

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Paul Cottam, Safe Routes to School Coordinator
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The purpose of this report is to firstly update the Committee on the results of the recent Car Free Day at schools, as requested by its July meeting. Secondly, this report seeks to provide information on how some aspects of the recent TRAFINZ conference are being followed through in terms of encouraging safe and active travel to school.

CAR FREE DAY

As part of this year's Kidsafe Week, a 'Car Free Day' was promoted to Christchurch primary schools on 18 August. A smaller scale variant on the successful 'Walk a Child to School Day' held earlier this year, Car Free Day was specifically aimed at parents who normally drive their children to school. They were encouraged to leave the car at home. To promote the day, schools were invited to send in a school newsletter showing the names or numbers of families who took part, which would then go into a prize draw.

Twenty schools sent in entries, mostly from schools that had received the hand held child pedestrian flags during Kidsafe Week. Several schools also supplied data, all showing that the numbers of children who had walked to school on Car Free Day were in excess of half their school roll. The highest figure achieved was 79%. Avondale School and Paparoa Street School each received prizes of \$300, awarded on the grounds of it being spent on their health curriculums. Two other schools received consolation prizes of the Council's 'Walk Christchurch' book.

Taking into account this year's main promotional activities (Walk a Child to School Day, Kidsafe Week pedestrian flags, and Car Free Day), a total of 72 out of the 120 primary schools in Christchurch have taken part in actions encouraging safe and active travel to school.

TRAFINZ CONFERENCE

At the TRAFINZ conference held in Christchurch earlier this year, several ideas on encouraging alternatives to vehicle use were aired, including those of 'Travel Blending' and the 'Walking School Bus'. Following on from this, and building on earlier research into these areas, these ideas are currently being followed through.

A meeting was held recently with primary school teachers, and a representative from teachers college, to discuss travel blending in general, and the idea of travel diaries in particular. They were interested in the idea, particularly if it could be integrated in the school curriculum as much as possible. It is planned to work on developing a suitable kit that could be used as a trial in several schools next year.

Another meeting has also been held with school health nurses and a health promoting schools representative to discuss the walking school bus concept. The benefits of the concept were soon recognised, with these health sector groups keen to work collaboratively with the Council on its development. One possibility is to use next year's Walk a Child to School Day' as a means of launching walking school buses.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.