

**Date:** Monday 13 October 2014  
**Time:** 1.00pm  
**Meeting Room:** Ground Floor Board Room  
**Venue:** Auckland Town Hall  
Auckland

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## **Seniors Advisory Panel**

### **OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS**

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Submission on Draft Community Facilities Network Plan  
Attention: Kathy O'Connor,  
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Auckland Council  
Private Bag 92300  
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15 September 2014

**Submission on Auckland Council's Draft Community Facilities Network Plan by the Auckland District Council of Social Services**

We wish to be heard orally in support of this submission please, preferably in Central Auckland. Please contact Angela Maynard at our Post Box address, or phone / fax 09-4459996 or email: [a.maynard@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.maynard@xtra.co.nz) to arrange.

**The Auckland District Council of Social Services (ADCROSS)**

ADCROSS is an umbrella organisation covering the Auckland isthmus area. Membership is made up of representatives from voluntary agencies, community groups, statutory bodies and interested individuals. This submission was drafted by our Submissions sub-committee and includes comments made by our 12 member Executive earlier this month.

Our functions include disseminating information on social policy issues, social legislation and on policy changes, to our members and to other social and community service providers. We do this by running workshops, seminars and training sessions. We also frequently make submissions to Parliamentary Committees and to the Auckland Council.

We have an Executive, made up of members elected at our AGM and co-opted throughout the year. This meets monthly to discuss current issues and programmes, and it is to this meeting that representatives from our sub-committees report. We currently have sub-committees on: housing issues, producing submissions, older adults, and disabilities.

We are affiliated to the New Zealand Council of Social Services, based in Wellington, which works closely with Central Government, the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services, Social Development Partners and ANGOA in the social policy field.

**1. General Points:**

We welcome the development of this strategic planning document. Although the emphasis throughout the document on achieving

efficiencies, cost savings and disposal of underperforming assets is an important consideration we believe that helping improve the overall quality of life of Aucklanders is even more important and the document may need to be rebalanced to reflect that crucial priority. The "drop in" component of such community centres allows for informal connections and friendships to develop and should be highly valued as is the socialization and learning within regular meetings and activities of groups.

## 2. Specific Aspects of the Proposal

On Page 4 under definition of community centres the word "learning" should be added as a purpose, as it already does on page 10 under Places for communities to participate.

Similarly on Page 5 under Rationale for the Provision of Community Facilities opportunities "to improve their knowledge" should be added. Community Centres provide vital life-long learning opportunities and for the sharing of skills and knowledge.

At the bottom of Page 7 we believe the balance is wrong in "We need to ensure appropriate sites are secured for community facilities without compromising or diminishing open-space outcomes." Often a community facility makes open space around it more useful. We should say instead "... taking into account, and preferably enhancing, open space uses and other outcomes."

On Page 10 under Standards of Community Facilities under **Accessible** please insert "and affordable" so it begins "new and existing facilities that are accessible and affordable for the likely users to use..."

Under **Sustainable** please add at the end "and are environmentally sustainable with a low carbon footprint."

On Page 11 under **Objectives for Community Facilities** Please add after "respond to population growth and intensification the words "and changing identified community needs and interests for example digital access and activities and new leisure opportunities activities for more diverse communities".

Please add to "Provide facilities that are universally accessible for people with disabilities" the words "and are affordable for the great majority of likely users".

On Page 14 under **Function of Community centres** add after "with most users willing to travel up to 15 minutes to reach their facility, or up to 5 kilometres" the words. "However for areas with low numbers of cars and little appropriate public transport or high population density, a smaller distance may well be appropriate." This change would also flow into some later sections. Add also "Digital access should be provided at least in areas where a high proportion of residents do not have it and there is no library nearby."

At the end of the Page please add under **Users of Community centres**. "There is some evidence to suggest that some people see community centres as being for those people who are somewhat dependent and those not in employment. Better communication and education is needed to overcome this misunderstanding and prejudice."

Page 15 **Proposed provision framework**. After "target threshold of 20,000 residents" with some leeway for islands, areas with major seasonal population increases, remote communities and areas of deprivation with limited transport availability".

Page 18 **Condition of Venues for Hire**. Our members record their dissatisfaction that in a number of halls and venues the facilities in the kitchens, particularly the stoves and oven tops are in disrepair and appear unclean. Some sinks have no plugs. A toll-barred phone may be needed for emergencies. Some are left dirty by a previous user. This section needs to have added: "Users are dissatisfied with the state of disrepair and cleanliness of some of the facilities and their equipment. Upgrades and better monitoring are required at some venues".

Page 25 **Proposed approach to future provision of arts and culture facilities**. Add to the list of potential partnering organisations "professional and community performing or visual arts organisations".

Page 30 **Te Tuhi**. It is urgent to work with Auckland transport and Te Tuhi on the impact of the AMETI flyover as its final design is imminent and construction in a few years. This should be reclassified as High priority.

Page 52 **Fergusson Hall**. The comments lump this with four facilities in the Tamaki area about 5 kilometres away. This is inappropriate and its future should be complementary to that of the Oranga Community Centre and Mount Smart Stadium.

3. We are happy to elaborate on these points at a hearing or other appropriate form of consultation.

Yours sincerely

Angela Maynard  
Administrating Co-ordinsator  
Auckland District Council of Social Services