

# Community Health Council

## Highlights from meeting 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Chair Lyneta Russell**

### Strategic Planning

Instead of our usual monthly meeting the Council spent the time Strategic Planning with facilitators Jeff Melville and Vanessa Taane.

All but one member was in attendance at the meeting.

The meeting provided some beginnings but further work is required is

## 2. Presentation on Dunedin Hospital Emergency Department

Rich Stephenson, clinical director for the Dunedin Hospital Emergency Department (ED), gave a very informative presentation on waiting times in the Dunedin Hospital ED and his perspective and some context to publicised challenges facing the ED at present.

## 3. Strategic Planning

The planned session for September has been postponed until October.

## 4. Disability Strategy

The Council received a brief update on current disability work from the Chair of the Disability Working Group.

## 4. Key Community Health Council Member Issues

Each meeting CHC members outline the key issues in their communities. Of note this month were concerns about the closure of Oamaru ED overnight, costs for blood tests in rural communities, lack of transport back to Te Anau after an ambulance transfer to Southland ED, and difficulty getting GP appointments for Pacific people which was putting additional pressure on ED's.

## 5. Te Whatu Ora and Well South Updates

**Hamish Brown** was congratulated on his confirmed appointment as Group Director of Operations for Te Whatu Ora South. Hamish updated on the opening of the transit lounge, staffing gaps and that he would be meeting with the Minister of Health to discuss health system challenges and that Andrew Swanson-Dobbs is holding similar discussion. On being asked about Oamaru Hospital ED closures he expressed quiet confidence in the coverage/resource for Oamaru Hospital and explained that different centres are

working together to manage the closures. Regarding planned care, the system is currently working through patients who had been waiting over 12 months for planned surgeries. This is at ministerial instruction and Hamish relayed how we have received additional funding to meet these targets.

**Andrew Swanson-Dodds** apologised as something had come up at the last minute preventing him from attending.

*Lynette Russell* 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023