

## 14. COMMUNITY BOARD COMMUNITY FOCUS FORUM

The Community Focus Forum of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board was held on Thursday 19 July at 3.30pm. The theme for the forum was "Community".

### 14.1 Quality of Life in New Zealand

Mary Richardson, Social and Economic Policy Analyst attended the meeting and presented and discussed the findings of the "Quality of Life in New Zealand's Six Largest Cities" report. Mary told the Board that the report was initiated by four Auckland cities, Wellington and Christchurch cities as a partnership project to provide data on the well being of our communities. Ten key issues are recognised in the report. Mary also referred to the recently released Ministry of Social Policy publication "Social Report 2001" – Desired Social Outcomes.

The reports shows in some respect that community cohesion is decreasing and that there is a decrease in trust and confidence ie the moral fabric of society is unravelling. Christchurch has areas of deprivation spread over most wards. However, Hagley Ward fares badly.

Mary said that in comparison to countries like Sweden it appeared that New Zealand had taken the wrong social paths.

The six cities are working with the Government on issues raised by the report. The Christchurch City Council has set up a joint Working Party to work on responses. Work is still in preliminary stages as the report has only been available for some six weeks.

The solution must come from all areas not just Christchurch City Council.

### 14.2 Professor Ichiro Kawachi

Board members were invited to attend a lunch time seminar on Wednesday August 1st in the City Council's first floor foyer at 12.00 – 1.30pm.

The seminar entitled "Social Capital and how it affects our Health" will be presented by Professor Ichiro Kawachi, Associate Professor of Health and Social Behaviour at the Harvard School of Public Health. The seminar deals with networks between people – how trust and connections equal better health.

### 14.3 Community Development V Developing Communities

Community Development Advisers Jane Parrett (Beckenham), Bruce Meder (Papanui) and Lynnette Ebborn (Linwood) attended the meeting and made a presentation on Community Development.

The theme was "What is Community Development". Bruce said that 'Community Development' is not the same as 'Developing Communities' and gave the Board members insight into the structures and basis of Community Development. Community Development can be a lengthy process which does not always fit well within the Council's time frames eg Financial Annual Plan. Jane presented and gained Board Member participation in a Community Development Puzzle. The puzzle gave an example of visions, values, methods and roles played in Community Development. Board members also participated in an exercise which had five scenarios which provoked thought on the differences between Community Development and Developing Communities.

#### Chairman's

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