

# Christchurch North East Secondary Education Committee Inc

Shaping Education Submission

November 2011

## Purpose

Tell us about your aspirations for the future education system in greater Christchurch. What does education need to do to ensure it provides a distinctive advantage for the region, culturally, economically and socially, to ensure it is competitive, prosperous and vibrant?

### 1: What should we retain?

To retain school hours linking the traditional times of about nine am to three pm for early childhood education, primary schools and high schools, enabling parents to work and children to participate in out of school activities.

Traditional opportunities for a choice of either single sex or co-ed secondary education.

### 2: What should we change?

Create a revered and desirable image of local community secondary education where a good education at any secondary school across Christchurch is viewed as being of equal value.

Prioritize local secondary schooling.

A focus on active transport in each suburb, linking services, businesses and schooling. Primary school children use established safe travel routes to walk and bike to school. These should continue to be used at a local secondary school as students take themselves to school by active transport.

Communities that were short of facilities would change through provision of all the amenities and services required for sustainable living. Increased investment in suburban areas will cause them to thrive.

A role model of community leadership will be invested in schools including community leaders, Kaumatua and local business people.

Comprehensive management should always provide our children with local schooling and recreation opportunities. Provision of timely local education for children in North East Christchurch was not happening before the earthquakes. It needs to be prioritized now. We want to waste less time transporting students. The current situation where more than 500 students travelling over 10 km to high school every day by car is neither economic nor healthy for our community.

The majority of the people (68%) who attended the Christchurch North East Secondary Education Committee's public meeting on secondary education in October 2010 would prefer to send their children to a co-ed secondary school. 72% are concerned about the cost and time used travelling to school and they would consider moving away from the area if there is no local secondary school in the area in time for their children.

A local secondary school would minimise increasing traffic congestion and defer the substantial costs associated with the subsequent implementation of roading infrastructure upgrades. Excess traffic on earthquake damaged roads would be minimised. Traffic management will be more predictable. It would lead to the retention of more than 500 secondary students who travelled out of the area every day in 2010. If there is no local secondary school by 2013, a projected 2,200 students will need to travel out of the 8083 area every day to attend secondary school. This will have significant detrimental effects on peak traffic congestion and future roading requirements.

### 3: What innovation could we introduce?

Embrace and welcome new families into the green areas with a vision that they will remain, raise families and be part of these communities for decades.

Services from Early Childhood through to Secondary Education provision being linked to housing areas.

Use this unique opportunity to attach communities back to their local secondary school.

Develop stronger attachments between secondary schools and their communities utilising parents' skills, resources and relationships.

A choice of either single sex or co-ed secondary education either following the traditional model or influenced by a new dynamic not be bound by zones, time tables or subject choices.

Viewing a school as an economic asset, where other businesses will establish nearby increasing employment opportunities and creating a well rounded community.

Encourage or oblige expert practitioners in any area of education to share their knowledge and skills across the entire school network rather than only within their own school.

## Shape

Tell us about your thoughts around the future design and organisation of education provision in greater Christchurch from early childhood to tertiary. Putting the focus on the child and young person, what are the strengths of the current system that can help provide a distinctive advantage? (Culturally, socially and economically)

### 1: What should we retain?

Primary schools have huge attachment to their communities utilising parents' skills, resources and relationships.

Schools which are accessible, undiscriminating, local and objective.

Primary schools create sustainable communities by:- building relationships over six to eight years attendance; students learn self management skills; pupils get to school on their own; leadership responsibilities; participation in out of school activities and sports; parenting networks and the emotional commitment given in building the school family.

We like communities owning their own future. The Christchurch North East Secondary Education Committee Inc. (NESE) is a strong advocate for secondary education in our community.

## 2: What should we change?

The distance to the secondary schools to the 8083 area of North east Christchurch discourages active transport. The establishment of a new local secondary school in the 8083 area will enable active life style routines to be reinforced and extending into lifelong habits with significant long term benefits for individual and community health.

Consider extending primary schools currently only providing education up to year six to full primary schools across the whole city. Intermediate school sites could be used for additional primary schools, school hubs or for tertiary education including trade academies.

## 3: What innovation could we introduce?

We like the idea of envisaging and implementing a whole new concept of education in Christchurch.

Couple education services to housing areas and be accessible to their communities.

Early wins being new school facilities instead of replacement and repair.

Establish a local secondary school in North East Christchurch with a recreation and sports facility attached similar to Papanui High School, as a central focus for the community to use and enjoy. There will need to be coordination and cooperation. The Ministry of Education could work with SPARC to unite a sporting facility with a local secondary school for North East Christchurch. The Sports and Recreation and Arts and Culture program needs to be actively interlinked with the Education Renewal Recovery Plan. Our children need a stronger, brighter future if they are to stay in Christchurch. They also need to have a vision of a sustainable community.

## Delivery

Tell us how you think we can tailor teaching and learning to better develop every child and young persons' potential. What are the strengths of the current system that can help provide greater Christchurch with a distinctive advantage? (Culturally, socially and economically.)

### 1: What should we retain?

Cultural development in a multicultural learning place.

The 'open doors' and 'shared learning' experiences provided through Early Childhood education and Primary Schools, where parents and families are considered integral in the well being and learning of their child and the school as a whole. Develop this further through secondary schooling to make strong links between the students and their immediate community.

### 2: What should we change?

Smaller secondary schools offer a safer, more positive, higher achieving environment with less discipline problems. Smaller schools are more economical to operate, while having the flexibility to adapt quickly to meet student needs.

Advance the use of technology that increases the ability of all learning establishments to gather and teach information on a variety of subjects regardless of their size. Yet have a strong focus on utilising the resources in the immediate community to provide a strong relevant aspect to learning.

### 3: What innovation could we introduce?

We may need to embrace natural resources as facilities to over ride the loss of built resources.

The 8083 area demonstrates many examples of the successful integration between the natural resources and education programmes. The environment is rich in learning opportunities. A secondary school in this area would provide outstanding opportunities for pupils to interact with their community in a holistic way, developing lifelong learners. Learning could utilise the local environment including Bottle Lake Forest Park, Travis Wetland, the rivers and beaches.

### We would welcome any other comments you would like to make around the future shape of education in greater Christchurch Bottom of Form

The Christchurch North East Secondary Education Committee Inc has prepared this submission following consultation with our community.

We wish to support the current initiatives already in place at the closest existing secondary schools, enhancing the culture of achieving among their school communities. These established programmes could be undermined by the major expansion needed to accommodate the fast growing community in the 8083 area. Smaller secondary schools provide a more positive, higher achieving learning environment that are cheaper to run and can quickly adapt to student needs.

Children in our community already use active transport to travel to primary school. Walking and biking to secondary school would be a natural extension of their current lifestyle. Our children wish to belong and feel included as members of a sustainable community.

Creating a local secondary school in the 8083 area is in line with the Resource Management Act's promotion of sustainable management principals, enabling communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being as well as promoting health and safety by enabling safe walking and cycling to school. It is also in line with the Canterbury Regional Council's policy framework and the Christchurch City Plan's sustainable transport objectives. Building a local secondary school is in line with promotion of sustainable management principals. It seems sensible to encourage the Ministry of Education to give due consideration to their guidelines and to work together to minimise motor vehicle usage when shaping the future of education in Christchurch.

Extension of the Northern Arterial, including four lanes along QEII Drive is imminent. It is essential that students are able to travel to secondary school safely. Provision of the required safe passageways for walking and cycling by a budget in deficit is uncertain.

Provision must be made to accommodate a sharp increase in demand for state secondary school capacity in North East Christchurch, above the Ministry's current forecasts as a direct consequence of post earthquake changes in schooling and migration patterns. The annual migration of families away from North East Christchurch for schooling reasons will slow significantly, as many families are now restricted by damaged homes and land.

A local secondary school for the North East area of Christchurch would: build a stronger community; reduce traffic congestion; reduce the demands for roading improvements and delay the implementation of major road capacity upgrades.

Our community has a strong desire for a local secondary school.