

Officer responsible Children's Advocate	Author Lyn Campbell
Corporate Plan Output: Consultation - Children	

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the progress and implementation of 'What's the Big Idea?!' into Council processes.

BACKGROUND

In Term 1, 1999, 17 Christchurch primary schools, were invited to participate in 'What's the Big Idea?!' Of these, six schools were unable to participate or complete their projects for a variety of reasons, mainly as a result of demands on student and teacher time from other commitments. Eleven schools will successfully complete their project within terms 3 and 4.

'What's the Big Idea?' is a project devised by the Christchurch City Council to encourage Christchurch school students in Years 7-8 to find creative ways to strengthen our community. The project was staged as follows:

1. Interested teachers attended a workshop and information sharing session at the Christchurch City Council.
2. Schools committed to completing the project within an agreed timeframe.
3. Students brainstormed to identify an issue or problem in their local or metropolitan area which interested them. They then selected their best idea.
4. CDAs liaised with students and staff to assist with the development of their ideas by advising them as to who could help them.
5. Students developed a consultation and research plan to gather information from the community about their chosen issue.
6. A cost-effective, creative and sustainable solution was presented to their school's local Community Board.
7. Community Boards considered the students' presentation and discussed possible implementation. An approximate total of 180 students participated in developing their big idea.

PROJECTS

The following issues and problems were taken up for investigation:

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| 1. Recreational Use & Ideas for Jellie Park | Medbury School |
| 2. Traffic Congestion Outside Schools | St Margaret's College |
| 3. Skateboarding Facility & Graffiti Bomb Site | Parkview Primary |
| 4. Discounted Recreation Opportunities For Tweenagers | Cashmere Primary |
| 5. Jobline for Tweenagers | Middleton Grange |
| Youth Entertainment Support Centre | |
| 6. Drop in Centres for Youth | Rangi Ruru |
| 7. Redevelopment of Avondale Reserve | Chisnalwood Intermediate |
| 8. Sports Co-ordinators | Kirkwood Intermediate |

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| 9. | Linwood Cemetery | Linwood Intermediate |
| 10. | Recreation & Entertainment for Tweenagers in Papanui area | Casebrook Intermediate |
| 11. | The School as a Community Resource | Breens Intermediate |

A document containing specific details and recommendations has been separately circulated.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

1. That the information be received.
2. That Community Boards and other Council Units be encouraged to investigate the suitability of the projects for implementation, and that the Children's Advocate report back on progress in May 2000.