

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

Draft LTCCP 2009-19

- Received by Email

Name:	Donald Bruce Email: [Donald.Bruce@slgou.org.nz]
CC:	
Sent:	Thu 16/04/2009 5:39 am
Your Submission:	<p>Submission of the Southern Local Government Officers Union On the Statement of Proposal for the Future of the Council's Involvement in the Three Early Learning Centres</p> <p><i>With regard to the QEII Preschool and Pioneer Early Learning Centres, we support the option of maintaining the status quo.</i></p> <p><i>With regard to the Tuam Street Early Learning Centre, we support the relocation of the centre to an area close to the new Civic Offices, operated wholly by the Council, or in partnership with another provider or entity.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We maintain that early learning centres can be seen as core Council business if ratepayers and the Council decide that they are. 2. As an employer, in the interests of providing for the work/life balance of Council employees, and to assist in complying with breast-feeding and rest break legislation, and in the interests of remaining an employer of choice, the Council should provide childcare facilities for its employees. 3. It takes a village to raise a child and the provision of childcare by the Council assists in that task and provides a valuable Council service to the community and to children and their parents. 4. We support the parents who use the childcare facilities in their wish to retain the status quo for the good of the community, for the good of the children, and for the promotion of the use of the leisure facilities. 5. The provision of childcare facilities will assist in Council's desire to be considered a "World Class Boutique City". 6. We should follow the lead of other Council's around the world in the sponsorship of quality childcare. <p>Burnie City Council, in Tasmania, has been sponsoring quality child care for over 25 years. Up until five years ago, that involvement consisted of delivering child care to the community through a 60-place long day care centre, Alexander Beetle House, and a 26-place occasional care centre, Wisteria Lane.</p> <p>In 2000, a report was developed with a strategic agenda for children's services in Burnie. That report was the catalyst that brought about a number of changes which significantly influenced the provision of child care to the Burnie community. Over the past five years, children's services has grown and developed, not only in size but also in relevance and reputation for delivering innovative and responsive programs for children and families.</p> <p>One of the key aspects to the changes was to develop strong, significant partnerships with organisations which influence the social fabric of the community. The growth of this area has seen the establishment of ten outside-school-hours care programs, extension and conversion of</p>

Wisteria Lane to a 46-place long day care centre and the impending opening of a 50-place centre at a local primary school. While these are significant changes, the innovation comes from the partnerships formed, the programs that have developed from these and the philosophical vision that has underpinned the business decisions. The partnerships have included local schools, both independent and state, the broader Education Department, the Regional Hospital, the Parenting Centre and Youth Justice. There have also been collaborations with the local library and dental clinic, the Playgroup Association and the "No.13" Youth Recreation Centre all with the view to improving the lives of children and providing families with support.

One of the key objectives of the services and programs has been to start with the critical question: "What is best for families and children?" This provides a solid foundation that drives the process and outcomes and ensures that children and families are not lost in bureaucracy or process. Additionally there is a shared view that parents will make good choices for their children and their circumstance based on the choices that are available. Therefore services and programs need to be accessible, flexible, supportive and innovative in meeting individual needs so that parents are able to have quality services as a choice.

Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, National Awards for Local Government, Leading Practice in Local Government, Commendation Award Winner

Therefore, with regard to the QEII Preschool and Pioneer Early Learning Centres, **we support the option of maintaining the status quo** and with regard to the Tuam Street Early Learning Centre, **we support the relocation of the centre to an area close to the new Civic Offices, operated wholly by the Council, or in partnership with another provider or entity.**

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and for your consideration of it.

We do not request to discuss our submission at the hearing and ask that this written submission be considered.

We represent approximately 2000 ratepayers and their families in Christchurch and approximately 1000 employees of the Christchurch City Council.

Kia ora
Donald

Donald Bruce
Organiser / Advocate

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Aorangi Primary School in Bryndwr is home to a fantastic group of people –awesome students, committed and well qualified staff, supportive multicultural families and a wider community who add much value to this Christchurch school. See www.aorangi.ac.nz for further information on School Values, Bilingual Unit, School Rebuild, School Rap for Mr Key.