

Media Release

Free wi-fi access coming to the Margaret Mahy Family Playground

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Free wireless internet will be available in the Margaret Mahy Family Playground in the coming months thanks to online marketplace Trade Me, says Christchurch Central Development Unit Director Baden Ewart.

Since it opened in December 2015, the central city's playground has proved exceptionally popular with children and adults alike, with over 100,000 visitors during the summer school holidays.

Mr Ewart says the addition of free wi-fi will add another dimension.

"We were ahead of the game by ensuring the main lighting poles at the playground can carry the wi-fi fibre and access points. That means it will be relatively simple to roll out and commission the system," Mr Ewart says.

"[Trade Me](#) has bandwidth capacity which it is generously sharing with the community. I think we all agree that broadband access is now an essential ingredient for a modern central city, for attracting businesses and local and international visitors."

"This kind of initiative perfectly complements the Crown's Christchurch Central Recovery Plan which will make central Christchurch a vibrant, prosperous and creative hub."

Trade Me already provides free wi-fi broadband services at Re:START Mall in Christchurch and on the Wellington waterfront. Wi-fi will be available at the Margaret Mahy Family Playground once the new service has been installed and tested.

More playground equipment is currently being installed, including three climbing towers and a spiral slide. This work, along with the new BBQ area, will be completed by spring.