

12. "CREATIVE EXPRESSION WITH CLAY" – PROGRESS REPORT

Officer responsible Leisure Manager	Author Community Recreation Adviser, DDI 372 2729
Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Promotion and Programmes	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board on the success of the Creative Expression with Clay pottery programme over the course of the recently completed 2000/01 financial year.

Background

'Creative Expression with Clay' is a pottery programme operated from the Canterbury Potters Association facilities on Avice Hill Reserve. The programme was established in October 1998 and has gone from strength to strength in the past 2½ years.

The aim of 'Creative Expression with Clay' is to give people living in the community, that have a disability, the opportunity to get involved with the art of pottery. Since the initial pilot programme in October 1998 'Creative Expression with Clay' has extended to encompass a Beginner and Intermediate level. The programme has become a popular programme that is in high demand within the disability community.

Planning and Programme Format

'Creative Expression with Clay' is planned and managed by the Recreation and Arts Team, Christchurch City Council Leisure.

Two 'Creative Expression with Clay' classes are held each week - a Friday morning session and a Friday afternoon session. A session is assigned to a disability agency for the course of one term. The Agency in question arranges transport and caregivers for their clients to attend the classes. The first term is pitched at a Beginners level. If the agency finds the classes are benefiting their clients they are offered a second term that is pitched at an Intermediate level.

Over the past financial year attendances totalled 562 from the following agencies:

- Paulownia Trust
- AJ Day Options Trust
- Laura Fergusson Trust
- Horizons Day Option Trust
- Namastay Residential Home
- Christchurch Supported Employment

Term 3 will be commencing on Friday 20 July with Canterbury Arthritis Society and Bishopdale Community Access Group (a division of CCS) beginning their involvement with Creative Expression with Clay.

Running both a Beginner and Intermediate level provides participants a logical step to make in their development as potters. Participants are provided with an ongoing challenge, as they gain more confidence and skill in the art of pottery.

Funding

The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board funded 'Creative Expression with Clay' for the 2000/01 financial year. The \$8,000 required to stage 'Creative Expression with Clay' was funded from Project Funding. Ongoing funding for the programme for the 2001/2002 financial year has been allocated from the operational budget of Christchurch City Council Leisure. The reason for this was primarily due to clients coming from all over the city, not specifically Fendalton or Waimairi Wards.

Benefits

Feedback from clients and caregivers has been extremely positive. Creative Expression with Clay plays a valuable role in the lives of the participants. Not only is it providing low cost pottery (usually participants are on an Invalids Benefit), but there are also numerous social benefits for the participants. These extend far beyond the pottery skills learnt each week. Use of public transport, individuals budgeting to pay for the classes and the challenges of adapting to a new environment are all achievements participants benefit from.

The pottery work produced is quite amazing and a credit to the tutor and dedication of participants. Works produced have varied from coffee mugs crafted as gifts for family and friends to a project where all clients worked on a piece for the entrance foyer at their Agency.

The ongoing challenge with 'Creative Expression with Clay' is finding suitable mainstream community classes for clients to join on completion of their involvement with Creative Expression with Clay.

Summary

'Creative Expression with Clay' has gone from strength to strength since its inception in October 1998. The benefits participants receive from their involvement give them newfound confidence and life skills. The ongoing funding received from the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board has been instrumental in the success and development of 'Creative Expression with Clay'.

Recommendation: That the information be received

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendation be adopted.