

Pacific Peoples Consultation

Consultation was held in conjunction with the Pacific Island Advisory Board review meetings. The consultation was based on previous consultation from Our Future Today (1999). The key issues identified during that earlier consultation were:

- Access to health and community services especially for low-income families
- Education and skills development
- Economic development for Pacific Peoples
- Caring for youth and elderly
- A multicultural centre
- Proportional representation at the local level of government
- Widespread concern about the impact of user-charges on large low-income families

The results of the current consultation showed these issues were still very relevant, with no new issues raised. The highest priorities in this latest round of consultation were:

- Economic development including the development of the Pacific Island Business and Cultural Centre (PIBCC)
- Education and skill development
- Youth issues

It was suggested that Council assist in the development of economic ability, with education, skill development and the provision of increased business support seen as a means of supporting this. There was backing for economic development being culture based and grass roots, with support being voiced for the Pacific Island Business and Cultural Centre (PIBCC). Some Pacific Island Peoples expressed the importance of retaining a strong cultural identity including that of their individual Pacific Island nations. However, concern was expressed regarding the focus on the PIBCC, and that not all people supported it. It was noted that the centre needed to grow slowly and that the entire focus of development should not be on it. Concern was also expressed at the perceptions of Pacific Island peoples, i.e. not everyone speaks the language, plays the drum and has a low income.

The consultation identified the need to provide opportunities for youth outside of formal education to enable them to develop practical skills. It was also important to provide opportunities for youth to learn skills from their elders and retain knowledge of their cultures. It was felt that more needed to be done for youth, for example a centre for them to gather and hang out, as well as organising talent quests and festivals to encourage their interests.

How are the key issues allowed for in the Council's draft Strategic Plan?

- *Economic development and the development of the Pacific Island Business and Cultural Centre*
This is provided for within the Strong Innovative Economy, Strong Communities and Urban and Rural Villages.
- *Education*
Please see comments under General Public consultation.

Youth Issues

Please see comments under Youth consultation.