

Jorja Miles, Chair of Napier Youth Council

Questions and Answers Summary

Q1: What is the current opinion of teenagers regarding aquatic centres, specifically the Onekawa pools?

Many teenagers are using the Onekawa pools less frequently than they used to. As they grow older, they often stop visiting the pool for leisure activities. Competitive swimmers tend to use the Hastings Aquatic Centre instead, as the Onekawa pools are not suitable as a shared space for both competitive swimming and community use.

The cost of facilities like Ocean Spa is a significant barrier for teenagers. There is a general lack of low-cost activities available for young people. Moving into the future it would be great to have more low-cost options like an aquatic centre.

Q2: What would you like in an aquatic facility?

A dedicated training space for water polo and under water hockey in Napier, as current facilities are dominated by other teams. Additionally, a user-friendly, shallow pool for swimming lessons and exercise, which accommodates less confident swimmers. A pool that can fully incorporate all of the main users and stakeholders of the pool effectively and efficiently.

Q4: What recreational features do teenagers want in aquatic centres?

Teenagers express a desire for fun recreational features like water slides and inflatable attractions, which could draw more young people to the facilities. Existing options, like Splash Planet, are costly and limited to summer months. Fun is a big important part.