



P O Box 8016, Gardens
34 North Road, 9041
Dunedin

Phone: (03) 473-9027
Email: office@dni.school.nz
Web: www.dni.school.nz

Submission 10 Year Plan
Dunedin City Council
PO Box 5045
Dunedin 9054

19 April 2023

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you (again) on behalf of the schools of North Dunedin - George Street Normal, North East Valley Normal, Ōpoho, Pine Hill, Sacred Heart and Dunedin North Intermediate.

In 2021 I put a submission to Council which was approved to the value of \$187,500 or 37.5% of the actual cost (which ever was lesser), conditional on DNI securing the remaining funding required to replace the external structure by June 2022.

You will likely be aware that we are not in a position to uplift the funds. We were working from a QS estimate when we applied to you in 2021, however by the time we had secured the balance of the funds from the Ministry of Education and then went to tender, the lowest tender was double the amount of the QS estimate.

Since this time the Council has completed the planned **AQUATIC FACILITIES NETWORK REVIEW**. The Review really highlights the importance of school pools in the network and I understand that the co-investment options with the MOE and others, is the option that Council endorsed.

With respect to this, the DNI pool is currently servicing the majority of the schools in the North Dunedin area and is the only pool that is open all year around. This is a significant number of swimmers who are therefore not needing to access Moana Pool.

George St 425 students	Opoho 160 students	NEV 220 students
Pine Hill 40 students	Sacred Heart 40 students	
This totals 885 school students who use the pool. This does not count all of the preschoolers, adults and school students who access private lessons outside of school hours.		

Appended is the data we have been collecting since 2016. Of serious concern is the falling rate of students able to swim at an age appropriate level by the end of Year 8. Our local schools are already contributing large sums of money to fund lessons and transport to lessons. If the DNI Pool is to close, it is

no exaggeration to suggest that thousands of local children will simply not learn to swim. Even if schools could find the funds to transport students to other pools, there is no capacity to manage these students at other pools in Dunedin.

DNI is committed to continuing to manage the funds and maintenance as this is the simplest solution and works within existing funding streams, however we are not in a position to pay for the required rebuild. We've had the plans reviewed to ensure that we are not planning a 'gold plated' pool and have had confirmation this week that the design is not 'gold plated'. They made a couple of small suggestions but noted that the design changes may outweigh the savings.

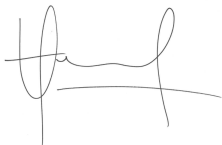
The situation is urgent, the pool building is propped up with scaffolding. We are ready to swing hammers, we just need the funds.

- The Otago Community Trust has granted \$200 000
- We have applied to the Lion Foundation for \$400 000 (pending an outcome)
- We have set up a *Give a Little Page* and raised \$2500 in less than 4 weeks which is indicative of the level community support

In 2021 the DCC committed to contributing 37.5% of the cost. This was prior to the Network Review and part of the conversation at this time was that we were not clear what role the DNI pool played in the network. The situation is different now in that it is clear that the school pools play a pivotal role in the network, and the DNI pool, being the only school pool open all year, is clearly essential to the network. We can't keep working on a 'what if' basis. We therefore propose that the DCC pledge to fund 50% of the project pending the outcome of the Lion Foundation Application. We will be seeking the remaining 50% from the Ministry of Education.

The most current tender is for \$1,481,625.70+GST including consultancy fees. We have \$200 000 of this. We hope to get up to \$400k from the Lion Foundation, but we need some surety regardless of the outcome. Under this proposed arrangement the DCC would be committing to a maximum of \$ 650 000, and a minimum of \$440 000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Hayward', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Heidi Hayward

Principal - Dunedin North Intermediate (on behalf of the schools of North Dunedin - George Street Normal, North East Valley Normal, Ōpoho, Pine Hill, Sacred Heart)

Pool History and Current Condition

In the 1950's a pool was built on the site of Dunedin North Intermediate (DNI) - we understand this pool was built to service the North Dunedin community and their contributing schools and this is exactly what has happened for the past 70 years. DNI leases the pool to JC Swim School and they service all of our schools, and also the North Dunedin community. DNI does not use the pool (it is too small for intermediate age students), but we are the fundholder, and we certainly benefit from, and build upon the lessons our contributing schools undertake at the pool.

In 2018 it became apparent that regular maintenance was no longer keeping pace with the deterioration of the building and we commissioned some expert reports in early 2019. In May 2019 we received these reports and learned that the pool building (not the actual pool) was nearing the end of its natural life - the estimate at the time was that it had 2-5 years left.

In August 2019 we met with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Dunedin City Council (DCC) to discuss possible funding streams for rebuilding. As you will know, Dunedin has a challenge with regard to pool space - there are simply not enough pools to service the population. The DCC was about to engage in a network audit of pools and if the DNI pool was found to be essential to the Dunedin network of pools (as we all assume it will be) then we all hoped that we might be able to source some funding through the council, and that the MoE might make up the difference. The Council advised that it might take 18 months to complete the audit work.

In September 2020 we discovered sagging panels in the ceiling of the pool building and further investigation has uncovered much faster deterioration of the building than was anticipated as a result of chlorine and humidity. The pandemic interrupted many workstreams and the DCC was impacted by this too with much slower work on the network audit than expected.

In 2020, DNI and JC Swim School funded an expensive and temporary propping to remediate the sagging ceiling panels that we hope will keep the pool open for up to 12 months. Within this time the goal is to find a long term solution however the window is rapidly closing.

Swimming is an important component of the New Zealand Curriculum owing to most New Zealanders having easy access to water and we are doing our best to meet our obligations. The DNI pool allows access to swimming for many underprivileged children, including a high number of low-income and also refugee families who would not otherwise have the opportunity to swim.

Without the development of swimming and water safety skills, the potential for drowning rates to increase is a reality. Our annual data collection consistently demonstrates that less than 15% of our students attend swimming lessons outside of school, or swim with a club. This means that for 85% of our students, school swimming is the only swimming tuition accessed .

Given that drowning is the leading cause of recreational death and the third highest cause of accidental death in New Zealand, we see that keeping this tuition viable will very likely prevent deaths occurring.



Swimming Data - Dunedin North Intermediate

DNI has collected data over four years around swimming capability. Although we don't use the pool, 75% of our students come from the contributing schools who do use the pool. Our data is therefore representative of the North Dunedin Community and the importance of our students learning to swim. There is no data from 2020 because we were not able to run our usual swimming programme in Term 2 due to Covid and there was no capacity to rebook us at another time in the year.

Summary - Just Swim suggests that by the end of Year 8 children should be working at Level 3 at least.	
2022	<p>48% of our school is swimming at an age-appropriate level. The figure for Yr 7 is 43.5% while the Year 8 figure is 53.8%. 40% of the school are swimming below expectation (Level 2) and 12% are swimming at well below expectation (Level 1). This makes a total of 52% below age expectation.</p>
2021	<p>50.8% of our school is swimming at an age-appropriate level. There is little difference between the Year 7 percentage (50.26%) and the Year 8 percentage (51.85%). 38% of the school are swimming below expectation (Level 2) and 11% are swimming at well below expectation (Level 1). This makes a total of 49% below age expectation.</p>
2020	No swimming due to Covid
2019	<p>59% of our school are swimming at an age-appropriate level. There has been an increase in the number of Year 8 students swimming at expectation with 69 at Level 3 or above in 2019 as opposed to 58 in Yr 7 in 2018. 40% are swimming below, with 1% well below expectation for age - a total of 41% below age expectation. This figure increases to 48% for Year 7 students.</p>
2018	<p>65% of our school are swimming at an age-appropriate level. There is approximately the same number of Year 8 students swimming at expectation (90) in 2018 as there was Year 7's in 2017 (85)</p> <p>29% are swimming below, and 6% well below expectation for age - a total of 35% below age expectation.</p>

2017	<p>64.7% of our school are swimming at an age-appropriate level.</p> <p>25.9% are swimming below, and 5.3% are well below expectation for age - a total of 31.2% below age expectation. 4.1% are made up of our non-swimmers in our data for 2017.</p> <p>There is approximately the same number of Year 8 students swimming at expectation (85) in 2017 as there was Year 7's in 2016 (83)</p>
2016	<p>76% of our school are swimming at an age-appropriate level.</p> <p>2% are working at well below expectation for age and 22% below age expectation.</p>

6) OUT OF SCHOOL SWIMMING

We surveyed our students as to swimming lesson/club participation outside of school.

2022

A: Total number of students who attended regular swimming lessons outside of school: 20 (6.2%)

B: Total number of students who swim for a club: 23 (7.1%)

2021

A: Total number of students who attended regular swimming lessons outside of school: 38 (12.5%)

B: Total number of students who swim for a club: 17 (5.6%)

2019

A: Total number of students who attended regular swimming lessons outside of school: 23 (9.8%)

B: Total number of students who swim for a club: 12 (5.1%)

2018

A: Total number of students who attended regular swimming lessons outside of school: 15

B: Total number of students who swim for a club: 15

2017

A: Total number of students who attended regular swimming lessons outside of school: 22

B: Total number of students who swim for a club: 15

2016

A: Total number of students who attended regular swimming lessons outside of school: 24

B: Total number of students who swim for a club: 8