**Submission to DCC Annual Plan 2023**

**Jenny Bunce**

I was concerned to hear that the Otago Museum has a proposed increase in its DCC Levy funding in the draft budget of just 2% at a time when inflation is around 7%. Furthermore, a less-than-inflation increase has been the case for many years.

Rather than simply ask for more money, I would like to make the following suggestion:

*that the Council investigate the possibility of indexing the museum base operational funding grant to an agreed appropriate measure such as cost of living, rate of inflation, or the living wage.*

Consideration could also be given to indexing funding for other services such as Toitu, the pools, and the library, and also to any user charges for these activities.

Thus, for any identified services, core funding allocation would go into the draft budget with minimum increases no less than the rate of inflation. And any user fees charged for these services would increase at no more than the rate of inflation.

In the case of the Museum, I have two further suggestions:

1. A small entry fee or minimum donation (equivalent of 1 cup coffee?) be requested from visitors who are resident outside the region.
2. More and continued lobbying of Central Government involving DCC and the museum, around the inequitable funding for collections of national significance. (I understand that pre-Te Papa, some government money went to collections of national significance, but that this now goes just to Te Papa).