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Draft Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2009-19

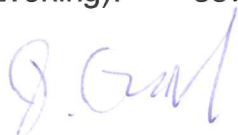
I wish to discuss the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May 2009 and Monday 18th May 2009

I am completing this submission for myself.

Contact Name: Quentin McDonald
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Christchurch 8140

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Phone No. (Evening): 337-3079

Signed:



Date:

3 April 2009

I am writing to register my *opposition* to the proposal that the operation of the Pioneer Early Learning Center be outsourced.

The Pioneer Early Learning Center is a high quality pre-school environment. Recent ERO reports, the experience of the many families who use it and the fact there is a long waiting list all reflect this. As it stands the Pioneer Early Center is an institution the Council and all citizens of Christchurch can be proud of.

There seems nothing to be gained by outsourcing but much to lose.

The Pioneer ELC makes a minimal demand on the rating base and a disproportionate contribution to the community of Southern Christchurch. In particular it provides a vital and high-quality casual childcare service for users of the nearby Pioneer Leisure Centre. The close relationship between these two Council owned and operated facilities on the same site makes perfect sense. It's hard to see how that could be retained if the ELC was outsourced. Furthermore the Pioneer ELC is one of the few centers in Christchurch which offers flexible attendance for children and genuinely honours the Government 20-hours free scheme. This is especially important for financially disadvantaged families, those most at risk from outsourcing to a profit-driven enterprise.

One of the best things about living in Christchurch is experiencing local Government with a vision which extends simply beyond roads and rubbish collection. The fact the CCC provides quality childcare in the form of the Pioneer ELC is a reflection of this vision. If this is unique in New Zealand then that's part of the unique experience of living in Christchurch!

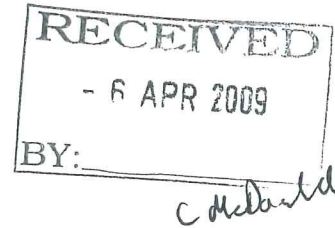
High quality pre-school education is one of the foundations of creating a well-educated and stable community. Pioneer ELC is a leader in pre-school education in Christchurch, meeting or exceeding all existing and proposed Ministry of Education standards. As such it makes perfect sense for the Christchurch City Council to retain this valuable facility. In fact serious consideration should be given by the CCC to expand their involvement in early childhood education.

90540

Quentin McDonald

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3 April 2009
Mayor Bob Parker
Christchurch City Council,
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8140

Dear Mr Parker,

I am writing as a voter in the Christchurch to register my opposition to the proposal that the operation of the Pioneer Early Learning Center be outsourced.

The Pioneer Early Learning Center is a high quality pre-school environment. Recent ERO reports, the experience of the many families who use it and the fact there is a long waiting list all reflect this. As it stands the Pioneer Early Center is an institution the Council and all citizens of Christchurch can be proud of.

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I hope that once this issue comes before council the status quo will prevail.

Yours sincerely,

Quentin McDonald