

Oakleigh Monash Leader 19 Jan 2010.

Pool belly-whacker

Swimmer calls for low-income concession price for public facilities

Council | Michelle Carnovale

A CHADSTONE woman believes Monash Council's admission price policies for public facilities are discriminating against the unemployed because she was refused a concession ticket to Oakleigh pool last week.

Jobless Jennifer Cuthbet said she had received concession entry prices to the newly opened Oakleigh pool on four occasions since December 30 but was told on January 11 that her Low Income

Health Care Card would no longer be accepted.

The council has acknowledged Ms Cuthbet was wrongly given discounted prices and confirmed all council-operated facilities accepted only pension cards, student cards and seniors cards as valid proof for concession.

In a written statement from council spokeswoman Karen Conrad, Mayor Charlotte Baines said Ms Cuthbet had been charged an incorrect price on four occasions.

"Healthcare cards are not accepted

because these cards are valid for six months regardless of whether or not the cardholder has gained employment after the card is issued," Cr Baines said.

But Ms Cuthbet said the card, issued by Centrelink, entitled her to discount prices on public transport, for some medications and at public pools in Caulfield and Ashburton.

"For a community, council-run pool I just think that's a bit tough," the 33-year-old said.

The teacher, now looking for work, said she was disappointed the coun-

cil did not extend concession benefits to the unemployed.

But the council was unmoved by Ms Cuthbet's complaints. "This standard is consistent with other local government areas as well as services provided by the state and federal governments in Australia," Cr Baines said in her statement.

► **An Oakleigh pool free family fun day, from 11am-3pm, will be held at the Park Rd facility on January 24 with a sausage sizzle, giveaways and more.**