

Rebuilding Christchurch after the Earthquakes: Young People's Perspectives

The Collaborative
for Research and Training in
Youth Health and Development



22nd February 2011

- 181 people died as a result of the 22 February earthquake
- More than 100,000 homes (approximately half the housing stock of greater Christchurch) have been damaged
- 7,000 homes have been re-zoned
- More than 3,000 of the 5,000 businesses in the Central Business District (CBD) have been displaced
- More than 1,200 demolitions of buildings in the CBD are required



Methodology

- August 2011 24/7 Youth Work approached for help with a Youth Voice
- Jay Geldard (CEO) approached the Collaborative Trust
- Funding from Todd Foundation
- The Collaborative Research team Hannah Dunlop, Mark Turner, Alice Mclean and Sarah Mckay
- Questionnaire developed in conjunction with 24/7 youth workers
- This was used as a web based survey

Implementation

- 24/7 youthworkers were in 90% of secondary schools in Christchurch
- They encouraged students in their schools to take part in the survey
- The survey included an invitation to take part in a focus group
- Invitation to take part sent to all principals



Questionnaire

Categories of questions, (items rated on a 1-7 scale 1 is equal to 'not important at all' and 7 equal to 'extremely important):

- How much have the earthquakes affected your life
- Recreation and entertainment
- Transport
- The City and its layout
- Communities

When analysed ratings were grouped into $5 >$ or < 4

Over 14 years compared with under 14s.

The responses to the open ended questions were analysed looking for themes along with the focus groups

Results

- 4,159 young people responded (around 10% of school population)
 - Age range 9-20 average 14
 - Ethnicity:
NZ European 71%
Maori 13%
Asian 11%
Pacific Islander 6%
Other 16%
- 550 said they would like to be part of a focus group
- NB ONLY A SAMPLE OF SEONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Q. how much have the earthquakes affected your life?

- R. =
 - 6% - 7 – massively
 - 25% - '5', '6' or '7'.
 - 9% - 1 – not at all
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- More responses of 7 on the east side
 - City schools more likely to be affected than rural and >14 more than <14

How important are these recreation and entertainment items to you?” Percentage of respondents indicating moderate to extreme importance (answering with either a ‘5’, ‘6’ or ‘7’).

Idea	N	%
• Swimming pools	2431	62
• Youth friendly cafes and restaurants	2301	59
• Fun parks (eg roller-coaster)	2263	58
• Markets (eg Lyttelton, Riccarton)	2180	56
• Gaming venues (like Timezone)	2126	55
• Youth centre where you can hang out, skate, play sport, play arcade games...	1850	47
• Local speciality shops (non- chain store)	1738	45
• A youth centre in the bus exchange	1334	34
• Youth specific music events such as under 18 raves/ school band gigs	1101	28

Recreation

- performing arts spaces such as recording and music rooms and dance studios,
 - libraries,
 - gyms,
 - developing the sides of the Avon river as recreational areas.
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- Under 14s rated Funparks and afterschool activities higher than over 14s
 - over 14s rated youth specific music venues higher

Transport

- **54% rated safer cycling** lanes as very important, with under 14s more likely to than over 14s.
- Nearly half of young people said they would be more likely to cycle if this was made safer. Most young people thought **excluding cars from the central city was unimportant**, however eastside students rated this as more important than non eastside students.
- Young people's comments **supported the light rail** idea and making use of trams. Good public transport is vital for young people.
- Over half of participants wanted **more Orbiter like buses** connecting the suburbs **AND a bus exchange** in the centre of town. Over 14s rated both of these higher than under 14s
- **Affordability, reliability and convenience stood out as being fundamental to successful public transport.**

The City and its Layout

- Over half of young people wanted the following:
- Arts and entertainment in the central city.
- More green spaces
- To preserve Christchurch's traditional architecture and character including landmarks like the museum and gothic architecture.
- **73% of Young people rated 'free wireless internet in the central city' as really important - this was the highest rated item in the entire survey.**
- Nearly half of young people also felt it was really important that our rebuilt city be distinctive, and encompass 'interesting architecture' instead of tilt slab. Students from the east side were more likely to rate this as important.

Communities

- **'a feeling of community in their neighbourhood'** was rated **highly by *all* groups** of young people, regardless of age or location
- 63% rated the idea of **local village squares** with shops, cafes and meeting places as really important. Specific youth events in their neighbourhood was important to nearly half of young people, with under 14s rating this higher than over 14s.
- A **youth specific community health service** was rated as significantly more important to students from the east side.
- Students from city schools gave higher importance ratings for nearly every item in the survey than students from rural schools. T