

IMG Update 16 August 2011

The Interim Management Group respects the decision of Joan Whiting Trustees to no longer participate in the Integrated Health project.

It is unfortunate that their decision is accompanied by emotional comment – what we need now is pragmatism in terms of how we keep rest home beds available in Golden Bay.

John Peters, as Chair of IMG, has asked to meet with the Trustees, but has had no response as yet.

IMG is meeting later this month and will obviously be looking at the implications of the Trust's decision, but its focus will remain – as it has to date – on keeping all existing services available, retaining health professionals and doing the best we can to achieve that with the money we have available.

IMG (with an abstention from Chris Mitson) agreed to the revised plans (as recommended by the Golden Bay Clinical Leadership Group) for the Integrated Family Health Centre on the basis of both functionality and affordability.

This followed both feedback from the community and a professionally led workshop where all service users made compromises to fit the budget available.

The additional project costs the Quantity Surveyor identified were not related in the main to the facility but to the external costs of consents, compliance, roading etc. It is common for development projects to go through several rounds of cost management.

The rest of the IMG representatives believe we have done everything possible to keep the three organisations moving ahead together to progress this project.

The issues Joan Whiting has are ones IMG can't solve because they make the project unaffordable. Joan Whiting representatives have been unable to offer any financial support to meet any shortfall or enable their expectations to be met.

Public consultation does not equate to having all ideas adopted - but being heard, considered and accepted or not, dependent on the ability to do so. Many ideas were directly in opposition to each other so both cannot be adopted - other solutions must be and have been found in most instances.

Some compromise has been experienced by all players - the most important fact is that the objectives of the project are still achieved – keeping rest home care in the Bay and retaining and attracting health professionals.

Regarding the plan changes, some of the registered nurses who will be overseeing rest home care expressed a preference for larger (shared) ensuites, especially as it is

anticipated that within a short timeframe some of these rooms will be home for continuing care residents.

In addition to the enlarged central living/dining areas, there are sitting bays, a separate sitting room and outside areas. We've also reduced office and consulting space and made a number of other changes.

This is an integrated facility, not a separate rest home within a larger amenity. All three services currently have a family environment and we believe that will continue at the new location. We believe the centre will be a safe, comfortable and happy environment for everyone who uses it.

We continue to receive widespread expression of support. We believe we have the majority of the community behind us and the opposition is sadly a self-serving effort by a few to try to derail the project.

John Peters, Chair of Interim Management Group