

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

Draft LTCCP 2009-19

- Received via Web

Submissions close on 16 April 2009

I wish to talk to 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:

On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing, how many people do you represent?

Name:

Sue Hines

Organisation Name:

Springs Community Preschool

Organisation Role:

Early Childhood Education

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Date:

15 April 2009

Your Submission:

SUBMISSION 09-04-09
To the Christchurch City Council,

Kai Ora, I am Sue Hines, Head Teacher of Springs Community Preschool situated in Sockburn, Christchurch.

I am making this submission on behalf of the community members accessing this Not-for-Profit local preschool.

Springs Community Preschool has been in the fortunate position of delivering high quality education and care to tamariki/whanau in the Hornby/Sockburn area for the past 21 years. It has existed in several locations prior to its present one, a CCC purpose built facility, and has moved its focus throughout this time to adapt and meet the needs of the local community.

Currently we provide education, care and support to 49 families, the majority who hail from the surrounding area.

We are situated between two local decile 2 and 3 primary schools, 47 of the 49 families are receiving financial assistance to enable their tamariki to access this preschool, these payments are received through WINZ, and Early Start payments, in addition to the more recently introduced ECE 20 hours funding for 3-4 year olds. Without this funding I believe many of these families would be unable to meet the cost of educating their under fives, thus affecting a long term outlook of lower academic achievement for this area, and the continued cycle of disadvantages that are associated with poor academic performance.

It has come to our attention through communication with 12 other community

Not-For-Profit preschools that the CCC are preparing to commence a thorough review of the current Operational Grant extended to this preschool to meet the annual rent incurred, currently defined in 2005 lease as \$33,600.00, the impact of this preschool funding this "market rent" would be catastrophic, and result in the loss of the preschool as a community Not-For-Profit education facility, therefore we urge the CCC to maintain the Status Quo.

The building is only ten years old and the preschool community has treated the building with the respect it deserves, and has raised funds to enhance the facility themselves. In the last five years we have replaced carpet, fully painted the interior, and redeveloped the outdoor area with planter boxes and soft fall areas to meet Health and safety Regulations, maintained exterior fences through repainting, all at no cost to the council.

As you will appreciate our facility is situated in a low socio-economic area, and social and educational research highlights the role that quality early childhood can play on changing outcomes for children and families who are disadvantaged in their everyday lives, leading future communities toward the vision of life-long learners skilled and able to participate in Christchurch's communities and economy.

Springs Community Preschool works closely within the community liaising with Parents as first Teachers, Early Start, CYPs, Group Special Education, our local primary and high schools, we have a commitment to trained Teachers working with societies vulnerable children and work with several tertiary education providers as well as the University to educate Christchurch's Teachers of tomorrow.

We promote the inclusion of these families in accessing the resources of the local community, regularly visiting the library, local schools, and nearby playgrounds in addition to having regular contact with some local residents, including residents of council housing and the Middleton Senior care facility.

Nearly 20% of the preschool community are identifying as Maori, with a further 8% from other Pacific groups a population for which this council has voiced a commitment to assisting to achieve improved statistics long-term: specifically in educational attainment, empowering these people to have a future voice and participation in our communities, as well as experiencing improved housing, health and self-worth afforded to the successful.

Early Childhood Education in a facility where the family feels they belong is a starting point for this change, and I believe Springs Community Preschool meets this challenge. In addition to the day to day education of these tamariki we are placed in the position of being able to provide support and education to parents, many who are very young and we can guide and advise on essential skills, health, development and behaviour management issues. We are often the people to recognise needs outside our expertise and are able to advise and coach parents, referring them to further help.

In closing I just want to stress the huge long-term benefits that the community has reaped through the provision of Early Childhood Education to less fortunate tamariki, which has only been achievable through the provision of this council facility and the operational grant support afforded to us over the past ten years.

Many Thanks for your consideration into maintaining your present level of commitment.

Yours Sincerely

Sue Hines.