

South Island Health Services Planning: Media Release Template for South Island DHBs.

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For internal and external distribution.

(Name of DHB) Joins Effort to Strengthen South Island Health Services

South Island DHBs have come together to plan long-term, viable health services across the mainland.

The new initiative is called the South Island Health Services Plan. It aims to keep health services close to where people live, while also making sure those services are viable in the long term, from a clinical, workforce and financial perspective.

Representatives from the six South Island DHBs and the South Island Shared Services Agency (SISSAL), including ***(Name of DHB)***, have formed a steering group. As planning progresses, the membership of the steering group may need to evolve further.

(Insert supportive comment from your local DHB steering group member or chief exec)

South Island Health Services Planner Jan Barber (from SISSAL) says the planning process will look at what health services need to look like in the future to ensure a strong, viable health system for the South Island.

“We’re starting with an assessment of priorities from each DHB that are identified as services that could potentially benefit from a South Island approach,” she says. “For instance, we know that neurosurgical services could be more efficient and effective with a South Island approach but the assessment will also identify other areas of priority for our focus.” These services will be assessed against the impact for the population and the amenability to change.

South Island-wide planning to ensure a viable neurosurgery service is already underway, and will be followed shortly by other areas as they are initiated.

Jan says an important element of the South Island Health Services Plan is getting key people involved and keeping people informed.

“It’s vital that clinical staff are actively engaged at the outset and are integrally involved in the direction the planning process takes. It’s also vital that we have clear links to communities throughout the South Island to ensure people are informed about where planning is at and how

it will benefit the sustainability of services they will need to access now, and into the future.

“It’s not about saying we can’t provide a service, but more about ‘how can we work together to provide the service,’” she says.

Lead chief executive for the project is Chris Fleming, the chief executive of South Canterbury District Health Board.

Mr Fleming says the group is taking a wide view across the South Island to ensure the viable delivery of health services, and to ensure those health services also continue to meet the needs of the South Island population.

“While planning on such a widespread scale can be daunting, this should be seen by communities as an exciting opportunity to ensure access to high quality health services are secured for the South Island long term.

“It’s about improving quality, improving clinical networks and providing a supportive collegial environment for clinical staff, while at the same time ensuring services remain accessible to people throughout the South Island. It’s also about ensuring that we recognise trends in health care and the changing face of the workforce to ensure we maintain sustainable services of a high quality,” he says.

The South Island Health Services Plan builds on work already done, such as West Coast DHB’s sustainability project. Similar planning is also happening in the lower half of the North Island and other DHB regions in New Zealand.

Deleted: The South Island Health Services Plan also builds on the Long Term Systems Framework the Ministry of Health is developing.

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Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is the South Island Health Services Plan?

A document that provides the principles and framework to support sustainable health and disability services for the population of the South Island.

2. Why is it being developed?

The vision of the SIHSP is to:

- reduce inequalities in access to health services across the South Island.
- enhance the quality of health services across the South Island.
- enhance the sustainability of all health services for the South Island population that are appropriately delivered in the South Island.
- engage with key stakeholders to ensure understanding and acceptability of South Island health services.

3. How will this happen?

The South Island Health Services Plan aims to reduce inequalities in access to health services, and enhance the quality of clinical services:

- By making the health consumer the primary focus of any model of health-care quality management.
- Through quality of care systems that focus on: safety, effectiveness, access, efficiency, acceptability, appropriateness, and consumer participation.
- By considering the full continuum of care, spanning public health through to tertiary services, and including the supports required to enable service delivery.
- By enhancing the sustainability of all clinical services.
- Through the identification of future need and supply of clinical skills.
- Through acknowledgement that efficient and effective use of resources will be required across the South Island.

4. What will it mean for services at my local hospital?

One of the key principles at the heart of the planning is to ensure that high quality and viable services are provided as close to home as possible, regardless of where you live. Changes in the way some services are provided may be necessary, however this will be driven from a long term sustainability perspective.

Deleted: The South Island Health Service Planning process will identify how services should be configured across the South Island in a viable manner.

The planning process is not about closure of hospitals or services, but rather clarification as to how each service and facility fits into the wider clinical network of services across the South Island, and how we can ensure viability of these services both now and into the future.

5. Who is involved?

A steering group with a representative from each DHB area has been established. Members of this group are:

SISSAL	Rob Weir, General Manager
Nelson/Marlborough DHB	Sharon Kletchko, General Manager Planning and Funding
West Coast DHB	Wayne Turp, General Manager Planning and Funding
Canterbury DHB	Mary Gordon, Executive Director of Nursing
South Canterbury DHB	Chris Fleming, Chief Executive
Otago DHB	Richard Bunton, Chief Medical Officer
Southland DHB	Lexie O'Shea, Chief Operating Officer
Maori Health	Nicola Ehau, GM Maori Health, NMDHB

Working groups will be established focused on each area as the planning process progresses.