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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:

Raylene Tranter

Organisation Name:

Springs Community Preschool

Organisation Role:

Assistant Head Teacher

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Date:

15 April 2009

Your Submission:

Submission 09-04-09
To the Christchurch City Council,
Kia ora koutou,

I am Raylene Tranter, Assistant Head Teacher at Springs Community Preschool, which is located in Sockburn, Christchurch.

I am producing this submission on behalf of the local and diverse range of families utilising our effective service that operates as a Not-for-Profit Community Preschool.

Our centre is situated in a low socio-economic area and caters to a majority of families that negotiate the tensions inherently associated with lower standards of living such as lack of education, unemployment, incarceration, solo/teen parenting and drug and alcohol abuse. These factors combined present challenging behaviours and needs of the children attending our centre.

The Teachers at our centre cultivate a warm, friendly inviting atmosphere, which builds authentic connections to these children and families through supportive and educative means and by working in partnership. Teacher's engage and structure a stable learning environment that ignites a life long passion to learn. Accessing this high quality standard of care and education we provide would be seriously compromised for our families if fee increases were to occur. Our families are already financially impacted and require WINZ subsidies to meet the costs of educating their children.

The current review of leases surrounding Community Preschool involves

assessing centres based on their individual circumstances. The last figure given to this centre was \$33,600.00 per annum for market rent(2005). This cost would have detrimental impact on our community as it would be inevitable that fees would ultimately need to increase to recover the amount and the centre would need to become profit driven in order to survive. This will effectively erode participation from our disadvantaged families as they will not be able to meet expenses. The demise of a not for profit centre is a great loss to the entire community and the consequences will impact for many years to come. Angry and socially inept youths do not complete the vision of a safe and crime free city.

Every day we deal with these families and their real problems, children who have to put themselves to bed because Mum and Dad are too drunk, and have provided no food for the day, lunches where the bread is stale and/or mouldy, unbathed children wearing the same items of clothing all week, children riding in cars with no car seats and disclosures of abuse both physical and sexual are all too common occurrences.

We provide a garden which nourishes and feeds children, that we collectively care and look after to ensure that vegetables and fruit is incorporated into their diets. We know that a community that cares is a community that wins. We also know that we are bridging some already apparent gaps in their care and education and positively impacting on their futures.

I would like to end with an acknowledgement to the Council for their ongoing support they have provided for our centre for the last decade. Your financial assistance has benefitted untold children and their families through accessing low-cost high quality care and education. Truly consider the difference this support makes for the future citizens of this city and maintain your current level of assistance.

Noho ora nui

Yours sincerely

Raylene Tranter.