



Southland District Council

Mayor's Office – Council Chambers – Invercargill – New Zealand

10 May 2017

Dear Prime Minister,

I am adding my voice to the call requesting you commit to a high quality teaching hospital in central Dunedin.

This is an important issue for the people of both Southland and Otago and it is critical that the teaching hospital remains so the people of our regions continue to receive a high standard of care close to home. I urge you to take urgent action to ensure the South has a hospital that meets our needs.

Both Southland and Dunedin Hospitals are teaching facilities, affiliated to the University of Otago and its Dunedin School of Medicine. The relationship between the medical school and Dunedin Hospital helps to attract the specialists who serve both regions. The location of the medical school, next to the hospital, is a key element to their successful relationship, and as a result patients across both regions gain. Do not take this away from us.

As we've seen in the media recently, Dunedin Hospital building is not up to standard. Leaky walls, asbestos, and staff under huge pressure. This is not acceptable and the people of the South deserve better.

Southlanders utilise Dunedin Hospital for some specialist treatments and complex trauma patients from Southland are sent to Dunedin. For Southlanders treated in Dunedin Hospital, a central site means there is nearby accommodation and there are easy public transport options available.

My support of this campaign does not decry the importance of Southland Hospital for the people of Southland. Following the merger of the Southland and Otago DHBs there has been a move to more collaborative healthcare, with many Southland patients treated in Dunedin, and staff working between the two provinces.

I know Government, Southern DHB and partnership groups are working to find a solution but I urge you to listen to the people of the South and give us the quality hospital service and location that we deserve.

Yours sincerely

Gary Tong
Southland Mayor

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