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**Submission to: Porirua City Council on DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2012-2022**

**Name of organisation making submission**

Volunteering New Zealand

**Contact person**

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**We do not wish to make an oral submission. We strongly support Volunteer Porirua, a branch of Volunteer Wellington, to make an oral submission at the Council Hearing.**

**Introduction to Volunteering New Zealand**

**Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ)** is an association of New Zealand organisations that have a commitment to volunteering, such as volunteer centres, national, regional and other organisations.

Our mission is to create an environment which supports, promotes, values and encourages effective volunteering by the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

We have over 120 national and regional member organisations which we work for and with to represent their interests.

VNZ's objectives include:

- Raising individual and collective interest in the value of volunteering, to create a well informed public, and encourage and facilitate increased volunteering
- Lead and play a significant role in activities which ensure organisations develop and maintain best practice volunteer services – such as working on the development of Managers of Volunteers
- Communicating and working with Government, community sector organisations, the business sector and individuals about issues related to volunteering and its development
- Providing and promoting services such as educational programmes and volunteer recruitment through organised groups including volunteer centres, other national and regional organisations and government agencies
- Supporting robust research around volunteering and sharing relevant information.
- Building a connected volunteering community through our membership
- Participating in other activities considered practicable and desirable in reaching the objects

**VNZ - Our mission is to create an environment that supports, values and encourages effective volunteering by the people of Aotearoa / New Zealand**



The NZ representative of **IAVE** / International Association for Volunteer Effort



Providing a tool to match volunteers and opportunities

outlined above

- Representing New Zealand volunteering internationally
- Working with Maori, Pacific and ethnic groups to broaden understanding and acknowledgment of differences of how volunteering and community involvement takes place.

One of our members, **Volunteer Porirua, a branch of Volunteer Wellington**, has submitted to the Porirua City Council's Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022. Many of the community and voluntary organisation in Porirua City are affiliated to us through their national membership with VNZ.

During the past financial year through their three offices, Volunteer Wellington, Volunteer Hutt and Volunteer Porirua have worked with almost 3,000 volunteer role-seekers seeking appropriate volunteers roles. They are an incredible asset to Porirua City and its community sector. VNZ has worked particularly closely with Volunteer Porirua in the establishment of the Porirua Managers of Volunteers Network, with its launch attended by Minister Hekia Parata and Mayor Nick Leggett in November 2011. This network was set up in direct response to the need for collaboration and support across the community sector, the dynamism of which is at risk of being lost if local government support is reduced.

### **City Priorities**

*1) Do you agree with our four key priorities for taking the city forward?*

**Yes.** Alongside Volunteer Porirua, we **agree** with all these priorities because of their emphasis on community life. To achieve these four priorities which are so valuable, community life must be dynamic, with its growth encouraged and supported.

Alongside Volunteer Porirua, we **do not agree** with the proposed reduction over five years of the community grants pool from \$245,000 to \$195,000 as outlined in 4.1.1 Strategic & Community Policy, page 79, of Porirua City's Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022.

Our reasons for this disagreement are associated with each of the city's priorities as outlined in the submission by Volunteer Porirua.

At a time when central government priorities are changing rapidly, effecting civil society and placing greater pressure on and requiring greater commitment from community organisations, local bodies must continue to support their local organisations by not withdrawing financial support.

Changes in financial support for the community sector will make a huge and negative difference, and Porirua citizens may not receive the support they need for your proposed four priorities to be realised.

If local councils want to take their community forward, they must support and resource community organisations. Porirua City Council has the opportunity to show this vision and leadership in their long term plan for their communities.

Yours sincerely



Vanisa Dhiru  
**Chief Executive**