

SUBMISSION – DRAFT LONG-TERM COUNCIL PLAN (LTCCP) 2009-19

Submission: North Beach Community Childcare Centre

102 Marriotts Road
North Beach
Christchurch
Phone 388 1733
nbccc@xtra.co.nz

PROPOSED MARKET RENT RISES FOR COMMUNITY PRESCHOOLS

I am Christine Bragg, Head Teacher of North Beach Community Childcare Centre. I am making this submission on behalf of all the Teachers, Management Committee and parents at our service and as a member of the Christchurch Early Childhood Collective. North Beach Community Childcare is an asset to the community that feeds a wide community of families in the Eastern Suburbs. We provide care and education for 60 plus children, including spaces for both under two year olds and two to five year olds. All of our permanent staff (apart from our Domestic Support Teacher) are trained Early Childhood Teachers and are fully or provisionally registered. These teachers choose to work and stay here for the strong sense of community and the quality of care and education we can offer our families.

OUR CENTRE’S HISTORY:

Initially the childcare centre was established in 1987 as a ‘Creche’ to support families within the community who required casual crèche facilities. As the need increased from the community, the opening hours of the crèche increased alongside this need. Eventually the centre began operating five days per week. With the increase in opening hours the need to renovate the building became a necessity. A committee was formed and all the hard work of planning, resource consents, funding and networking began. In 1997 the work began on renovating the centre and the official opening was held in May 1998. The centre continues to grow and additions and/or alterations are an ongoing process.

SUBMISSION

I wish to strongly oppose the draft plans to increase rental charges to Community Preschools and that the status quo is maintained at what we are paying now. The impact of this happening would affect our centre by:

1. Community Preschools are run as not for profit, all the money goes back into the children and their environment, and this quality shall be compromised when money needs to flow through to market rentals. An increase to market rentals will then do the opposite of your desired outcomes of providing **“accessible and affordable early learning centres”**.
2. We are situated in a low social economic area of Christchurch. Parents enrol their children primarily for the quality of care and education their children shall receive and for the low fees. My concern is that we could no longer sustain these low fees with market rental costs which would have to flow on to families. This would then exempt parents having the option to send their

children to preschool (especially in the important zero to three age group when free early childhood education is not available). Children three and over are able to get 20 hours free early childhood education through Ministry of Education funding. Sessions required by children in our community far exceed the spaces we have available.

3. The flow on from making preschool economically unavailable to them has wider effects on families. As well as providing education for children, our preschool provides a huge amount of support to families who are under pressure. We provide support to parents in their parenting role and valuable time out from the pressures of caring for their young children. As we have many single parent families and young parents, many parents turn to us, as the only support they have and their only means for time out from their parenting role. Many parents access our centre to allow them to attend training courses, this directly fulfils the Councils desired outcome of developing '**a city of lifelong learning**'.
4. The Christchurch City Council's long term strategic direction has a strong community focus, as outlined in the Long-Term Community Council Plan (LTCCP). Our centre directly fulfil the outcomes **(1) a city of inclusive and diverse communities, (2) a city for recreation, fun and creativity.**

North Beach Community Childcare accesses and is accessed by many areas of our community providing a broad range of learning opportunities which include:

- Close links with New Entrant Teachers and a well established transition to school processes with all the local schools our preschool feed.
- Our preschool accesses the New Brighton Library with small groups of children regularly. We are also part of the outreach programme and have visits to the preschool from the Library staff.
- Contact and visits from our local Dental Nurse.
- Close liaison and support shared between the local community preschools.
- Our children access the Christchurch School of Gymnastics for classes on a weekly basis.
- Parents are warmly welcomed into our preschool where they are encouraged to participate during sessions and on community trips.
- We have good relationships with the local Churches, accessing the St Kentigerns car park for teachers. We also enjoy a positive relationship with St Andrews on Marriotts Road, accessing their hall facilities and meeting rooms.
- The local parks are accessed frequently on preschool excursions.
- Parent Social Evenings
- Parent Education Evenings
- We offer work experience to volunteers and those completing Community Service hours.
- We are strongly involved with all the teacher training providers, and trainee teachers are regularly placed with us, with their training providers sighting us as an excellent example of experience working in a "high quality" Early Childhood Centre.

UPGRADING OF FACILITIES

- Since the last lease agreement was signed a substantial amount of money has been spent on our centre both inside down. Our outdoor environments have been completely redeveloped at a cost in excess of \$50,000.
- Inside improvements have been met at a cost in excess of \$20,000. (I.E additional walls, lino, cupboards etc).

Due to our ongoing and expensive upgrading the value of our facility has increased and is continually increasing through these carefully planned developments.

Our future plans are to add additional office space, thus keeping the staffroom space as a place for meal breaks only. This will give staff quiet rooms for their planning and child assessment work of four hours each per week.

I do not wish to discuss my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered.

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?

80+ of North Beach Community Preschool

Christine Bragg (Name)

CMBragg (Signature) 15.4.09 (Date)

3881733 (Day Phone) 3881733 (Evening Phone)

102 Marnotts Rd. North Beach, Christchurch (Address)