

## 21. COMMUNITY BOARD SEMINAR MEETING

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Board Objectives	

The Seminar meeting of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board was held on Thursday, 15 February 2001 at 3.30pm. The following matters were considered.

### 21.1 CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY

Lyn Campbell, the Council's Children's Advocate was in attendance at the meeting to provide a briefing on her role and to provide an opportunity for discussion with Board members.

Lyn Campbell outlined some of the major projects she is involved in. These include the National quality of Life Indicator project. Six cities in New Zealand are involved in this project. It will track a number of indicators for a year. The results will be used to influence central government decision making. It will focus on children from 0-18.

Other projects the Advocate is involved in are a ministerial advisory group – National Children's Policy and Agenda to ensure that policy for children is enacted and implemented. The advocate noted an increasing openness to Local Government from Central Government.

The Global net and how the digital divide effects children is another project, as is a hui which will be held later this year – this will focus on Maori working at the community level being able to work together more collaboratively.

The advocate raised the issue of the Board and the advocate working together through creating opportunities to raise awareness of children's issues, opportunities for consultation and the funding role of the Board.

Lyn Campbell agreed to provide the Board with a copy of a report by Dr Fergusson, a longitudinal study of children in trouble.

### 21.2 LEGAL ARTS PROGRAMME

Sharon Williams, the Legal Arts Co-ordinator, attended the meeting to provide Board members with an outline of the work involved in the Legal Arts Programme.

Sharon Williams gave an introduction to the Board on hip hop culture and explained the difference between tagging and graffiti art. Sharon explained that one of the aims of youth doing graffiti art is not to tag. She is currently working with approximately 40 youth but is building relationships with others. She estimated that the numbers of youth tagging in Christchurch reach into the hundreds. Three-quarters of the youth she works with are from the Linwood/Shirley area.

Sharon put forward reasons why children/youth tag – a number of the youth that she works with do not have any family support and/or do not have faith in the system and many would not seek assistance from an agency. Sharon explained that tagging is an addiction. She is working with the public and the probation service and the Department for Courts.

The Legal Arts programme she is involved with does not have to go through Art in Public Places committee. The Community Service standing committee gave approval for the programme Sharon runs. Sharon explained the process for putting together a piece of graffiti art.

The Board congratulated Sharon Williams on the work she is doing and her involvement with youth in Christchurch.

Delia Walker, Community Recreation Adviser advised that she is putting a report to the Board seeking funding for Sharon and the youth she works with for a project at Linwood park on a wall and the front of the skate ramp.

Aaron O'Brien suggested that every three months the Board could agree to a part of the wall be made available for graffiti art as a reward for the group.

### 21.3 YOUTH ADVOCACY

Robyn Moore, the Youth Advocate, was in attendance at the meeting to provide a presentation of the work she is involved in as the Council's Youth Advocate.

Robyn began by informing the Board that she is Sharon William's Manager and encouraged the work Sharon is involved in. Robyn commented on a project she is co-managing with the police. The Council employs three youth workers who work with young offenders.

She commented on youth participation in the Council and said that other models should also be examined.

Robyn commented that she would like to see a database established of youth in Christchurch who could be given opportunities to be involved in various activities/projects where a youth perspective is required.

Derek McCullough queried whether there is an actual problem with youth or is it a question of different styles in different times.

Bob Todd questioned why youth haven't often made a transition from playing sport at school to joining sports clubs after they finished at school.

Robyn Moore commented that at that time there is often an overload of different events happening at that age. She questioned how well sports clubs linked in with schools. She noted that there is a social component. There is now more of a pay and play component and noted the increase in people playing touch and indoor netball.

#### **Chairman's**

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