

## Southland's Head Orderly celebrates 25 years and counting

Southland Hospital's Head Orderly, Steve Perriam is celebrating 25 years of dedicated service helping patients, whānau and hospital staff.

Steve began working at Southland Hospital aged 20, when his mother who was a nurse encouraged him to apply for a job as an Orderly.

These days his official title is Operations Supervisor ISS Facilities Services, meaning he is the 'go to' person for the company, which has 17 orderlies and a total of 45 staff at Southland Hospital.

So what makes a good Orderly? "You have to have a positive attitude, friendly manner, be good with patients, and someone who can walk a few miles," he says.

A career highlight was moving from the old to new hospital, when he pushed the first patient through the tunnel connecting the two. He also remembers how the team pulled together after the Foveaux Strait plane crash. "The Orderlies heard what happened and started turning up at work, just wanting to help people." It has been the same with COVID-19 – and while proud of all his colleagues, he singles out the cleaners for special mention.

Asked what has been the best part of his job over the past 25 years, Steve doesn't hesitate: *"the staff and patients are the reason I come to work"*.

## Better primary care access for Māori aim of expanded Health Care Home programme

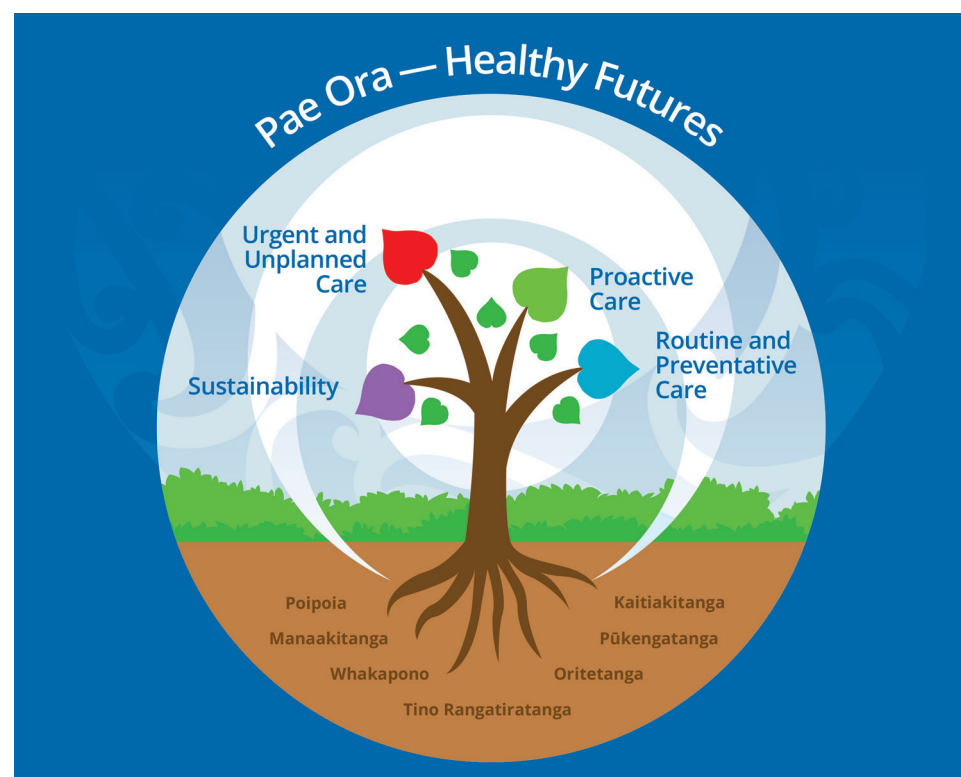
Southern's Health Care Home programme is again expanding, prioritising general practices with higher numbers of Māori and Pasifika patients and those living in the most socio-economically deprived areas.

The Health Care Home (HCH) model of general practice improves patient experience and access to care, while supporting the sustainability of general practice. As many as ten additional practices will begin the programme in the coming months, joining 14 other HCH practices in the district.

Chief Māori Health Strategy and Improvement Officer Gilbert Taurua says better access to primary health care is important for reducing inequities and improving health outcomes for Māori, who have higher rates of illness and hospitalisations.

"The Waitangi Tribunal Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry recommendations make it clear that equity for Māori is a key priority for primary health care services. This means embracing Māori world views and delivering tangible benefits for Māori and other priority populations. The Health Care Home programme is a good platform for supporting these goals."

Stuart Barson, HCH Lead with WellSouth, says if the HCH model delivers for Māori, it will deliver for most of our communities in need of additional support: "Ultimately, this could lead to better outcomes for others, while helping to ensure general practice teams are supported and sustainable for the future."



## Unable to get to a voting place?

### Vote in the 2020 General Election and referendums

The 2020 General Election will now be held on 17 October along with the End of Life Choice and cannabis referendums. You can vote at any advance voting place from Saturday 3 October or at any voting place on election day, Saturday 17 October.



More information is available from:

- Visit [vote.nz](https://vote.nz)
- Call 0800 36 76 56



## Voting during your hospital stay

If you can't get to a voting place because you are in hospital, from 3 October, a friend or family member can bring you your voting papers. **This is known as a takeaway vote.** This also applies if you are unable to vote in person because of poor health or mobility.

The form to authorise someone to collect voting papers on your behalf can be found at a nearby voting place, or online here: <https://vote.nz/voting/get-help-to-vote/cant-get-to-a-voting-place/>

Call 0800 36 76 56 for more information.

If you're scheduled to go into hospital prior to election day, it's best to vote in advance from if you can.

### Voting place in or near our hospitals:

#### DUNEDIN CITY:

Dunedin Hospital, Octagonal Room  
Sat 17 Oct, 9am-7pm

Meridian Mall (ex Fatcorie shop)  
Mon 12-Fri 16 Oct, 9am-6pm  
Sat 17 Oct, 9am-7pm

#### WAKARI:

Wakari School Hall, 150 Helensburgh Road  
Sat 17 Oct, 9am-7pm

#### SOUTHLAND:

St Andrews Community Church, 353 Elles Rd (carpark access at 141 Manse Street)  
Sat 17 Oct, 9am-7pm



# Harti Hauora provides more support for Māori community in Southland

Helping tamariki Māori avoid hospital admissions for respiratory infections by supporting the health of their whānau is the aim of a new collaborative healthcare service at Southland Hospital.

*Harti Hauora* is a Kaupapa Māori centred programme improving connections with health care and other family support services.

Awarua Whānau Services, WellSouth Primary Health Network and Southern DHB have worked together to introduce the programme for Māori whose tamariki are admitted to hospital with respiratory infections.

When tamariki are admitted to Southland Hospital with respiratory infections, a dedicated kaiāwhina from Awarua Whānau Services will visit tamariki and their whānau at the children's ward, assess what services they currently access and help them get any other health care or community-based support they need. This may mean enrolling with a general practice, accessing oral health services, registering for B4 School Check, catching up on immunisations, and connecting with WellChild/Tamariki Ora or early childhood education services.

The kaiāwhina can also help the whānau to access other programmes that improve overall health and wellbeing, including healthy home programmes and smoking cessation services - even providing pēpi pods or car seats, if required.

Deli Diack, Awarua Whānau Services Mama and Pepi/Mokopuna Ora Kaiarahi and the new Harti Hauora kaiāwhina, says she is looking forward to further serving whānau in the community through this new and important Kaupapa.

"It is not just about the access to services but working with the whānau in a culturally-appropriate and respectful manner. We prioritised the relationship, to foster better and hopefully lasting connections to health care," she says.

WellSouth Associate Māori Health Officer Peter Ellison says general practices and community-based providers have a vital role in the Harti Hauora programme, ensuring Māori have ongoing access to appropriate care.



*Deli Diack, Awarua Whānau Services Mama and Pepi/Mokopuna Ora Kaiarahi and the new Harti Hauora kaiāwhina*

*"Engaging or re-engaging with general practice or a Māori health provider is the foundation for whānau ora. Harti Hauora is not a fix but part of a journey. Enrolling with a GP and making primary care a first point of contact is really important for ensuring ongoing good health, helping people have access to the care they need and funded services throughout childhood, adolescents and throughout their lifetime."*

## Board Update



*Dave Cull, Chair*

Kia ora koutou,

By now many of you will have heard the news that I am stepping down from the Board for personal health reasons. Last week I shared publicly that I have been diagnosed with a tumour on my pancreas, and that my focus now needs to be on confronting this challenge and supporting my whānau.

This column will go to print on my last day in the role – almost exactly one year since I was elected to the board.

And what a year. Within months we were facing a global pandemic, and I am extremely proud of how our health workers, and the community, met this crisis.

We have faced further challenges, and last week, on behalf of the board, I issued an apology to the community for the shortcomings in colonoscopy care, and vowed to tackle this important area. I have every confidence the whole of SDHB is as passionate and committed to this issue as I and the Board have been, and will work to rebuild the community's confidence in this service.

I have also seen enormous work to strengthen our health system, finding ways to deliver care in new and better ways.

A highlight has been participating in the development of the new Dunedin Hospital. I am excited to see the progress that's being made, and know the results will be a tremendous asset for everyone in the Southern district.

I would like to thank the community – for having the confidence in me to elect me to the board, and for the many messages of well wishes you have sent me since I announced my decision last week. It has been a privilege to serve in the role of chair.

Thanks also to CEO Chris Fleming, Southern DHB staff and my Board colleagues, for their support and indeed ongoing care. My best wishes go to the Board and my successor as they confront the challenges ahead.

Ngā mihi

Dave Cull

## Update on SDHB Disability Strategy

Earlier this year, we asked for your feedback on the Southern DHB Disability Strategy. This informed the draft strategy, which was presented to the board's Disability Support Advisory Committee (DSAC) in August. A further paper was provided to DSAC at their October meeting providing a snapshot of Disability Services and initiatives underway at Southern DHB <https://tinyurl.com/y5shggyl>

DSAC has agreed to launch the Disability Strategy at the beginning of 2021 – we will keep you informed about this. A Disability Steering Group will be established with representation from different departments from across the DHB, including IT, Building and Property, Clinical Services, Human Resources. It will also include community representatives, including Māori and Pasifika, who have lived experience of disability. This group will be responsible for ensuring actions are prioritised across different parts of the organisation.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the development of this important strategy for the wellbeing of our community. For further information please contact [disability@southerndhb.govt.nz](mailto:disability@southerndhb.govt.nz)

## Mental Health Awareness Week celebrated across the region



*The Mental Health Teams based at Southland Hospital pulled out all the stops for Mental Health Awareness Week, with activities to benefit the physical and mental health of staff.*



*Dunedin and Wakari Hospitals celebrated with a long lunch for staff at each hospital. It was an opportunity to open up the discussion about wellbeing and building community resilience.*