

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE FUNDING

The following letter was received from Hon Lianne Dalziel concerning problems for early childhood centres in obtaining funding:

“Following our joint meeting, with the Board and local Members of Parliament, last year, I undertook to follow up with Hon Steve Maharey, Minister of Social Services and Employment, the issues raised.

In February 1999 the Department of Work and Income introduced an upgraded payment system to support the introduction of changes to the Childcare Subsidy scheme and the introduction of a new subsidy for low-income parents with school-aged children, the OSCAR Subsidy. The dual payment system was implemented on an interim basis only, with a direction that it be reviewed after a year of operation.

The findings of the evaluation were reported to Mr Maharey in October and in response, the Minister has directed the Department of Work and Income to undertake work, in consultation with relevant agencies and provider groups (including members of the Early Childhood Advisory Council), on options for improving the Childcare Subsidy and OSCAR delivery systems. This work began recently with a Department of Work and Income workshop for key stakeholders.

My Maharey has advised that officials will be reporting to him with a proposal in April 2001. Mr Maharey will keep me updated.”

Chairperson’s

Recommendations:

1. That the information be received.
2. That the letter be forwarded to Community Creches and Out of School Programmes in Burwood/Pegasus area.

5.2 RESIDENTIAL CARE AT THE KINGSLEA SITE

The following response has been received from Hon Steve Maharey, Minister of Social Services and Employment.

The Board wrote to the Minister expressing the Council’s concern at his department’s inability to meet the time limits as set out in the designation for the removal of youth justice from the Kingslea Residential Centre site and requesting that the Minister keep the Board informed at three monthly intervals of progress in removing youth justice and criminal justice activities from the Kingslea site.

“Thank you for your 20 December 2000 letter setting out what the Christchurch City Council understands to be the status of the project known as Youth Justice Residential Centre - South (YJS).

As you are aware Child, Youth and Family has had some unexpected set backs on this project and are making their best endeavours to find a suitable site to establish the proposed Youth Justice Residential Centre - South in the greater Christchurch area.

Child, Youth and Family is mindful that any delay in relocating these activities is of concern to the Council and the neighbours of the Kingslea Residential Centre. To assist in keeping the community and City Council informed of project progress the following has occurred:

- *On 8 August 2000 I met with the Mayor of Christchurch City, Cr Carole Anderton, Robyn Moore and Jonathon Fletcher. The Project Director for YJS accompanied me to that meeting and provided an update on the project. At that stage there were no projected delays to the shifting of youth justice activities from the Kingslea Residential Centre.*
- *On 23 August the Project Director met with members of the Kingslea Community Liaison Committee (CLC) to provide them with a project update. The Burwood/Pegasus Community Board is represented on that Committee by Don Rowlands.*
- *On 21 September 2000, Child, Youth and Family's planner from Opus International Consultants Ltd, Graham Taylor met with Peter Eman, Senior Planner and advised there would be delays in removing the youth activities from the Kingslea Residential Centre.*
- *The Project Director wrote to members of the CLC to advise them of the revised timeframe for the project on 21 September 2000.*

- *On 12 October the Project Director attended a meeting convened by the CLC and further explained the delays and stages of the YJS project to completion. Peter Eman from the Christchurch City Council attended this meeting along with City Councillors Carole Evans and Gail Sheriff and Burwood/Pegasus Community Board member Don Rowlands and Community Advocate Dennis Morgan.*

The CLC meets at three monthly intervals and the Project Director has undertaken to attend these meetings to provide regular progress reports. To this end she met with the CLC on 13 December and will continue to do so throughout the course of the project. Through this forum the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board will be kept informed as you have requested.

Work is currently underway preparing for the next stage of the project that will involve community consultation on a potential site for the proposed Centre. The Council will be fully informed regarding this phase once the site selection process is complete and timeframes have been finalised.

In addition to Peter Eman, I have asked that the Project Manager, Debbie Sturfels make contact with you directly regarding the developments in the Youth Justice South project.”

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the information be received.