

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

Draft LTCCP 2009-19

- Received via Web

Submissions close on 16 April 2009

I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered

Are you completing this submission:

On behalf of a group or organisation

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

Name:

Paula Robsinon

Organisation Name:

New Brighton COmmunity Preschool and Nursery inc

Organisation Role:

Care and Education Centre

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Date:

16 April 2009

Your Submission:

Submission: New Brighton Community Preschool & Nursery Inc

Christchurch City Council is planning to review the current lease agreement on its expiry date (July 2010). It has been indicated that there will be assessments undertaken on market rental and rent to be charged accordingly. Unlike the current agreement where the centre receives an operational grant (in recognition of the community service being provided by the tenant). Dead of Lease 2002) to support the rental charged, it is unknown presently what future council grants the centre may be able to access to support the possible proposed market rent.

Taking in to account the above situation, we feel gravely concerned about the future operational potential of our community organisation. Our current financial operational costs match that of our income which includes the council rent subsidy covering the yearly rent cost.

I am writing in support of maintaining the status quo, for the following reasons:

1. Voluntary and community organisations are also crucial to the success of the Council's goals, carrying out important work within our neighbourhood.

Our centre has been established since the 1970s in the New Brighton community and offers low cost, quality care and education for this community. With the increase in cost of the lease, this will mean increasing fees and threatening participation of all members. Historically, the centre is a celebrated part of our community, a place where all individuals have an

identity and it would be a great loss if we were unable to continue to offer this to all our members.

2. Our diversity is seen, heard, valued and celebrated. All people feel a sense of belonging and participate in the community. Everybody is able to participate, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

We would like to explain what a community childcare centre means to our community. The community childcare network in Christchurch is a well established organisation which is a proud advocate of its core philosophy, all individuals are acknowledged, accepted and celebrated.

To us at New Brighton, community is everything. We believe the centre is a very important part of our local community and we are always working at how we can strengthen our position, and our community, by the decisions we make and actions we take.

In our view children/parents/whanau, the centre and wider community are interdependent. The relationships that exist between each of these members are interwoven, and though we consider each member of the community as an individual we always see each as part of the whole.

Our centre sits within the hub of the community, we operate in true relationships, reciprocal and responsive. We have the time and resources to work with family from disadvantaged situations, this is our strength, and we want them to feel this is their place. We celebrate individuals' strengths and encourage these to be part of the programme and our centre.

3. The council provides community support activities to enhance opportunities for meeting and socializing, and to develop strong and inclusive communities in Christchurch.

Our aim for each of our children and their families is to provide an environment that embraces diversity and family involvement. We feel these relationships nurture the foundation for learning for children and inspire a sense of belonging and wellbeing for the families / whanau.

Currently we have the time and resources to work with and support family identities, growth and development.

Several years ago the centre set up a hardship fund which we are able to access when families come into uncertain or difficult times.

With the proposed increase threatening to occur, we will have no option but to undertake operational changes which would indeed threaten our core beliefs and practices.

4. The council acknowledges that they are the only council in New Zealand who financially supports childcare centres. This is something which should be celebrated, not stopped. Again, it is recognised within the draft community plan. As in the rest of New Zealand, children of parents on lower incomes tend to have lower levels of educational attainment, which helps to perpetuate the cycle of disadvantage.

5. The council has proposed to assess the properties lease value based on market rental. However we urge the council to take into consideration the renovations, maintenance and improvements which the centre has undertaken since the beginning of the lease agreement. These need to be seen as the centre's assets as we have funded, fundraised, accessed other grants and worked tirelessly for these improvements to occur.

6. In previous communication, the council has acknowledged their support of early childhood whilst also recognising the 20 ECE funding from the ministry of education. It is important to understand that 20 ECE is for 3 and 4 year olds, is not free for every family and obtaining these hours can be extremely hard due to centre rolls being full. This policy was aimed to increase children's attendance in ECE, giving all children the option of quality education and care. However, as stated, it does not support all children and this is where we, as a centre with affordable fees, are able to meet this need of full participation for all individuals.