

Submission Form

PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR SUBMISSION

The public consultation period is from Tuesday 10 March 2009 to Thursday 16 April 2009.

It will help us if you clearly:

- state the issue you want the Council to consider;
- state what specific action you think the Council should take, and
- state why that should be done.
- type or use black ink for your submission.

Please note: We are legally required to make all written or electronic submissions available to the public and to Councillors, including the name and address of the submitter. In making submissions available to the public, the submissions will be posted electronically on the Council's website. Information will be available to the public subject to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. If you consider there to be compelling reasons why your contact details and/or submission should be kept confidential, you should contact the Council Support Team, telephone 941 8999.

You may send us your submission:

On the internet:

You may enter your submission using the form provided on the Council's website at www.ccc.govt.nz/ltccp

By email:

ccc-plan@ccc.govt.nz

Please make sure that your full name and address is included with your submission.

By mail:

(no stamp is required) to:

Freepost 178
Draft LTCCP
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8140

No anonymous submissions will be accepted. Whether you use this form or not, you must provide your full name, address and telephone number. If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation please state this and your role within that organisation.

Submissions must be received (NOT postmarked) at the Tuam Street Civic Offices no later than 5pm on Thursday 16 April 2009. To ensure receipt, hand deliver last-minute submissions to the Civic Offices, 163-173 Tuam Street.

Your submission

If you wish, you can present your submission at a hearing. If that is the case, please tick the appropriate box below. The hearings will be held from 11 May 2009 to 18 May 2009. Five to ten minutes will be allocated for speaking to your submission, including time for questions from the Councillors. The Council will confirm the date and time of your hearing in writing, by email or by telephone call.

Tick one I do NOT wish to discuss my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered OR I wish to discuss the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May 2009 and Monday 18 May 2009.

Are you completing this submission: For yourself On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent? 100 approx.

Contact Name Jennie Polter

Organisation name (if applicable) Hoon Hay Community Creche

Organisation role (if applicable) Early Childhood Education

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Signature [Signature] Date 15/4/09

This submission seeks the Council's support in continuing the lease under the same conditions that Hoon Hay Community Crèche currently have.

We have a strong tradition of welcoming and valuing the uniqueness of the families who attend our centre. For many families this will be the first contact that they have with an educational facility and the foundations laid by us will have a lasting impact on how they view education in the future.

In line with Te Whariki (the National Early Childhood Curriculum) we believe that a strong reciprocal relationship built between the family, the centre and the community in which we live will lead to the best education and care that we can provide. The way in which we do this was recognised by the Education Review Office in our last review in April 2008

"Teachers believe in and implement the centre's philosophy of meeting and respecting the needs within their community. Teachers are responsive to individual family needs. They maintain close relationships with the kindergarten and support families in making choices about the care of their children. Children and their families continue to be welcomed at the centre long after they move on to school."

Many of our teachers have taught at the centre for a long period of time, four for more than fifteen years, and this not only brings local knowledge to the teaching team, but also means that we have in depth knowledge of our families and their needs. We work closely with many other community and educational support groups and facilities to support our families and give our children the best possible start.

Although our families come from diverse backgrounds, we are situated in a low socio-economic environment; our closest school is Rowley School which is decile 1. Because of this it is important that we keep our fees as low as possible to allow as many families access to early childhood education as possible. (One of the goals of the Early Childhood Strategic plan 'Pathways to the Future: Nga Huarahi Arataki')

Currently of the 67 children attending our centre only 3 pay fees as the others are covered by either WINZ subsidies or the 20 free hours for 3-5 year olds or a combination of both. Should we have to increase our fees this would have a significant impact on the families that attend our centre and are already struggling in these harder economic times. We believe that many families would no longer be able to afford quality Early Childhood Education and Care.

One of the nine goals for community outcomes in the LTCCP which the council explains it is responsible for achieving is 'a city of lifelong learning'. In particular the LTCCP states that they know they will be succeeding in this 'when everybody is able to participate, particularly those that are most vulnerable'.

Furthermore the outcomes for children stated in the Christchurch City Councils Children's policy seeks the following for our children-

- A safe environment
- Equitable access to opportunities
- Improving the position of the least advantaged
- Higher self esteem and a positive world view

We are extremely hopeful that the new Council will continue on the same path as their predecessors in recognizing the role that all the community Childcare Centres play in delivering on these policies for our cities children.

- We do not let children fall through the gaps.
- We support the families in the disadvantaged communities of Christchurch where other Early Childhood Centres are not there for them because they would not make a profit in these areas.
- We have strong bonds with our families that create trust and supportive relationships to give our children the best possible start in life.
- We provide high quality education for our low income families and we want to continue to do this with the support of a council that understands and values the work we do.

We wish to acknowledge and thank the Christchurch City Council for the support we have received over the last twenty five years that we have been providing education and care to the families and children of our local and surrounding areas. During this time we have been occupying the building which was formally the local community centre with the support of past councils that respect and understand the significance of community based early childhood education.

Throughout the last ten years we have not approached the council for any funds to maintain the building that we occupy. We have however been continually upgrading the building and the grounds.

Again this submission seeks the Council's support in continuing the lease under the same conditions that Hoon Hay Community Crèche currently have.

From the Teachers and Management Committee

Hoon Hay Community Crèche