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Corporate Plan Output: Community Activities 6.1 text 47	

The purpose of this report is to request funds from the Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board to provide transport for low decile schools to the new Pioneer Leisure Centre as part of the programme of opening activities.

The Pioneer Leisure Centre (PLC) will be officially opened on 8 June 1999. In response to a suggestion from a Board member, PLC Manager, Ian Whitehead, has made timeslots available in the two weeks preceding the official opening for local primary schools to “sample” the new facilities. The facilities include the following features which have never been seen at an aquatic centre in Christchurch before:

- wave machine
- rain drop unit
- bubble pool
- lazy river channel
- water bikes

Initial discussions with school principals indicate that several low decile schools in the Spreydon-Heathcote area would be unable to finance the transport to PLC. Therefore it is requested that the Board allocate \$700 towards supporting these schools, based on an anticipated demand for 10 buses, and a quote of \$70 per bus.

The benefits of providing local school children with this opportunity include:

- opportunity for Spreydon-Heathcote children to experience new aquatic facilities;
- providing children from low decile schools with an experience they might otherwise not have;
- reinforce the benefits of regular exercise to young children in a fun, exciting environment;
- providing Pioneer staff and facilities with a “test-run” opportunity before the pool officially opens.

**Recommendation:** That the Board allocate \$700 from its 1998/99 Discretionary funds towards transport for low decile schools to Pioneer Leisure Centre.