

6. PARENTING WEEK 2000: 4 – 10 SEPTEMBER 2000

Officer responsible Children's Advocate	Author Lyn Campbell
Corporate Plan Output: Strategy for children	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Community Services Committee about Parenting Week 2000 to take place in Christchurch 4 – 10 September.

BACKGROUND

The issue of parenting is one which is often raised by schools, community groups and social agencies. There are widespread concerns about the pressures parents are facing in bringing up children and the multiplying effects which our community faces when families become dysfunctional. Specialists working in child and youth issues emphasise the need to support parents in their role, as the health and sustainability and wealth of our city. Parenting Week 2000 is an opportunity to focus on the key role we all play in supporting parents in their role. It is about raising awareness as to what resources are available; enabling parents and families to be able to fulfil their roles more effectively; celebrating families in our city.

PARENTING WEEK 2000

Posters and a calendar of events are being widely distributed. Schools, churches, businesses, sporting groups, community groups, and government agencies have registered over 90 events. These include simple neighbourhood based activities through to larger scale seminars, open-days, and exhibitions. Schools are staging "Celebrate Parents and Grandparents Day"; writing and art exhibitions; shopping malls are planning displays; Parenting with Confidence will programme for two weeks in schools and hold three public seminars – "Parenting Teenagers", "Raising Boys", and "Hot Tips for Marriage". Walk and recreational events will take place. Kids in Town will include "The Dad Walk".

Other examples of events include:

- 1. Dangers in and around the home.** For parents with children from birth to two years. Topics include: fire safety, care of medicines and other drugs, what to look for when buying toys, introduction to the world of rules, first aid that can save lives. – St Georges Hospital.
- 2. Parent Effectiveness Training.** Three interactive presentations on Parent Effectiveness Training - YMCA City.
- 3. Talking with children about Sexuality.** Workshops on talking honestly and openly about sex and sexuality and how to answer "tricky" questions. – Family Planning Association
- 4. Wising up to Child Sexual Abuse.** Two hours introductory workshops for parent – presented by START

- Recommendation:**
1. That the report be received.
 2. That elected members and Christchurch City Council Staff promote Parenting Week 2000 and participate in the events.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That Community Boards be encouraged to promote participation in Parenting Week 2000.