS) and to young people in general (yTOP) (some young bus drivers would be nice) (yCncl)
- ◇ Youth rates on buses for tertiary students (yEmpl) or all young people up to 25 (yCncl)
- ◇ Bus fares should be cheaper (yTOP, yJunSec)
- ◇ Improved access to transport (including late buses) (CYWC, yCCS, yTOP, yCorps, yEmpl, ySenSec, yJunSec). "24 hour buses or at least buses after 11pm so we don't get stuck" (in Wellington the trains run to 3am or 5am. This could be supplemented with youth workers who walk you from a kiosk to the bus (yCncl))
- ◇ Community vans being made more accessible to community groups (CYWC)
- ◇ Vans that pick up young people in town at night and take them home (yCorps)
- ◇ Young people should have access to taxi cards (ySenSec)
- ◇ The time available on transfer tickets should be longer (yJunSec)

### ✧ *Other*

- ◇ Youth discount card (not just for young people at school) (CYWC)
- ◇ Locally based opportunities (eg. clubs around interest groups) (COSS)
- ◇ Gates on paths etc. (for physical access) (ACYG)
- ◇ A central safe drop-in place (as an alternative to the Police kiosk) (yCorps)

## ✧ HOW COULD YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS ABOUT THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT?

### ✧ *Consult with young people*

- ◇ Ask them; consult directly (COSS)

- ◇ Through the Youth Council, youth forums; ask for youth input through media, canvas views on relevant issues to involve young people (CECC)
- ◇ Ask for impromptu feedback and take into account what is said (EcuYth)

✧ *Education*

- ◇ Educate young people that the environment is their responsibility to care for (COSS)

✧ **WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL HAVE IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUES RAISED ABOUT THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT?**

✧ *Provide resources and advocate*

- ◇ Provide spaces for young people (EcuYth, COSS) which are safe and welcoming (CYWC, CECC)
- ◇ Upgrade city parks and include more full basketball courts. (yCncl)
- ◇ Provide programmes (such as 4YP) and promote young people's access to these (CYWC, CEG)
- ◇ Serious consideration to providing more skateboarding facilities in a safe environment (Police, yUni)
- ◇ Commit funds to purchase and promoting development of areas of recreational value (MinEnv)
- ◇ Work with providers to provide accessible public transport to young people with disabilities (HRCom)
- ◇ Lead role in addressing the issues raised (CEG)
- ◇ Advocate on youth issues (ComChn)
- ◇ Subsidise car parking for more churches and provide more parking (yPICncl)
- ◇ Help beautify and provide better services in areas which need them (yPICncl)
- ◇ Make cycle ways easier and more visible and promote cycling and car pooling (yUni)
- ◇ Work with city clubs to organise a late night shuttle service home from these venues (yCorps)
- ◇ Long term roading strategy to include provision for cycle ways (HRCom)

✧ ***Take young people's views into account when planning***

- ◇ Ensure young people are widely consulted in planning (EcuYth, COSS)
- ◇ Make sure youth issues impact on Council strategic planning and allocation of resources (ComChn)
- ◇ Consult with young people in the preparation of plans determining values that are important to them and incorporating these into the plan (MinEnv)
- ◇ Policy for resourcing, planning, zoning and community. People with disabilities need to be supported in policy, not restricted (SRH)
- ◇ Shop assistants and young people with disabilities could work with the Christchurch City Council to decide which shops are suitable for people with disabilities and publicise this information (yCCS)

✧ ***Other***

- ◇ Murals by young people to stop tagging (CYWC)
- ◇ Take all cars out of the central city and restrict traffic on Colombo St (yUni)

## ✦ Entertainment and Recreation

*The Working Party members defined this as 'what you do outside work/education'. They see entertainment as being fairly passive and recreation as active.*

### ✦ WHAT ARE THE ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION ISSUES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

#### ✦ *Appropriateness*

- ◇ There are some places and opportunities for young people but are they safe and accessible? (ACYG)
- ◇ Rich kids drinking at Classical Sparks and other Summertimes events (ACYG)
- ◇ There are often adults at sports clubs "behaving like louts". Young people see this and perpetuate this behaviour (CECC)
- ◇ Lack of supervision in some circumstances (YMHF)
- ◇ Sometimes events are culturally inappropriate (this includes youth culture) (YMHF)
- ◇ Young people just want to hang out and there is no need for programmed activities as a generation ago (EcuYth)
- ◇ Most clubs have too much emphasis on alcohol (ySenSec)
- ◇ Entertainment and recreation tend to be mainstreamed - people with disabilities cannot always enjoy entertainment the way most people can (eg. people with a sensory disability) (SRH)
- ◇ The opportunities which do exist are very good and Council is doing well, especially Summertimes (Police, ALAC). The problem is one of motivation for some young people (Police)
- ◇ "Everything the Council does is for tourists" (yCorps)
- ◇ "New Brighton sucks and is dying". "The Pier sucks" (yJunSec)

#### ✦ *Gaps in services*

- ◇ Gap in free services for young people aged 13-16 years of age (CYWC, COSS)
- ◇ Lots of bands only go to Wellington or Auckland (ySenSec)

- ◇ Gap in meaningful entertainment for young people aged 13-19. They still "hang around McDonalds". The 'Colombo St crawl' epitomises the lack of meaningful activity (CECC)
- ◇ Lack of non-risky (but still attractive) entertainment opportunities for young people under 20 years (EcuYth, ACYG, yCCS)
- ◇ Young people have increasingly sophisticated tastes and higher expectations (this is a feature of our consumer society) (COSS)
- ◇ Youth suicide rates are high; "no wonder, we're all bored shitless" (yCCS)
- ◇ There are not many organised opportunities for young people "so you have to do your own stuff" (ySenSec)
- ◇ "Everything that's organised is either too expensive or it sucks" (ySenSec)

#### ✂ *Lack of resources*

- ◇ Cost; many young people don't have money (YMHF, ACYG, ComChn, CEG, MinEd, DIA)
- ◇ Some places too expensive (eg. TimeOut) (yCorps, ySenSec, yJunSec). (We) can't afford to go to bars in town but would like to (yEmpl)
- ◇ Most recreation opportunities are in the central city (eg. Snooker) (CYWC)
- ◇ The cost of hiring recreation equipment is very high (CYWC)
- ◇ Lack of resources for recreation (YMHF)
- ◇ Lack of information as Summertime events and other opportunities are not widely advertised (YMHF)

#### ✂ **HOW ARE THESE ISSUES DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT YOUNG PEOPLE?**

- ◇ Young people from lower socio-economic areas/ families are affected more by cost (YMHF, ACYG)
- ◇ Age is a key factor - there is less for young people under 20 to do (EcuYth, YMHF, CYWC, ACYG, COSS, CECC)
- ◇ Young people have different interests- some are easier than others to cater for (eg. pool, bands, Lipsync) (CYWC)

## ✘ HOW COULD THESE ISSUES BE ADDRESSED?

### ✘ *More opportunities*

- ◇ Need specific opportunities for the younger age group before they start accessing opportunities for older ones (CECC)
- ◇ Opportunities for bands (CYWC, yCCS)
- ◇ Music! (yCncl)
- ◇ Rockscool (CYWC)
- ◇ Suburban based entertainment opportunities (YMHF, CYWC) including movie theatres and pool rooms (yCorps)
- ◇ Organised bus outings around recreational opportunities like beach volleyball and ice skating (ySenSec)
- ◇ Need cheap, accessible outdoor properly organised activities for young people (DIA, HRCom, yCCS) which promote co-operation and increase confidence (DIA)
- ◇ Safe recreation and entertainment opportunities which are drug and alcohol free (ComChn, CEG, yCCS) and held in well-lit accessible (by bus) places (yCCS)
- ◇ Maybe need more safe activities for 'at risk' youth (CYPFS)
- ◇ Youth centres (YMHF)
- ◇ More open festivals eg. skateboarding and blading displays (although this appeals to a limited group (yCncl)), skateboard ramps and blading areas (ySenSec). More basketball half and full courts in central places (yCorps, ySenSec, yJunSec). More outdoor festivals at night, and in the daytime, which have alcohol available (or at least do not ban drinking). An example of good entertainment is the Smokefree Rockquest (yEmpl)
- ◇ A 'QEII' in the centre of town (yJunSec)
- ◇ Outdoor raves (yEmpl)
- ◇ More cultural festivals to promote multiculturalism (yCorps)
- ◇ More cheap or free festivals and recreation options to help with depression and motivation (yEmpl)
- ◇ Another new skateboard park either at Victoria Square or Latimer Square or a whole new designated area (yCorps)
- ◇ Places (including Victoria Square) to skateboard (yJunSec)



- ◇ Demonstrations like the ETA basketball where people can get involved. Sporting clubs could promote this in public places like the new Sports Stadium (yCncl)
- ◇ More clubs that allow young people and maybe a club for 15-20 year olds but with alcohol ("controlled drinking" because clubs without alcohol aren't really appealing) (yTOP)
- ◇ More concerts aimed at all groups (yUni)
- ◇ More cheap markets (yCorps)
- ◇ More indoor and outdoor 24 hour raves (we would pay \$15 every two or three weeks) (yCorps)
- ◇ Cheap places where young people can gather to keep them off the streets (yCorps)
- ◇ More beach activities like beach volleyball, horse rides and kayaking (free or cheap) (yEmpl)
- ◇ Improve New Brighton by providing more shops, cafes and a swimming pool. Improve Sumner and New Brighton by providing beach volleyball and a place to hire cycles, boogie boards (yEmpl), fishing rods and roller blades (yJunSec)
- ◇ More parks with rugby and soccer posts and good playgrounds, mountain bike tracks near the city, mini golf places that are cool and cheap, entertainment parks like Rainbow's End and the museum upgraded (yJunSec)

#### ✧ **Publicity**

- ◇ Publicity to let young people know what is out there (ACYG, yCncl)
- ◇ Co-operation from schools in getting information out there (ACYG)

#### ✧ **Resources**

- ◇ Funding (YMHF)
- ◇ Resource pool for equipment (YMHF) and cheap equipment for hire (CYWC)
- ◇ More transport is needed including later buses at weekends (YMHF). Low cost/ subsidised activities (YMHF)
- ◇ Recognise youth organisations for discounts (YMHF)
- ◇ Cheap (ySenSec) and accessible gyms (yEmpl)

## ✠ WHAT ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE AT PRESENT?

❖ Licensed premises for 20 years and over ❖ Lots of sports facilities  
❖ Concerts in park ❖ Wizards ❖ Time Out ❖ Natural Spaces ❖ There are a lot of initiatives but lots of young people are unmotivated ❖ Youth movements  
❖ Arts centre ❖ Theatre sports ❖ Sporting infrastructure is really good  
❖ Picture theatres ❖ Malls ❖ Lipsync ❖ 4YP ❖ Bands at Brighton ❖ Fireworks  
❖ Public facilities eg. mountain biking tracks ❖ Summertimes ❖ Entertainment in the square ❖ Young people hanging out together - this is what they want to do - programme less important than whether friends are there. They are doing what adults do but in different places and in different ways (eg. not pubs, bars, dinner parties) ❖ Suburban sports teams ❖ School Rockfest  
❖ Youth Centres ❖ Youth initiatives ❖ Holiday programmes ❖ KiwiAble programme is really good but is specifically recreation ❖ Free concerts  
❖ KiwiAble Leisure Card ❖ Pacific Island festivals ❖ Good bars and cafes in the city ❖ Youth and Cultural Development Society ❖ Cafes and clubs like Rattlesnakes, Dan's, Caffeinds and Java ❖ Beaches ❖ Raves ❖ Movies ❖ Social sport - volleyball and beach volleyball

## ✠ ARE EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES APPROPRIATE?

- ◇ "Providers can only go so far." If young people want to go drag racing then they will regardless of whether other opportunities are available. A lot depends on society - what's in, trends, who they mix with (ACYG)
- ◇ Christchurch City Council entertainment should be better controlled (CECC) and alcohol-free; "a family night doesn't need beer sponsorship" (CYWC)
- ◇ Lots of activities which are run commercially (eg. Grand Prix) are too expensive (YMHF, CYWC, yCCS)
- ◇ Places like QEII are not geared up well for young people - they're boring, expensive and not very accessible (yCCS)

✠ **WHAT ISSUES AFFECT THE ACCESS YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TO ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES?**

- ◇ Transport (YMHF, CYWC, ACYG)
- ◇ Money (YMHF, yCCS, yCncl); "raves are still too expensive" (ySenSec)
- ◇ Parents don't teach young people to do nature things (eg. walks) (COSS)

✠ **HOW COULD ACCESS TO ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES BE IMPROVED?**

- ◇ Appropriate advertising (CYWC)
- ◇ Where they are (CYWC) - opportunities available in suburbs (YMHF)
- ◇ Reduce cost/subsidise (YMHF, yCCS) eg. 4YP events need to be kept to a low cost (yCncl)
- ◇ More transport (YMHF)
- ◇ Movie ratings could be changed as there is a big gap between PG or M and R16 movies (yCCS)

✠ **HOW COULD YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS ABOUT ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES?**

✠ *Consultation*

- ◇ Youth Council (ACYG, COSS)
- ◇ Direct involvement of a range of young people and providers (including youth workers) (CYWC, ACYG, COSS)
- ◇ Contact with young people through existing clubs and associations (CECC)

✠ **WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL HAVE IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUES RAISED ABOUT ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION?**

✠ *Facilitate youth input and access*

- ◇ Consult and ask young people (YMHF, CYWC, ACYG, COSS)
- ◇ Consult with youth workers (ACYG)

- ◇ Young people running things (YMHF, CYWC)
- ◇ Council needs to ensure fair access and provision for people with disabilities (SRH)
- ◇ Continue to monitor young people's views about events and alcohol provision and promotion (ALAC)

✧ ***Liaise with commercial providers***

- ◇ Intermediary between businesses and young people (COSS)
- ◇ Assist in facilitation of commercial entities more attuned to young people 13-19 years (CECC)
- ◇ Directly promote and work with the business community to provide facilities and programmes for young people (HRCOM, yPICncl)
- ◇ Promote performance opportunities for young people (yPICncl)
- ◇ Arrange bus tickets for longer than four hours - across bus companies (CYWC)
- ◇ Encourage development of more transport services (YMHF, CYWC)

✧ ***Provide information***

- ◇ Let young people know what's going on (ACYG)
- ◇ Advertise appropriately for young people (CYWC)
- ◇ Provide a Mayor's publicity page for youth groups (as for sports) (ACYG)
- ◇ Continue to raise awareness of the needs of young people (ALAC)
- ◇ Provide information about funding for cultural groups (yPICncl)

✧ ***Provide services***

- ◇ Well controlled public entertainment initiatives (CECC, ChdFam)
- ◇ Fund youth centres in suburbs (running entertainment nights and providing a place to hang out) (EcuYth, CYWC, DIA) and sports complexes (DIA, yPICncl)
- ◇ Youthfest for young people aged 13-20 years (CYWC, yCCS)
- ◇ Alcohol-free Summertime events (ChdFam)
- ◇ Providing safe, user-friendly and appropriate opportunities (EcuYth, YMHF, CEG, ALAC, HRCOM) specifically for young people (HRCOM, yPICncl)
- ◇ More activities for 12-15 years in the school holidays (yCCS)
- ◇ Discount card (not just for young people at school) (YMHF, CYWC)

- ◇ Fund and support existing services and activities and encourage local activities (YMHF, ACYG, COSS, yPICncl)
- ◇ Some targeting of assistance for low socio-economic communities (MinEd). Local sports clubs could be supported through grants for equipment and programmes focusing specifically on young people at risk (DIA)
- ◇ Same role as at present (Police)
- ◇ Identification of gaps, filling gaps and encouraging others to do so too (CYPFS)
- ◇ Library disability card and Internet access should be continued (yCCS)
- ◇ Better books, more modern music and CD-ROMs in the library (yCCS)
- ◇ Make City Council facilities available free for youth activities to promote community (yPICncl)

## ✦ Education and Training

*The Working Party members defined this topic as involving 'institutions of social and academic learning', including a broad spectrum of school, peers, family and training opportunities.*

### ✦ WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ISSUES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

#### ✦ *Attitudes of young people*

- ◇ Some young people don't want to be there (CYWC)
- ◇ No hope - know there will be no job (CYWC, yCorps)
- ◇ How to meet the needs of those who aren't there to learn? (CYWC)

#### ✦ *Attitudes towards young people*

- ◇ "The education system is geared to *telling* young people and not involving them in decision making." Schools are impersonal and oppressive. They are bad places to learn and are closed to communities (CYWC)
- ◇ Awareness and education - 'disability awareness' - acceptance into recreation groups and education facilities (DPA)
- ◇ Acceptance of people with disabilities (SRH)
- ◇ Very few schools know their responsibilities to young people regarding sexual harassment policies (eg. young people called 'fag' all the time). Responsibility is put on the student to deal with this behaviour (yGLADYS)
- ◇ "Teachers at high school are like the Police" (yCorps)
- ◇ Young people are humiliated by teachers. "Teachers don't care...teaching is supposed to be a caring profession but teachers just seem to be there for the money" (yEmpl)
- ◇ Guidance counsellors are not welcoming and are generally too old (yEmpl)

#### ✦ *Employment*

- ◇ Schools are a holding pen for employment services (ChdFam)
- ◇ There are not enough part time jobs (YMHF)
- ◇ Youth rates and kids getting less than the minimum wage (YMHF)
- ◇ Sexual harassment (YMHF)

- ◇ Not adequate liaison between schools and employment options - you get out of school and you don't know what to do or where to go (yCncl, yGLADYS)

### ✂ *Home environment*

- ◇ Being able to learn if in a dysfunctional family (COSS)
- ◇ Ability of schools to deal with young people with bad home and community environment (CECC)
- ◇ What's going on in the rest of life (CYWC, ACYG)
- ◇ Interaction with family is important (EcuYth)
- ◇ Unrealistic expectations of families eg. "stay at school and you will get training or employment" (ETSA)

### ✂ *Income*

- ◇ Changes to Training Benefit for 16 and 17 year olds (YMHF, CYWC, COSS, ETSA, ComCorr)
- ◇ Accommodation in the city (for young people from out of town) which is priced OK (COSS)
- ◇ Cost in skilling young people (ACYG)
- ◇ Financial access (ALAC, yTOP)
- ◇ Funding (SRH)

### ✂ *Relevant and sufficient education and training*

- ◇ Ensuring students can have their expectations about education articulated and then met through the performance of schools and other providers (MinEd)
- ◇ Access to sufficient choice (SRH, yTOP)
- ◇ Mainstream education is quite well served but note the uneven roll distribution between schools (ALAC)
- ◇ Overall the city is very well served (especially secondary schools) (CECC)
- ◇ Meaningful activity (SRH)
- ◇ Education relevant to young people's needs eg. Aranui Academy (YMHF, CYWC, COSS, SRH, yTOP, yEmpl)

- ◇ Needs to be enough skills training (CYWC, ACYG, yEmpl). Ought to be able to get back to apprenticeships and on the job training which is connected to what they're doing (EcuYth)
- ◇ Big issues, like the relevant education at the moment (base education) (CECC)
- ◇ Probably not enough for young people who don't see school as relevant (COSS)
- ◇ Taking different learning styles into account (CYWC, CEG)
- ◇ Pass/fail aspect in school; young people are either in or out (EcuYth)
- ◇ Curriculum dominates social needs (ChdFam)
- ◇ Need to deal with the whole young person (not just school stuff) (ChdFam)
- ◇ Schools push academic activity and sport but don't try to build self esteem (yGLADYS)
- ◇ Secondary teachers just throw the information at you. Teachers concentrate on the top students and if you're not one of them you get thrown out of class. Only the bright students get guidance, the rest don't (yCorps)
- ◇ Schools are too inflexible (YMHF)
- ◇ Schools have to respond to welfare issues because school is a major part of life (ChdFam)
- ◇ Access to education; 24% of young people with congenital disabilities do not get qualifications. There are barriers to getting education even when a disability is physical. Young people can then not be matched with employment opportunities (DPA)
- ◇ Special units have put lots of emphasis on physical skills. Vocational training for what? This is despite the technological advances which mean young people with disabilities *can* achieve (DPA)
- ◇ Private training institutions are not monitored (YMHF). Some youth suicides from training courses; there is an issue about resourcing courses appropriately (EcuYth)
- ◇ Fewer opportunities for non-mainstream and post-secondary young people who do not go on to tertiary study (ALAC)
- ◇ Can't generalise about school environment or family as many young people have one supportive teacher (DPA)
- ◇ The kind of sex education offered is often inappropriate (yGLADYS)
- ◇ Some schools offer limited curriculum due to staffing shortages (yGLADYS)



- ◇ Training as future leaders (generally and in different organisations) (ACYG)
- ◇ Recreation education; what is available and how to access what is available (HRCom)

### ✂ *Truancy and suspension*

- ◇ Not much available for young people 19 years and over once they have 'failed' (EcuYth)
- ◇ Suspensions/expulsions (YMHF)
- ◇ Truancy (YMHF, CYPFS, DIA, ComCorr)
- ◇ Many young people lack stable schooling (DIA)

### ✂ *Other*

- ◇ Transport (ACYG, SRH)
- ◇ Driver safety, defensive driving (HRCom)
- ◇ The longer people stay in education means young people postpone hitting real world expectations (EcuYth)
- ◇ Linkage issues for families, schools, businesses and communities (CECC)
- ◇ Patch protection (CECC)
- ◇ Lack of adequate resourcing (CECC)
- ◇ Cost of accommodating students at tertiary institutions eg. deaf. Budget doesn't allow (DPA)
- ◇ Consumers of education and training are powerless (YMHF)

## ✂ **HOW ARE THESE ISSUES DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT YOUNG PEOPLE?**

### ✂ *Accessibility*

- ◇ Locality (ACYG)
- ◇ Cost; Polytech costs x, better course costs y (ACYG)

### ✂ *Culture*

- ◇ Cultural differences (YMHF, ACYG)
- ◇ Gender differences are not accounted for (YMHF)

### ✂ *Home environment*

- ◇ Socio-economic status (COSS)

- ◇ Home and family environment (COSS)
- ◇ Major issues of social inequity and education resources; stratification and the inequality this brings (CECC)
- ◇ Family support; how this is reflected in their school life (CECC)

✂ *Stage of development*

- ◇ Different developmental rates are not accounted for (YMHF)
- ◇ Age (COSS). Younger school students sometimes have more restrictions placed on them (eg. being able to use parks during school time) (yJunSec)

✂ **HOW COULD THESE ISSUES BE ADDRESSED?**

✂ *Links to employment*

- ◇ Youth Action criteria need to change (CYWC)
- ◇ Training that meets the needs of young people (YMHF)
- ◇ By a shift in attitude. At present there seems to be a confusion between education and vocational training. There is more to education than getting a job (COSS)
- ◇ Teaching life skills (COSS)
- ◇ NZES Actionworks getting out to schools (yCncl)

✂ *More opportunities and resources*

- ◇ Sometimes getting expert or skilled people to help with courses costs money - it would be good to have some help with this, especially as some subjects (such as First Aid) require skilled trainers (ACYG)
- ◇ More education alternatives (YMHF, CYWC, yCCS, yCorps)
- ◇ More training courses (CYWC)
- ◇ Another Youth Education Service (CYWC)
- ◇ Need to ensure we build appropriate social fabric by better cross-sectoral and community communication (CECC)
- ◇ Need for after school curricular activities for youth from low income families (DIA)
- ◇ After school one to one tutoring groups with cheaper rates for young people who want and need it (yCCS)

- ◇ Sporting and tutoring opportunities need to be better with more times and access to more than just counselling (yCCS)
- ◇ More outdoor education and camps etc. (yJunSec)

### ✧ *Schools to change*

- ◇ Cater for different learning styles (CYWC)
- ◇ Schools need to value all kinds of ability (CYWC) and interest (yGLADYS)
- ◇ Better organisation so people with disabilities don't have to take PE and sit on the side and watch (yCCS)
- ◇ Teacher education; they need to know how to deal with what's going on for individuals (CYWC, yGLADYS) including students with learning disabilities (yCncl, yGLADYS)
- ◇ Schools that are culturally sensitive (CYWC)
- ◇ Provide appropriate alternatives to suspensions (YMHF)
- ◇ Cheap access to learning musical instruments (yCCS)
- ◇ Schools need to be more accessible to young mothers, possibly even a school in the city geared especially for them (yCncl)
- ◇ There should be Teacher Aides for secondary school (yCncl)
- ◇ Better guidance counselling associated with schools (yCncl) which is accessible so the onus isn't on students (yGLADYS)
- ◇ More options like the Aranui Sports Academy and alternatives to traditional schooling (yGLADYS): "Get real, [traditional schooling] doesn't suit everyone" (yCncl)
- ◇ Schools to provide better sex education which is fun, accessible and acknowledges diversity (yGLADYS)
- ◇ Promotion of peer education, especially for boys (yGLADYS)
- ◇ Young people with special needs in schools need programmes (COSS)
- ◇ Accessing services for young people with problems eg. Special Education Service is under resourced (COSS)
- ◇ More "cool, practical" subjects like life skills, budgeting, putting together a CV and computer training (yEmpl)
- ◇ Teachers need to be trained how to use computers (yEmpl)

✧ *Other*

- ◇ Re-introduce zoning (YMHF)
- ◇ Carefully! There has to be an even spread - not more money for visible, rich people or vice versa (or for just one culture) ACYG)
- ◇ Improved student engagement with and commitment to learning (MinEd),
- ◇ Cultural integration (all) and celebration of cultural diversity of city and ways can add value through cultural diversity. It is young people who can lead us into this (CECC)
- ◇ Student income should be available before age 18 years (yCCS)
- ◇ Young people need more career role models who are culturally sensitive and positive (yCncl)

✧ **WHAT EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE AT PRESENT?**

❖Leadership courses ❖Self esteem courses ❖Excellent education and training opportunities; as good as anywhere ❖Aranui Academy ❖Alternatives ❖Youth Education Service ❖TOPs ❖ Range of private and state schools ❖ Tertiary opportunities ❖Ministry of Youth Affairs initiatives ❖Community training eg. Guides/ Scouts ❖Church groups ❖Sport groups

✧ **ARE EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES APPROPRIATE?**

- ◇ Not all and not forever; they need to change as needs change (COSS)
- ◇ Not for all young people; they don't account for different learning styles, developmental or cultural differences (YMHF)
- ◇ Some opportunities are in unsafe environments (YMHF)

✧ **WHAT ISSUES AFFECT THE ACCESS YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES?**

✧ *Cost*

- ◇ Financial; many young people are reluctant to take student loans (COSS)

- ◇ The cost of education (YMHF) including school fees, calculators, exam fees and 'labels' to be able to keep up with everyone else (yTOP)
- ◇ Tertiary education is too expensive (yEmpl)
- ◇ Income Support won't fund many training choices (yEmpl)

✂ *Decreasing choices*

- ◇ Training Benefit; if young people are forced to participate there will be rise in crime (CYWC)
- ◇ New Zealand Employment Service criteria (YMHF)
- ◇ Shift in government perspective - contracting out and generally withdrawing services to schools (COSS)

✂ *Family*

- ◇ Family circumstances (COSS)
- ◇ Family requirements and demands (YMHF)

✂ *Self*

- ◇ Emotional state at the time (YMHF)
- ◇ Young people feeling pointless when there is no job at the end of training (YMHF)
- ◇ Readiness to learn (YMHF)
- ◇ Relationship with learning institution (YMHF)

✂ *Other*

- ◇ Too much importance on university education (COSS)
- ◇ Cultural appropriateness of opportunities (CYWC)
- ◇ Transport (YMHF)
- ◇ Not enough good career counselling at school (yEmpl)

✂ **HOW COULD ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES BE IMPROVED?**

*Systems better geared to meeting needs*

- ◇ More social services for young people in need (COSS)

- ◇ Education and Social Welfare to co-ordinate better; "getting their act together" (COSS)
- ◇ Provide good information for young people so they know how to relate to opportunities available (YMHF, CECC). This should be done through schools (yCncl)
- ◇ The system should be more holistic (CYWC)
- ◇ Institutions need to be accountable to communities (which feel powerless to challenge) (CYWC)
- ◇ Flexible criteria/standards (YMHF)
- ◇ School should be practical about meeting the needs of young people eg. child care (YMHF)
- ◇ Student loans available for part time courses; even small loans for books (yEmpl)

## ✠ HOW COULD YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS ABOUT EDUCATION AND TRAINING?

### *Involvement of young people*

- ◇ Student representatives on school Boards of Trustees (COSS)
- ◇ School Councils and Youth Council (ACYG)
- ◇ Be consulted on matters of policy development (YMHF, ACYG, COSS) in safe and appropriate ways (YMHF)

## ✠ WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL HAVE IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUES RAISED ABOUT EDUCATION AND TRAINING?

### ✠ *Advocate*

- ◇ Promote teacher training (CYWC)
- ◇ Lobby and challenge the management model of schools (CYWC, yUni)
- ◇ Encourage schools to teach more social skills, social responsibility and civil rights (yUni)
- ◇ Lobby on issues such as Training Benefit (CYWC)
- ◇ To have current information for Council and the community regarding the specific training and education needs for rangatahi Maori, via iwi, hapu and whanau (ETSA)

- ◇ Have an awareness of the lack of training available for students in 'the gap' (IncSup)
- ◇ Need for more literacy and numeracy courses and more facilities for students not coping in the school system to have time out or an alternative to the school system eg. like pilot programme run by YES age group 12-14 year olds (IncSup)
- ◇ Help educate people about disabilities so we are not stigmatised (yCCS)
- ◇ Promote sexual harassment policies in schools (yGLADYS)

#### ✧ *Co-ordinate*

- ◇ Help link different decision makers (ACYG, COSS)
- ◇ Co-ordinate and facilitate (ACYG)
- ◇ Co-ordinate different organisations to visit schools and training courses (cohesive approach) (YMHF)
- ◇ Make sure opportunities are well publicised (COSS, yUni)
- ◇ Close liaison with schools, PTE's etc. to make sure young people know what is available (HRCom)

#### ✧ *Involve young people*

- ◇ Involve young people with adults (COSS)

#### ✧ *Provide?*

- ◇ Not service delivery (COSS, Police); this is a central government responsibility (CEG)
- ◇ Access and provide tutors for training (volunteers) and keep a database of trainers (ACYG)
- ◇ Provide a venue for training young people or leaders at only a small cost (ACYG)
- ◇ Provide life skills training (eg. parenting) in high schools (CYWC)
- ◇ Council does have responsibility as a provider in this area because the city will see the fallout if the school system is unsuccessful (CYWC)
- ◇ Administrative support (YMHF)
- ◇ Free training for those working with young people (eg. learning styles with schools) (CYWC)
- ◇ Provide funding for training and information about where to apply (YMHF, CYWC, ACYG)
- ◇ Encourage community education initiatives targeted at young people (ComChn)

- ◇ Develop peer educators who could operate from Council facilities (ComChn)
- ◇ Educate ratepayers, parents and other whanau about realistic expectations of and for young people (ETSA)
- ◇ Raise awareness of environmental issues (MinEnv)
- ◇ Help organise youth-friendly speakers about issues relevant to young people [with disabilities] such as peer pressure, employment issues, drugs and alcohol; we don't want to be spoken to like children (yCCS)
- ◇ Support someone to go around schools as a Pacific Island Guidance Counsellor addressing time management, goal setting and training (a role the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs used to fulfil) (yPICncl)
- ◇ Help run camps which focus on employment and education issues (yPICncl)
- ◇ Help organise school term study groups (although this might be difficult) (yPICncl)
- ◇ Provide more funding for schools (yUni)
- ◇ Help run job-related skills courses within schools (like one Employment Services used to run) (yPICncl) and help students make the transition from school to employment or further education (yGLADYS)
- ◇ On the job training of resource managers (MinEnv)

✂ *Role model*

- ◇ The Christchurch City Council should lead by example (YMHF, COSS)
- ◇ People on Council to role model and challenge schools to take disability issues into account (DPA)



## ✦ **Employment**

*The Working Party members defined employment as generally being for money, but also included voluntary work or bartering. It relates to later career opportunities and gives signals about what is valued and what is not. Unemployment was mentioned as being a negative word - society makes judgements about skills, discipline and lack of a 'work ethic'.*

### ✦ **WHAT ARE THE EMPLOYMENT ISSUES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?**

#### ✦ *Barriers to employment*

- ◇ Young people require experience to get a job (CYWC, yEmpl). "People just laugh at you if you're young without experience" (yEmpl)
- ◇ Young people lose the Accommodation Supplement if they get work (ChdFam)
- ◇ No incentives to get the limited jobs that do exist (ChdFam)
- ◇ Lack of skills (YMHF)
- ◇ Lack of role models (intergenerational unemployment) (CEIG)
- ◇ There are many "unemployable" young people who do not show up in statistics because they are in technical training. "This is not treating young people well" (EcuYth)
- ◇ The criteria for Youth Action and for Task Force Green are too restrictive. Many young people are motivated, but don't fit the criteria (they have to become victims first) (CEIG)
- ◇ Young people often don't know what's out there (CEIG, yGLADYS, yCorps)
- ◇ Support (SRH)
- ◇ Relevance (SRH)
- ◇ Lack of transport (SRH, CEG)
- ◇ Flexibility (SRH)
- ◇ "Doing voluntary work would help but you're not allowed to do voluntary work full time while on the dole" (yEmpl)
- ◇ Finding part-time work is difficult for young people (yESL)
- ◇ Unable to work on Student Visa (yESL)

### ✧ *Economic development*

- ◇ Making sure we manage sustainable economic growth and don't lose young people to other cities because we can't offer jobs. Good balanced economy and long term economic growth (CECC)

### ✧ *Expectations*

- ◇ Young people have unrealistic expectations of employment (CEIG, YMHF)
- ◇ Once young people become aware of realistic expectations they lose hope (CEIG)
- ◇ Pressure (unrealistic expectations) to conform to 'traditional' values associated with employment eg. 'decide on one career and work 40 hours per week every week' (ETSA)
- ◇ "No hope" (IncSup) or "motivation when you feel you're being knocked back" (yEmpl)
- ◇ Community perceptions of young people (SRH)

### ✧ *Income and the Employment Contracts Act*

- ◇ Youth rates should only be for a limited time (six months) as they exploit young people (COSS)
- ◇ Youth rates are too low (CYWC, HRCom, Police, SRH, yUni, yCorps, yEmpl, yESL). "Youth rates suck" (yTOP)
- ◇ Young people trying to get educated on a low income; they can't break the cycle (CYWC)
- ◇ Youth rates are exploitative (YMHF)
- ◇ Young people are underpaid, ripped off and exploited. The Warehouse pays about \$4 per hour, Pak 'n' Save about \$5 per hour and McDonalds about \$7 per hour (yCncl)
- ◇ Being paid less than what may get on a benefit (IncSup)
- ◇ Youth rates are less than the Benefit (Police) and so encourage young people into a Benefit trap (YMHF)
- ◇ Under the Employment Contracts Act young people are very vulnerable (CYWC, COSS, ComCorr, HRCom)
- ◇ There is no incentive to work under the Employment Contracts Act with youth rates (ChdFam)

- ◇ Young workers are being given the message that they are not 'worth' very much (Police)
- ◇ Poor conditions and low wages (ComCorr, CEG)
- ◇ Pressure of having to take huge student loans to get training (IncSup, yUni)
- ◇ 'Work for the dole' scheme does not sound very positive (yCncl)

#### ✂ ***Lack of work ethic***

- ◇ Young people need a work ethic (EcuYth, YMHF, CECC)
- ◇ It is important for young people to learn to understand work ethos (this is a two way communication) (CECC)

#### ✂ ***Links with education***

- ◇ The interface between education and employment to ensure expectations are clear (CEIG, CECC)
- ◇ Educational structure. There are some opportunities for training but schools are inflexible about allowing this to happen (CEIG)
- ◇ Gap between what education provides and job readiness (CEIG)
- ◇ Confusion about roles of schools, education and training for work (ETSA)

#### ✂ ***Not enough jobs***

- ◇ Not enough jobs (CEIG, YMHF, COSS, Police, DIA, ComCorr, ALAC, HRCom, yCCS, yCncl, yTOP, yEmpl) especially for those with no or low qualifications (ALAC, CYPFS) or who are under 15 years (yCCS)
- ◇ There aren't jobs for graduates although their expectations are high (EcuYth)
- ◇ Not enough jobs and a depressed labour market (CEIG)
- ◇ Gap between the skills young people have and opportunities (CEIG)
- ◇ "Unemployment is a huge issue" (CYWC)
- ◇ Lots of places will only hire young people once they're 21 (yTOP)

#### ✂ ***Training for employment***

- ◇ Lack of apprenticeships as the concept is eroding (EcuYth, YMHF)
- ◇ There will be a shortage of trades and a huge swing to professional information technology (EcuYth)
- ◇ Lack of opportunities in preparation for employment (CEG)

✧ *Voluntary work - what is work?*

- ◇ Lack of recognition for voluntary services (voluntary service is not recognised as valuable work experience) (CYWC)
- ◇ Questions about what is defined as work (CYWC)
- ◇ Would welcome working voluntarily for work experience (yTOP)

✧ **HOW ARE THESE ISSUES DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT YOUNG PEOPLE?**

- ◇ Different for Maori and Pacific Island young people (EcuYth, YMHF)
- ◇ Families where parents are working (EcuYth)
- ◇ Huge issue for young people who don't move from school or training to work. "Society has given them nothing and they don't owe anything" (EcuYth)
- ◇ Skilled versus unskilled young people (YMHF)
- ◇ 'Class' issues (YMHF)
- ◇ Poverty (YMHF)

✧ **HOW COULD THESE ISSUES BE ADDRESSED?**

✧ *Address relationship between education and employment*

- ◇ Work is still needed on the links between education and training and between training and employment (EcuYth)
- ◇ Clarification of the boundary between the youth employment programme (Actionworks) and Workbridge (DPA)
- ◇ Emphasis on quality of learning (EcuYth)
- ◇ Co-ordination of courses (CYWC)
- ◇ Provide a good tertiary infrastructure and put as much emphasis on non-university as university (CECC)
- ◇ Make sure all courses start at same time (Jan or July) (in line with TOPs) (CEIG)

✧ *Increased opportunities*

- ◇ Provide ways for young people to give back to the community (eg. working with younger children) (CYWC)
- ◇ Apprenticeships schemes (YMHF)

- ◇ Employers should offer a bonus system as an incentive for work (yEmpl)
- ◇ Need some emphasis on Community Task Force with some places allocated for young people (CEIG)
- ◇ More life skills courses (CEIG)
- ◇ Make sure there is access to affordable technology (CEIG)
- ◇ Curriculum Vitae service to support young people (CYWC)
- ◇ More careers guidance (CEIG)
- ◇ Providing mobile services that go to where young people are (YMHF)
- ◇ "We need help to find part-time work. We have to just check the newspaper or knock on doors in the neighbourhood, offering to do odd jobs" (yJunSec)

### ✂ *Prevent exploitation*

- ◇ Someone to act as a watchdog for employers who exploit young people (CYWC)
- ◇ Make sure additional opportunities are paid positions to avoid issues of exploitation (CYWC)
- ◇ Need more education about the rights of employed young people. This could be provided through Actionworks or the Youth Law Worker (CYWC)
- ◇ Employer education (YMHF)
- ◇ Lobbying against the Employment Contracts Act (YMHF)
- ◇ Young people could provide a voice to trade unions (but if youth rates go up will young people be hired?) (yCncl)

## ✂ **WHAT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE AT PRESENT?**

❖Actionworks   ❖Subsidy incentives from Government (through Actionworks/NZES and Christchurch City Council partnership)   ❖Many youth-focused community groups are primarily involved in employment issues   ❖Actionworks   ❖ Youth Ace   ❖Employment in Schools programme   ❖Smart Start   ❖Future Workers pilot at Papanui   ❖Youth Works   ❖Pitcaithly House   ❖Conservation Corps (Ministry of Youth Affairs)   ❖Youth Service Corps (Ministry of Youth Affairs)   ❖Commissioned Youth Action Training   ❖Non traditional opportunities   ❖Roadshow   ❖Academy week for 4th formers

## ✠ ARE THESE INITIATIVES APPROPRIATE?

- ◇ Opportunities are not always appropriate but funding restrictions determine the structure of courses (CEIG)

## ✠ WHAT ISSUES AFFECT THE ACCESS YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

### ✠ *Basic needs not met*

- ◇ Intergenerational unemployment (getting polarisation of workers and second generation non-workers) (CECC)
- ◇ Family issues and the involvement of parents (CEIG, YMHF)
- ◇ Health and housing (CEIG)
- ◇ Sufficient money (CEIG, YMHF, CYWC)

### ✠ *Changes to work*

- ◇ The casualisation of the workforce has bridged a gap for young people and allowed them to get a foot in the door (CECC)
- ◇ The flexibility of the workforce means that people move around more and this provides young people with more opportunities (CECC)
- ◇ The ability to access real opportunities when there are lots of 'pretend' jobs (YMHF)

### ✠ *Information*

- ◇ Lack of information about what's available and about work itself (CYWC)
- ◇ Sometimes too much information or information not available at the right time ("only want it when it's about me") (CEIG)
- ◇ Lots of employers seem to keep jobs in-house, so it depends on who you know (yCncl)

### ✠ *Personal issues*

- ◇ Motivation (CYWC)
- ◇ Lack of appropriate qualifications and experience (YMHF, CYWC)
- ◇ Alcohol and drug issues (YMHF)

◇ Personal choice (CEIG)

◇ Isolation (CEIG)

✧ *Physical access issues*

◇ Getting to Actionworks in the city as some young people won't come in (CYWC)

◇ Transport (YMHF)

◇ Drivers Licence process is too long and hard (YMHF)

✧ *Other*

◇ Some structural issues - providing sustainable economic growth (CECC)

✧ **HOW COULD ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BE IMPROVED?**

✧ *Education*

◇ Encouraging employers to look beyond their preconceptions about unemployed young people (COSS)

◇ Encourage employers to have social responsibility (COSS)

◇ Promote Actionworks (CEIG)

◇ Make sure information is where young people are (CEIG, yCncl)

◇ The PEP team model (of FPA) could be used more (CEIG)

◇ The Careers service should do some refocussing to become more innovative and effective (CECC)

◇ Education on the process you go through to get employment(CEIG)

✧ *Employment promoted for people with disabilities*

◇ Employment should be promoted (not tokenism) and needs to be proactive because some people have not achieved in education. "Tokenism is OK for a while, as long as disability is on the agenda" (DPA)

✧ *More opportunities*

◇ Provide different opportunities, especially in manual work (COSS)

◇ A youth barter system or market (yCncl)

◇ Youth Enterprise scheme where young people are encouraged to develop and market their own products (yCncl)

### ✦ *Support young people*

- ◇ Follow-up young people once they are in jobs (the way Workbridge operates) (CYWC)
- ◇ Strengthen young people's networks before they need it (CEIG)
- ◇ Make work experience paid and/or recognised in some way (CYWC)
- ◇ Co-ordination between Actionworks and youth services (eg. Youth and Cultural Development Society) (yCorps)

## ✦ **HOW COULD YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT?**

- ◇ Give them the vote! Let's make Christchurch the first city in New Zealand to give youth their own vote on issues concerning youth (CEIG, YMHF)
- ◇ Through the Christchurch Youth Council (CEIG)
- ◇ Creating an environment in which to ask questions (CEIG)
- ◇ Go places where young people are so they can give feedback on youth services (CEIG)

## ✦ **WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL HAVE IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUES RAISED ABOUT EMPLOYMENT?**

### ✦ *Advocate*

- ◇ Keep an employers' blacklist and lobby on exploitation issues (CYWC)
- ◇ Lobby government to change youth rates (yTOP)
- ◇ Formulate local policy (from local information) and feed it into national policy (CEIG)
- ◇ Lobby and education functions (CEIG, yUni)
- ◇ Follow up issues as they arise; this would solve lots of problems later (CYWC)
- ◇ Promote awareness by providing more information at schools (IncSup)

### ✦ *Facilitate*

- ◇ Facilitate and support (COSS)
- ◇ Provide facilitation between existing agencies to ensure that information is shared (CECC)



- ◇ Work collaboratively with government agencies, employers and all interested parties including Manawhenua, Maata Waka groups and Maori organisations (ETSA)
- ◇ Promote links with the Employers Federation to support young people in employment (CYWC)

#### ✂ **Resource**

- ◇ Council's role is to support employment opportunities and see that they happen (COSS, yUni)
- ◇ Work with Community Corrections to help facilitate work for young people (yCorps)
- ◇ Look for employment for young people to keep them busy (yEmpl)
- ◇ Set up employment projects to give young people more choice (yPICncl, yUni)
- ◇ Central government responsibility but commend existing work (CEG)
- ◇ Curriculum Vitae and personal development service; young people could be trained to offer this to others (CYWC)
- ◇ Continue to provide good programmes ie Actionworks (Police, DIA, ComCorr, HRCom)
- ◇ Make Actionworks more accessible, moveable and mobile (CYWC)
- ◇ Resource in the widest sense (CEIG)
- ◇ Resource politically risky things that government departments can't risk (CEIG)
- ◇ Bit more proactive eg. address the issues of Pacific Island young people hitting the streets (CEIG)
- ◇ Provide scholarships for Pacific Island and Maori young people to go to University (CEIG)
- ◇ Let go of being a provider and give funding out to the community to provide (CEIG)
- ◇ Help get information out to young people about their income entitlements (yPICncl)

#### ✂ **Role model**

- ◇ Lead by example; have a good employment policy and employ young people (CEIG, COSS)
- ◇ Council could get young unemployed people to organise and work at its festivals (yEmpl)
- ◇ Council has a responsibility to provide a good model eg. employment cadetships (be an EEO employer) (DPA)

- ◇ There is a need to provide inclusive policy and programmes where appropriate (SRH)

✧ *Value young people*

- ◇ Raise the profile of young people (YMHF)
- ◇ Openly promote and value young people (YMHF)
- ◇ Consult regularly (CEIG, YMHF)
- ◇ Ensure a provider environment that is supportive of sustainable economic growth (CECC)
- ◇ Ensure the macro environment is positive for the establishment of work/employment enterprises; low rates, cheap infrastructural costs (MinEd)
- ◇ Look at what's going on for young people and what's going on in wider society (CEIG)

## **Family**

*The Working Party members defined this topic as encompassing many different family structures. They saw families being influenced by social pressures, culture, gangs and socio-economic factors.*

### **WHAT ARE THE FAMILY ISSUES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?**

#### ***Abuse***

- ◇ Feeling safe (ChdFam)
- ◇ Violence and sexual abuse (YMHF)
- ◇ Abusive families (CYWC, yUni)

#### ***Basic needs***

- ◇ Poverty and unemployment (HRCom)
- ◇ High levels of economic hardship and social disadvantage have produced a correspondingly high rate of dysfunction in families which see young people exposed to abuse (in all forms) from violence, addiction, poverty, etc. (ComCorr)
- ◇ Health, education, employment and justice (CYWC, SchCouns)
- ◇ Homelessness (YMHF)
- ◇ Young offenders generally come from low income families (Police)
- ◇ Low income which is related to poor housing, transient housing and thus transient schooling (SRH)
- ◇ Lack of money coming into families (CEG)
- ◇ Young people need to be part of functional families which have "love, acceptance, security, group membership, recognition of individual qualities and promote independence and responsibility" (from an address by Professor Whitfield to the 1997 Independent Schools Conference) (CECC)
- ◇ It is difficult to see how young people can cope with becoming parents if they don't have basic things like jobs or secure homes (yEmpl)

#### ***Pressures on families***

- ◇ Recognise and value diversity - there shouldn't be stigma towards families on benefits or solo parents (COSS)

- ◇ Family breakdown (CYPFS)
- ◇ Pressures on single parent families (IncSup)
- ◇ Getting along with both parents when they aren't living together is difficult. "It's easy to go off the rails" (yCorps)
- ◇ Affluence of society forces a gap between the 'haves' and 'have nots' (YMHF)
- ◇ Lack of values in media influences (YMHF)
- ◇ Discourse of dependency and failure (COSS)
- ◇ Poverty; not having enough resources (money, housing) (EcuYth, YMHF, ACYG, SchCouns)
- ◇ Family pressures including the employment of self or parents (EcuYth, ACYG, SchCouns)
- ◇ Unemployment (YMHF)
- ◇ Lots of young people have two unemployed parents. They have no hope, no expectations and don't know anything else (ACYG)
- ◇ Lack of resources from Government (YMHF)
- ◇ Lots of young people have to babysit and take their brothers and sisters with them when they go out (CYWC)
- ◇ Families lack quality time together (SchCouns)
- ◇ Families falling apart (EcuYth)
- ◇ Many young people don't get their needs met through families (YMHF)
- ◇ Parents with appropriate use of authority (ChdFam)
- ◇ Lack of parenting skills (YMHF, SchCouns) including appropriate use of authority (ChdFam)
- ◇ Sometimes young people turn away because their parents' way of educating isn't appropriate (yCorps)
- ◇ Lack of role models (YMHF)
- ◇ Lack of support and community support (YMHF, CYWC)
- ◇ Communication with family is difficult (yCorps)
- ◇ Fatherless families (YMHF)
- ◇ Many young offenders have become alienated from their families through family dysfunction and their own acting-out behaviour (ComCorr)

- ◇ Most young offenders are from solo parent homes or homes where there is a 'new partner' on the scene (Police)
- ◇ Absentee parents (HRCom)
- ◇ "For Pacific Island young people our problems begin in the home". These are generational and family based. "It's very difficult for young people to reconcile the cultures" (yPICncl)
- ◇ Parental expectations are difficult to cope with (yCorps)
- ◇ "Sometimes we just need some space" (yESL)

✧ *Other*

- ◇ What is family anyway? (YMHF)
- ◇ Cultural differences amongst families (YMHF)
- ◇ School issues affect family and vice versa (ACYG)

✧ **HOW ARE THESE ISSUES DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT YOUNG PEOPLE?**

- ◇ Young people from families on benefits (COSS)
- ◇ Separation of some young people and their families eg. Samoan families deal with problems but Pakeha families don't have the same community support (CYWC)
- ◇ Urban Maori have issues around a "lack of connectedness" (YMHF)

✧ **HOW COULD THESE ISSUES BE ADDRESSED?**

✧ *Community support*

- ◇ Need more of a community structure in Christchurch. People don't support each other and are isolated (ACYG)
- ◇ More community support groups and programmes (YMHF)
- ◇ Support for women's refuges (yUni)
- ◇ Need a different way of socialising boys (CYWC)

✧ *Initiatives which support families being together*

- ◇ Need to make it easier for families to stick together (and find out why families breakdown) (COSS)
- ◇ Need for family counselling and support (out of school) (SchCouns)

- ◇ Access to entertainment in the suburbs and city (YMHF)
- ◇ Really need to be more supportive of parents of young people (as this is getting harder) (EcuYth)

✧ ***More resources and services***

- ◇ Better resourcing of existing services (ACYG)
- ◇ More resourcing for early intervention programmes (EcuYth)
- ◇ Residential drug and alcohol service (YMHF)
- ◇ Safe houses and safe areas for young people (YMHF)
- ◇ Need to have ways for young people to find out where to go eg. depressed young people (ACYG)
- ◇ Adequate emotional support for young people provided in youth friendly ways eg. Youthline and Youth Mediation (yCncl)

✧ ***Parenting***

- ◇ Need to promote positive parenting (CEIG, SchCouns, COSS)
- ◇ Need drop-in or phone support for parents (SchCouns)
- ◇ Programmes for parents are important (EcuYth, YMHF, CYWC) (but how to get appropriate parents there?) (EcuYth)
- ◇ Support the GAIN programme; there is only one programme like this (but we still have issue of getting people there). Most teenagers want to make it work (EcuYth)
- ◇ "Our parents grew up in the 1960s and are too scared to let us out. There should be parent education classes to inform parents what's happened in the last 30 years. Parents just set standards and it is up to us to just live by them" (yCCS)
- ◇ Parents need education about what life is like for young people. Pacific Island parents need to know about youth culture in New Zealand (yCorps)

✧ ***Schools***

- ◇ Social workers attached to schools (SchCouns)
- ◇ Youth workers in schools as contact people for parents (EcuYth)
- ◇ Peer support groups (YMHF)

## ✠ WHAT INITIATIVES ARE THERE AT PRESENT WHICH SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES?

❖ Various social services ❖ Presbyterian Support Services ❖ Services for families at risk ❖ Free events such as Summertimes ❖ Activities that encourage families to be together ❖ Positive parenting course - Papanui/Shirley ❖ School Counsellors ❖ Free events in the park - Fireworks, Summertimes (an important factor here is cost) ❖ Services are there - access is the issue ❖ GAIN ❖ Project Early ❖ Early Start ❖ 198 Youth Health Centre ❖ Some schools are very supportive ❖ CYPFS ❖ Canterbury Youth Workers Collective ❖ Churches and youth groups ❖ Family Group Movement ❖ Lots of support from solo parents who want to be involved

## ✠ WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL HAVE IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUES RAISED ABOUT FAMILY?

### ✠ *Advocate*

- ◇ Advocate to central government on issues where central government policies have an impact on young people and families (COSS, ComCorr) eg. health, education and welfare (YMHF)
- ◇ Advocate support for beneficial programmes (COSS)
- ◇ Facilitate change through publicity forums which highlight these issues (SRH)
- ◇ Ensure minimal or absence of discrimination against the whole family of a young person with a disability. Families with members who have disabilities often experience the same issues as the individual. Housing and planning issues need to be appropriate as does transport and recreation (SRH)
- ◇ More awareness of services available for young people dealing with family issues (CEG)
- ◇ Promote awareness of family violence (yUni)
- ◇ Promote positive media about family issues (yCorps)
- ◇ Promote media (TV) messages for parents about accepting where young people are at (ySenSec)

- ◇ Think of ways to work with young people on the issue of being allowed to choose which parent to live with (yJunSec)

### ✧ *Encourage community and families*

- ◇ More community (rather than club) use of facilities (ACYG)
- ◇ Council to encourage pride in local communities (eg. each house could have a tree to look after) (SchCouns)
- ◇ Development of family friendly services and facilities (ComChn)
- ◇ Keep doing redevelopments (SchCouns)
- ◇ Encourage development and maintenance of neighbourhood watch (ACYG)
- ◇ Encourage families in all respects (EcuYth, YMHF, CYWC) eg. the GAIN programme (EcuYth). Encourage education about what constitutes a family, and particularly about male roles (yGLADYS)
- ◇ Investigate and examine local issues and encourage local initiatives to meet the needs of young people (ComCorr)
- ◇ Council should be a role model (EcuYth, CYWC) (eg. control of alcohol at Summertime events) (CYWC)
- ◇ Role modelling/mentoring (by key people) (IncSup)

### ✧ *Facilitate/co-ordinate*

- ◇ Facilitate community activities (COSS)
- ◇ Co-ordinate community based services (eg. Creches and safe activities) (SchCouns)
- ◇ Co-ordinate activities that work (YMHF)
- ◇ Facilitate family focused forums or surveys eg. 'fathering the future' and 'mental health needs of children and young people' (ComChn).

### ✧ *Provide*

- ◇ Support and resource community activities (YMHF, COSS). "Who else is going to do it?" (SchCouns)
- ◇ Fund widespread parenting course and support groups. Seminars on adolescence for parents run from local community libraries so access is easy and user friendly (DIA). Parent education to better inform parents about sex education and drug education so



that parents aren't afraid (yCCS). Seminars (maybe with schools) with parents and teenagers to help bridge gaps in understanding (yGLADYS)

- ◇ Continue with present strategies eg. Christchurch City Council/ Police youth programme, school field workers and strengthening families (Police, CYPFS)
- ◇ The Mayor's Welfare Fund (which is currently limited to \$500 per school) should be increased (SchCouns)
- ◇ Fund suburban based as well as big events (ACYG)
- ◇ Youth festival (YMHF, ACYG)
- ◇ Holiday programmes and subsidies for young people who live out of town (ACYG)
- ◇ Inform children and young people about their rights (yCCS)

#### ✂ *Support*

- ◇ Keep encouraging community initiatives (EcuYth)
- ◇ Support for the Commissioner for Children's 'Fathers' project (EcuYth)
- ◇ Support for programmes for men's parenting, self esteem for men and more funding for leisure activities for young people (IncSup)
- ◇ Support young people to develop in their own way (yGLADYS)