

Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre

Community Consultation Feedback Report.

September 2022.



Community Views and Preferences Ngā mariu ā-Hāpori

Background

In 2019 Council resolved to purchase the Christchurch Netball Centre located at 455 Hagley Avenue for the purposes of establishing a Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre. The sale and purchase was finalised in early 2022.

An establishment project is now underway as Christchurch Netball transitions from the premises over the next 12 months to their new location at Ngā Puna Wai.

Public Consultation Te Tukanga Kōrerorero

To better understand the needs and aspirations of the diverse communities throughout Christchurch, Council has recently undertaken a range of community visioning exercises to ensure that the venue is fit for purpose.

Consultation started on 27 July 2022 and ran until 24 August 2022. An email was sent to 409 key stakeholders, promoted through local community networks, newsletters and Newsline.

Three community conversation workshops/ focus groups were held at the Centre site where participants had the opportunity to collaborate and refine a vision for the centre. The project team took attendees on a tour of the Christchurch Netball Centre to get an idea of the space and it's potential.

The project team also met with the Interagency Network for Refugees and Migrants (INFORM) a group of community and agency representatives across the city who will be key stakeholders in the Centre.

Summary of Submissions Ngā Tāpaetanga

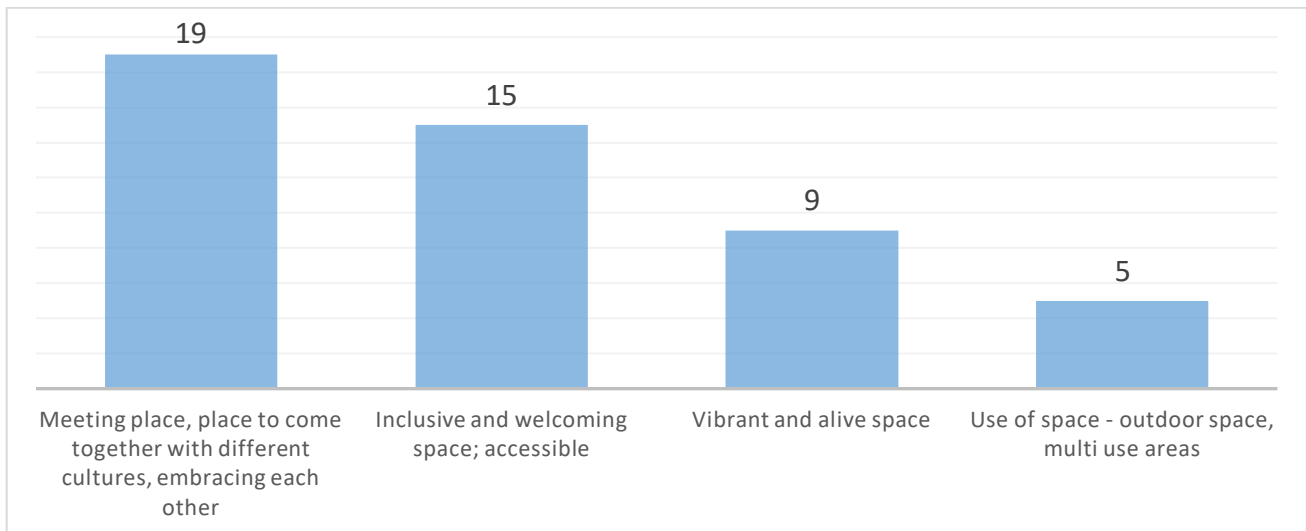
This analysis of feedback provides themes and trends only. Due to the diversity of views and ideas, all feedback provided should be read in full to get a complete picture. Raw data can be found [here](#): Participants were asked a number of questions as outlined below:

Q1: What is your vision for the Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre?

The majority of feedback regarding the vision/purpose of the MRCC described it as a **meeting place** or **hub for all cultures** and a place to come together **to celebrate and learn** (19 | 79%), as well as a space that is **inclusive, welcoming and accessible to all peoples** (15 | 62%) e.g. from **different religious backgrounds, ages and abilities**.

Other themes included wanting:

- A space that is affordable
- A space that encourages inter-generational collaboration
- A sense of place – especially for smaller community groups.
- Availability of artistic spaces
- Private spaces for more sensitive activities



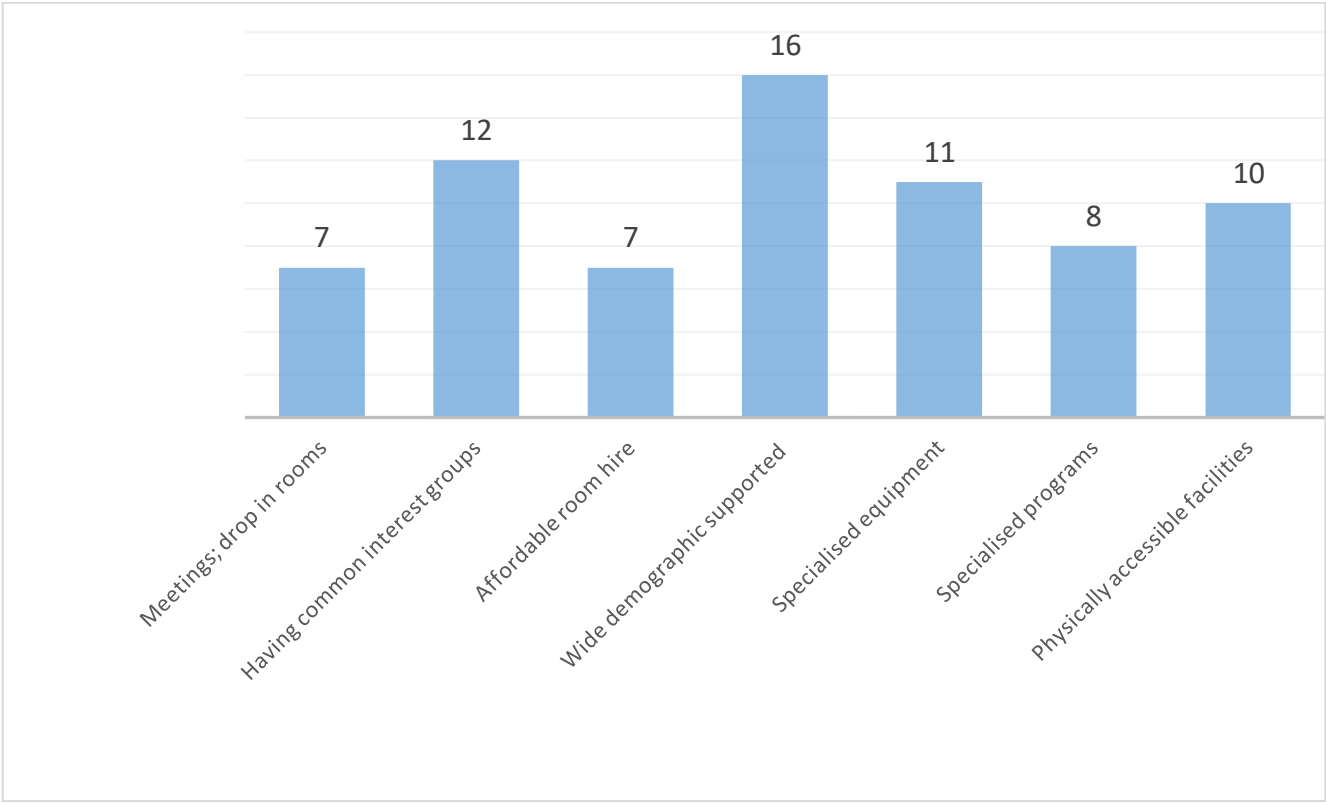
Q2: What opportunities has your community not been able to realise that they could with a facility such as this?

Participants of activities was recognised as an unrealised opportunity with large communities or wide demographic (16 | 23%) and specific groups of people e.g. family friendly spaces, alcohol free spaces, women only spaces or performance spaces. (12 | 17%).

Common interest groups or community groups (12 | 50%). This was a ranged response as groups were not able to realise their cultural activities e.g. traditional performances, food creation, social sporting events, and prayer sessions.

Lack of **specialised equipment** in facilities (11 | 46%) e.g. wudu room for cleaning before prayers, a specialised prayer room, hard wood flooring, dancing platforms and a commercial kitchen.

Equitable access (10 | 42%) Feedback stressed that the centre needs to appeal to all demographics e.g. with lifts, disabled toilets, wheelchair access but also transportation e.g. nearby bus routes, bike paths, parking availability.



Q3: What types of recreation activities would your community want to undertake?

A centre that provides a space for casual recreation, social interaction, cultural workshops, hobby classes and sports events were the most prevalent themes.

Casual recreation (20 | 83%) Creating the feeling of a community hub where people can come and go as they please was important. Examples include:

- Communal areas
- Social sport equipment
- Café
- Exhibition rooms
- Workshop space
- Children’s play areas

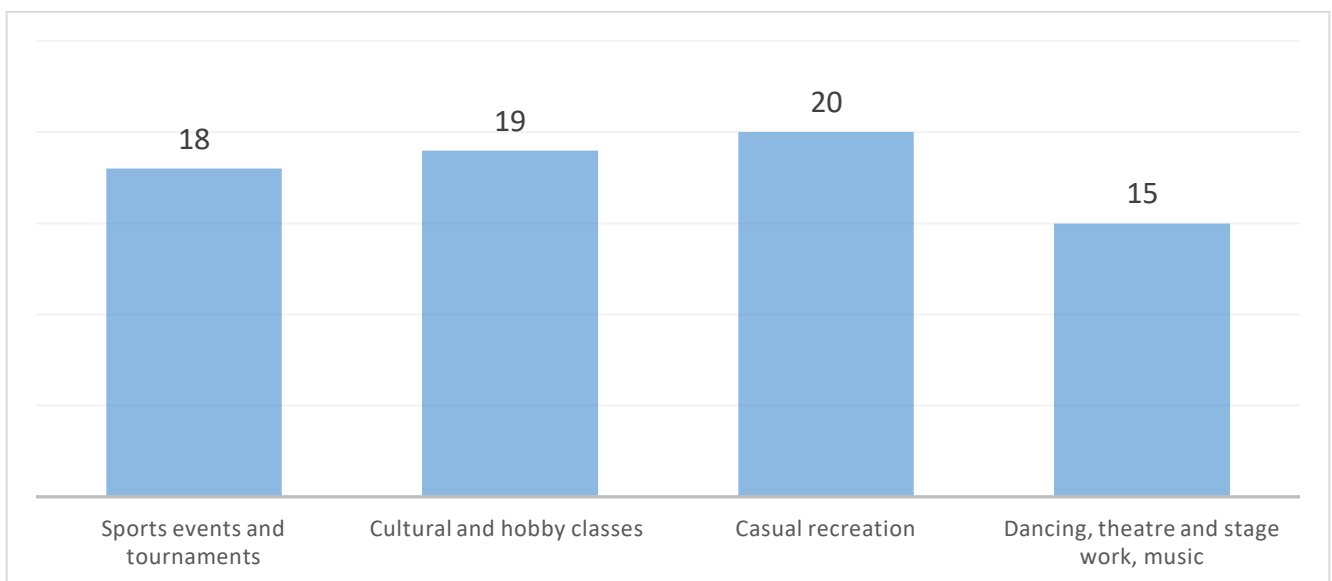
Feedback also showed value in more **formal classes** as a way of passing on cultural knowledge to other members of the community (19 | 79%). Examples of classes include:

- Cooking classes
- Textiles
- Yoga
- Fitness (especially women’s only)
- Learn to ride

Sports events and tournaments at the centre were highly valued as a way to create a sense of connection (18 | 75%). The same was felt about dance, theatre and music which was integral for some community groups e.g. in the form of storytelling. (15 | 63%)

Other themes included:

- Women’s only recreation
- Special events e.g. weddings, significant cultural/spiritual observances



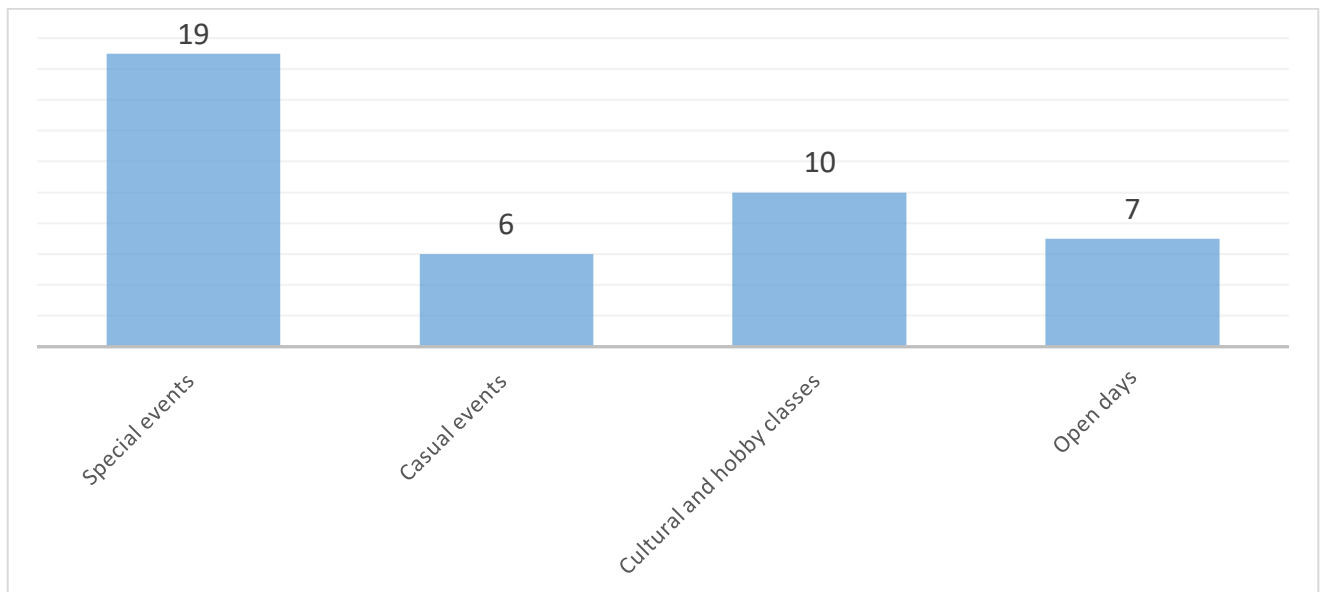
Q4: What types of events would you like to see happen on site and on the grounds?

Special events such as weddings, markets days and nights, concerts, international movies nights, sports days and tournaments and cultural festivals were among some of the suggestions in feedback. (19 | 79%)

Cultural and hobby classes were highlighted as being an important to the operations of the MRCC, e.g. weaving, crafts, book clubs, cooking, cinema (10 | 42%)

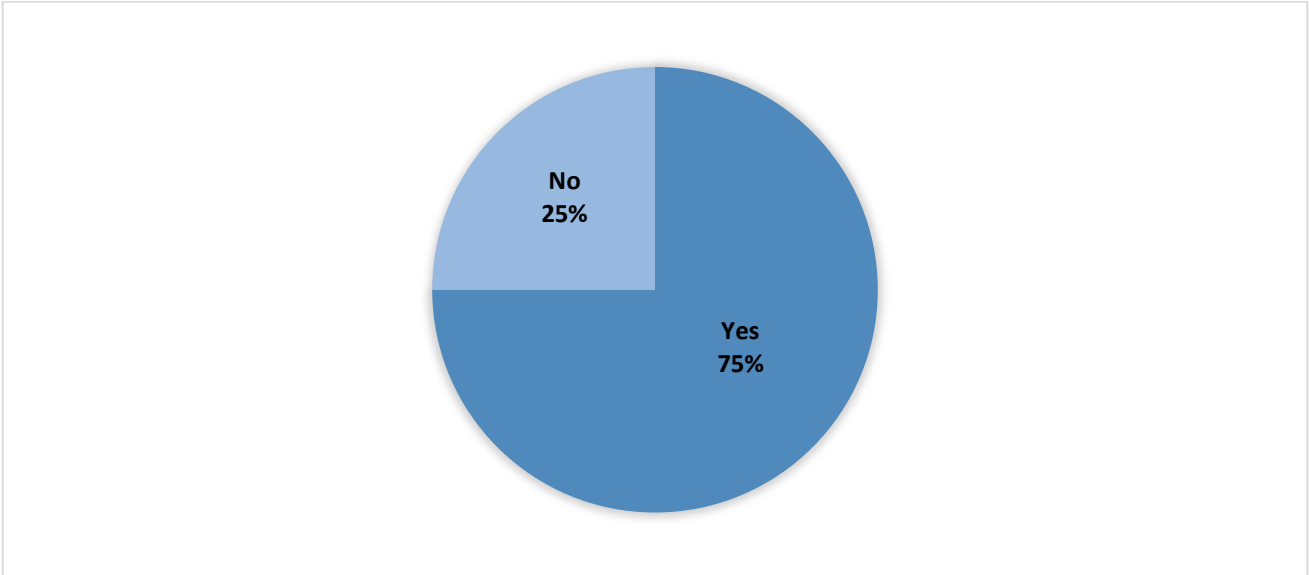
Other themes include:

- Dance, theatre and stage work, music
- Upskilling events e.g. first aid, emergency training, Te Tiriti o Waitangi



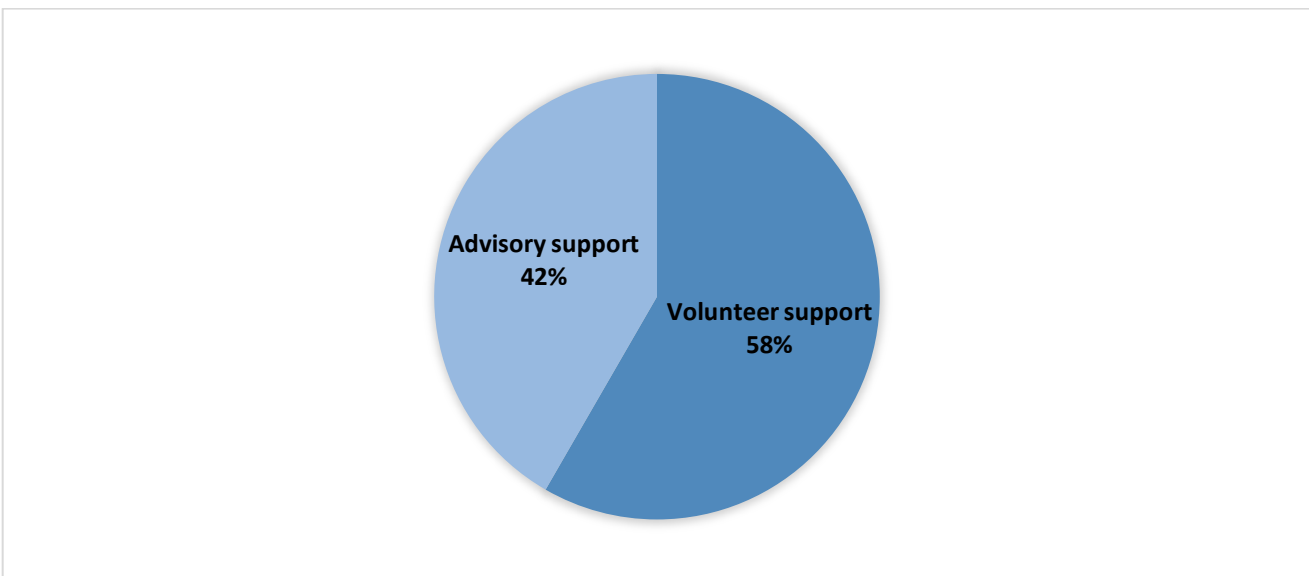
Q 5: Would you be prepared to provide volunteers/advisory support to the governance of the Centre?

Feedback indicated that the majority of community members would be prepared to provide volunteer / cultural advisory support to the centre. Those who answered 'no' did not provide an answer why they wouldn't provide support.



More than half of the feedback indicated that volunteer support could be provided, e.g. general maintenance, providing classes for the centre, managing ongoing programmes like bee-keeping for the wider Hagley area and 'sweat equity' – volunteering for lower cost facility rental.

Less than half of the feedback indicated that advisory support could be provided e.g. youth support, governance, tenancy and housing support (Kāinga Ora), mentoring and skills development for personal and professional development.



Q6: What equipment and/or cultural considerations would you like to see at the Centre?

Ensuring the centre has **specialist equipment** was a major theme (19 | 79%) e.g. a projector, sound and light systems, moveable stage. Essential for concerts, performances, prayer sessions, dances, international movie festivals, cultural gatherings.

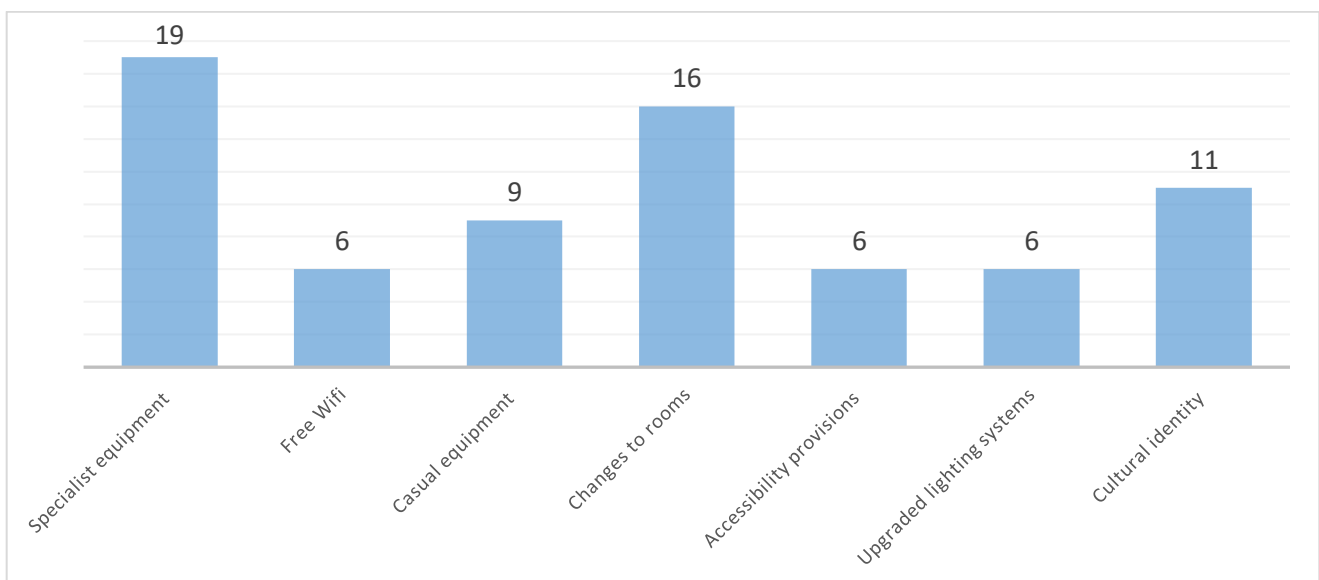
Consideration of cultural spaces (16 | 67%) e.g. a mother’s room/women’s room, kids room, commercial kitchen for food preparation (halal only fridge), hardwood flooring for dancing, a dedicated prayer room, wudu room (for ablutions before prayer).

Showcasing cultural identity (11 | 46%), integrating multi-culturalism into the design of the building and promotion. Creating a narrative that invites all peoples into a multi-cultural space.

Casual equipment (9 | 38%) e.g. pool table, board games, table tennis table, vacuum cleaner, sports equipment for play, moveable tables and chairs

Improved accessibility (6 | 25%) e.g. disabled parking, disabled toilets

Wi-Fi available to everyone (6 | 25%)



Q 7: How would you like the booking process to operate?

Online / in-app bookings were the most popular medium (23 | 96%).

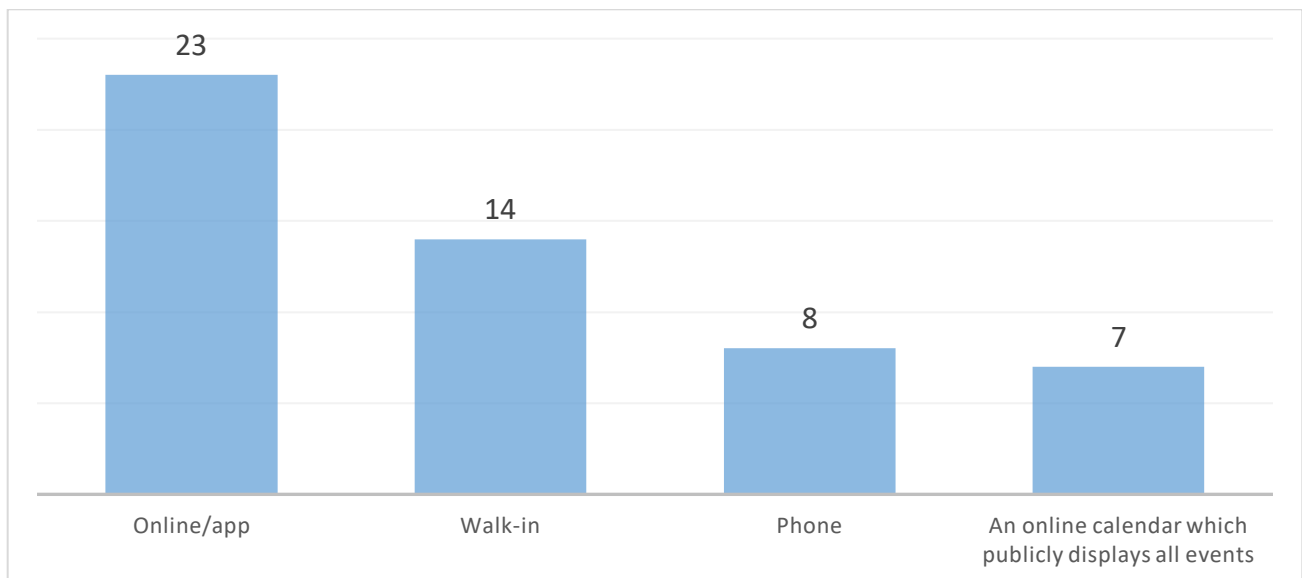
Walk-ins (14 | 58%) as an alternative to make bookings accessible.

Phone bookings (8 | 33%) for people who don't have access to technology.

An online calendar (7 | 29%) so that people can keep track of events and inform future planning, effectively putting booking administration in the hands of the users.

Other themes include:

- A booking system in multiple languages.
- Main rooms unable to be booked out for long periods, small rooms to be rebooked.
- A monthly newsletter to highlight events that are going to take place in the space.
- One off bookings
- How to manage recurring bookings



Q 7: Are there any things that would stop you from using a facility such as this?

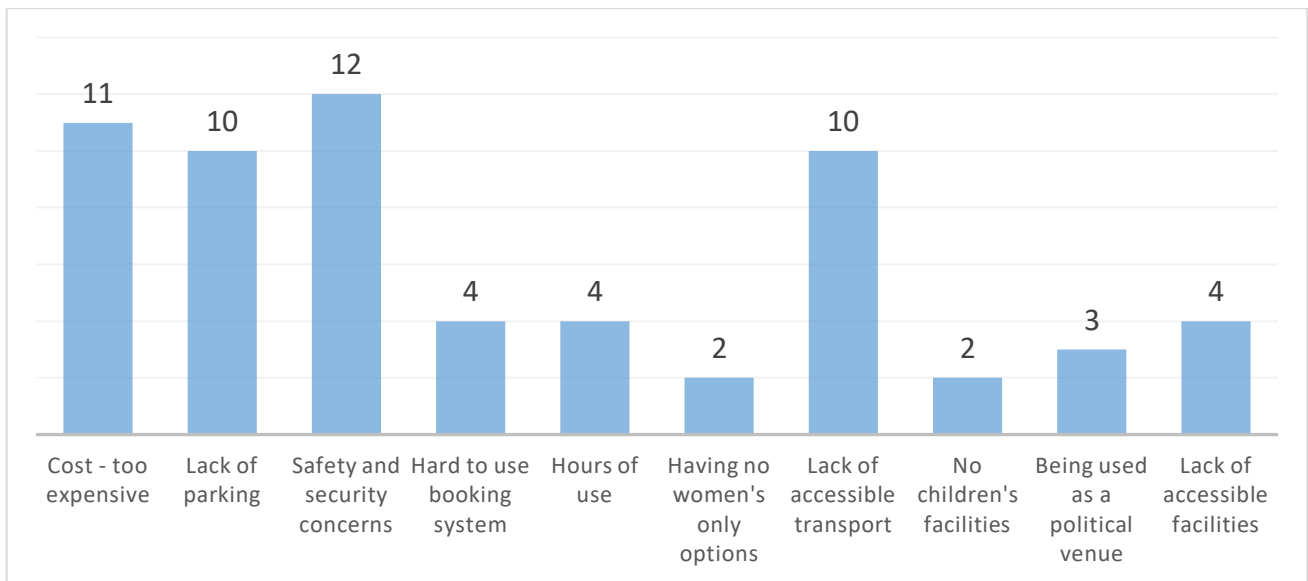
Safety and security concerns (12 | 50%) was heightened due to the Mosque shootings in 2019; Some participants believed there was a need for some security measures in place inside the centre to ensure users were safe during day and night e.g. good lighting and visibility.

Cost of hire (11 | 46%). A fear of excluding smaller community groups from participating. Small multi-cultural community groups have barriers to finding bookings an affordable price.

Lack of parking and accessible transport for groups (10 | 42%). Groups felt that parking was important to facilitate events and other gatherings. Additionally, accessible transport (10 | 42%) was needed to allow groups to move away from private to public/active transport.

Other themes include:

- Hard to use booking systems
- Hours open and available for use
- Lack of accessible facilities
- Being used as a political venue
- No women’s only facilities
- No children’s facilities



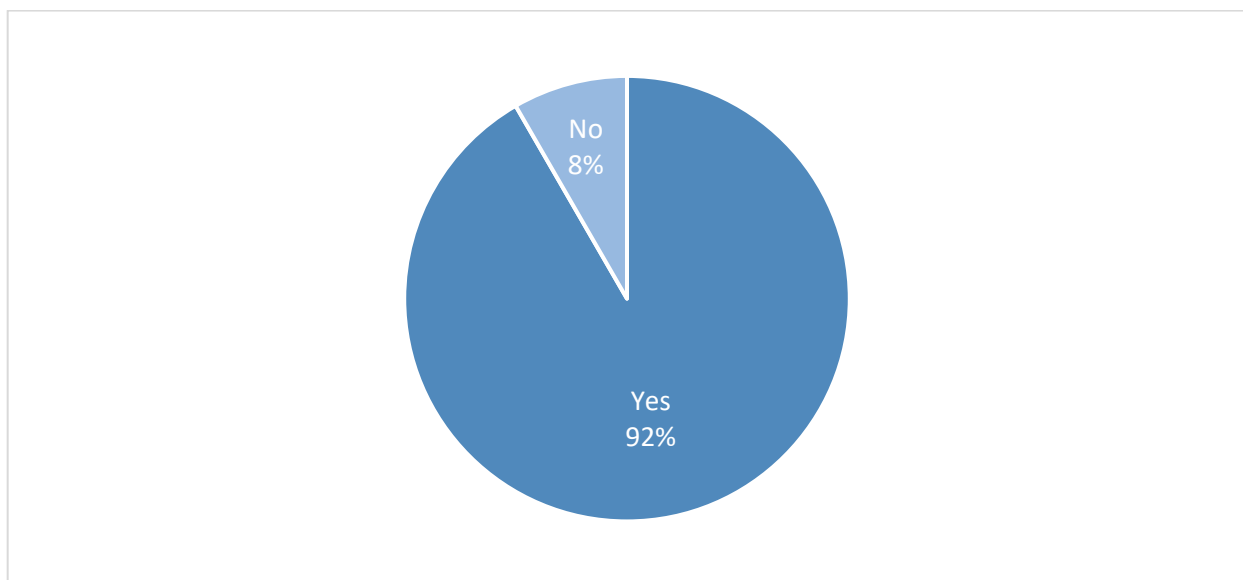
Q 8: Would you be willing to pay for the hire of the space for specific purposes?

Feedback indicated the majority of community groups would be willing to pay for hiring the space at MRCC.

Being able to pay through alternative means was an option that was largely supported; it was raised that larger groups should have to pay but it should not be standardised for all groups, as many smaller community groups could be excluded by the price of the space.

Other options raised were:

- Annual memberships for community groups – offering reduced or free rooms per year
- Social enterprise model; commercial groups pay full price, smaller community groups / NFP pay reduced rates
- Partnership projects e.g. with CCC, could allow for special rates



Any other concerns or ideas?

There were a number of concerns and ideas that community members raised separate to the consultation specific questions. Due to the vast range of responses, we have put them into categories:

Ideas

- Centre should have an alcohol license for BYO alcohol events
- Having a common lounge / open space for people to spend time together
- An alcohol free space for meeting up
- Displays for different cultural exhibitions
- Photocopying / printer
- Hot desking
- Open community cultural days
- Information boards for all community groups to use
- Hāngī pits, umu pits, BBQs; access to power supply for food trucks

- Multi-use outdoor space
- Health representatives on site / sick room
- Transparency of design during building
- Netball courts should be made multi-use for recreation

Concerns

- Multi-cultural/bi-cultural could be overlooked
- Toilet facilities

Conclusion

The community feedback identifies a clear demand for the new Christchurch Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre as a meeting place or hub for all cultures and a place to come together.

We heard clearly that the new Centre needs to be inclusive, welcoming and accessible for all. Consideration should be given to the general operation of the building that may include the flexibility for designated spaces that support cultural considerations, including family friendly; alcohol free and women only.

The raw feedback provides a range of casual and formal recreation activities that could form part of the programme for the Centre. Supporting opportunities for social connection, sharing of skills and storytelling. Some of the specific activities and related equipment will need to be considered as the programme for the Centre is developed. The function rooms on the ground and first levels will support larger community events with existing office space and storage spaces more suitable for smaller community groups. The existing Catering Kitchen on the ground level will help meet the need for catering facilities. It will be important to prioritise specialist equipment requirements recognising that not all needs may be met initially.

Operation of the building will require a strong network of volunteers, the public feedback indicates strong support across a range of roles for the Centre.

The Centre is located in Hagley Park with a designated car park and nearby pedestrian paths however, proximity to the public transport network was highlighted which may require wayfinding information for participants and advocacy for public transport.

This community feedback provides understanding of community needs, wants and opportunities that can help shape the future of the Christchurch Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre.