

CONCERNS OVER PROPOSED FEE INCREASE

Dear Parents

I am really unhappy with the proposed fee increase as outlined in the last newsletter. I am sure I am not the only one, but we are going to need to work as a group to have a strong voice in the matter.

The Christchurch City Council is meeting to discuss this issue on If you are also unhappy about paying higher fees, please add your name to the list below.

Karen Browning

Points of concern include the following:

- A The proposed increase is very high relative to inflation (12.5% July 2008 and another 11.1% in January 2009)
- B Long waiting list everywhere mean we can not change pre-schools even if we wanted to.
- C Really bad timing – the past 6 months has seen staff shortages and lots of relievers so the quality of service has fallen yet the Christchurch City Council are now wanting us to pay more for it.
- D Current parents are being penalised for past miscalculations on the part of the Christchurch City Council.
- E The Christchurch City Council comparison of costs in other pre-schools is flawed because it has included private as well as not-for-profit centres. It should have been based solely on not for profit centres. The comparisons are also inequitable because they did not distinguish between hours of service and meal provisions in the cost of other centres.

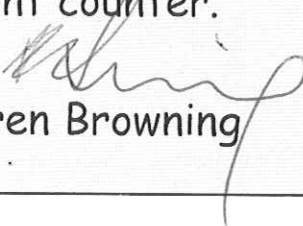
READ THIS!!!!

Dear Parents

I am really unhappy with the proposed increase to fees that was outlined in the last newsletter. Were you? (12.5% in July 2008 and another 11.1% in January 2009)

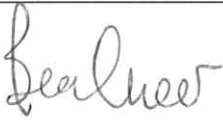









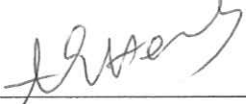

I'm sure I'm not the only parent who is unhappy about it. But we will need to work as a group if we are to have a strong voice in the matter.

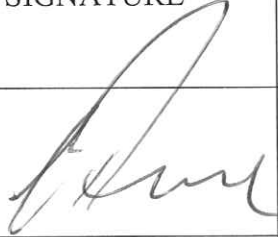
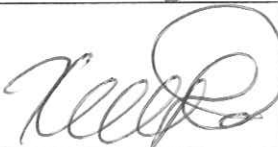
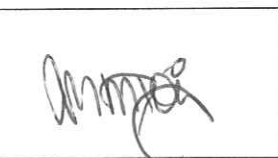
Remember, it's still only a "proposal"! It's not final. We CAN have our say. The Christchurch City Council is meeting soon to discuss this issue. If you are also unhappy about paying higher fees, PLEASE add your name to the list at the front counter.


Karen Browning

Why am I concerned?

- A The proposed increase is **very high relative to inflation** (12.5% increase in July 2008, with another 11.1% increase in January 2009). (Is this fair?)
- B Long waiting lists everywhere mean we **cannot respond by changing to another pre-school** even if we want to.
- C This is **really bad timing** - over the past 6 months there have been staff shortages and lots of relievers, resulting in a fall in the quality of service we receive. The Christchurch City Council is now asking us to pay more for a service of lower quality. (Is this fair? If we do pay increased fees, how will this be reflected in the quality of service we receive?)
- D Current parents are being **penalised for past miscalculations** on the part of the Christchurch City Council. (There is an element of "catch-up" in the proposed fee increases. Surely this should be addressed in a consistent manner over a long enough timeframe that current parents' budgets can cope?)
- E The Christchurch City Council's comparison of costs in other pre-schools is flawed for two reasons:
- 1 it has included private as well as not-for-profit centres in the comparison. It should have been based solely on not-for-profit centres. (Private centres generally have a profit motive - their charges are higher to reflect this.)
 - 2 it does not distinguish between centres by length of opening hours or meal provisions; both of which have a significant impact on costs. (Pioneer's costs have historically been lower, reflecting the fact that a) parents provide lunch for their children; and b) the centre's opening hours are more restricted than many other centres.)

NAME	SIGNATURE	WHAT CONCERNS YOU MOST (SEE THE LIST BELOW PLUS ADD YOUR OWN)
Beatrice Cheer Ph: 337 3079		2 increases in one year - without consultation! A 22% increase is too big.
Karen Browning Ph 942-2929		- high % increases and - bad timing for our pre-school given staffing issues.
Liz Birkett 980 6215		- as above. 2 increases and staffing issues and not enough places. - 1
Heidi O'Brien 980-9187		Overall increases since we started in 2004 are actually a lot (\$12 per day) despite no increases in 2006. Big increases in 6 months
Hynane Odey 3289990		22% increase in 6 months too much current staffing issues
Darren Chatwin 821360176		Fee increases. Have Two children in centre.
Rachel Dunne		2 increases in a period of 1yr
Diane Berry		Fee increase too high.
Jennifer Lee 322 5351		Fee increase too high.
Tony Mack 980 1344		Get real.
Anna Hendry 3389619		Fee increase too high.
Katrina Menzies		Discriminates against people who only need childcare until 3! - Until then the others have to pay more before reaping benefits of policy & should be fair for all.

NAME	SIGNATURE	WHAT CONCERNS YOU MOST (SEE THE LIST BELOW PLUS ADD YOUR OWN)
CHRIS BROWN		FEE INCREASES \$
DUANE TOWNLEY	D. Townley	obviously that is a massive increase CAN ANYONE EXPLAIN HOW IS IT JUSTIFIED?
JERRY HOOD		
TRACY MCLEISH	T. McLeish	Fee Increase,
MICHELE POY		Noway!!