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Corporate Plan Output: Information and Advice to Council	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the progress on the “Smoke Alarm Project”.

This project was an initiative of our previous Mayor, Vicki Buck, and the intention was to safeguard Christchurch citizens from incidences of fire, as too many families were suffering loss.

Based on the 1996 census, it was determined there were 116,169 private dwellings in the Christchurch area, of which, from the Fire Service’s best estimates, 80,000 homes were without smoke detectors.

The funding committed to the project was \$80,000 in the 1998/99 financial year. The smoke alarms have been sold for \$8.00 each and subsequent alarms \$7.00 each, with installation free of charge.

It is now a year that the Smoke Alarm project has been operating and the “Safe-T” team has installed 8,640 smoke alarms in 4,400 homes.

The majority (90%) have been installed in private homes, with rental residential properties, Play Centres, Creches, Church buildings, a few schools, non-profit organisations such as Plunket Rooms, Maori trusts, Doctors’ surgeries and Retirement Villages / Homes making up the remainder.

The percentage of non-paying clients/customers has been 10.6%.

#### **PERSONNEL**

The Safe-T team comprises two supervisors, who have been paid under ACE/TFG schemes, and 26 participants under the Community Work and Training Programme (CW&T) (16 installers and 10 administration).

Of the 19 who have left:

8 have moved on to work or self-employment,  
6 into further training, and  
3 are current job seekers and 2 are in domestic caring roles.

The current participants under CW&T number seven (five installers and two administration).

The training attended by the participants has included Customer Service, Professional Telephone techniques, Smoke Alarm installation, Literacy, and Computer packages, Excel, Access, Powerpoint, Internet Explorer, E-Mail Outlook.

We are currently negotiating a working contract with the City Housing unit of the Council to replace batteries in smoke alarms that were installed eighteen months ago and also to install some new smoke alarms where required.

The recent promotion in 'City Scene' has generated orders, our Employment Services Newsletter and an article in a recent 'Leading Edge' will we hope, generate more.

We are in the process of winding down the project and plan to wind up in mid-December 1999. However, I do have concerns that there a lot more houses still needing smoke alarms and there is the concern with batteries needing replacing 12 to 18 months out from installation.

It is interesting to note that a similar programme is being developed in Dunedin. Canterbury Development Corporation wishes to thank the Community Services Committee for their support for this project, which has provided training opportunities, employment and a valuable contribution to the safety and well being of a large number of Christchurch citizens.

**Recommendation:** That the Committee receive this report.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.