

NZNO & PSA
PO Box 1195
NELSON



Received	24.11.2009
Copied To	JP/OH
Action	
Due	

23 November 2009

John Peters
CEO Nelson Marlborough District Health board
Private Bag
Nelson

Dear John,

We write on behalf of the PSA and NZNO members at Golden Bay Community Hospital. After a meeting we decided to raise the following concerns of the members re the integration of health services in Golden Bay.

These concerns are:

- The proposed model of governance. A community trust is seen as inappropriate in this small community.
- Proposed loss of nursing staff as outlined in the meeting of September 17, 2009
- Extreme concern is being voiced that their ability to deliver high quality of care to the community will be downgraded.
- Loss of service due to proposed loss of staff; inclusive of appropriate skill mix.
- An inability to retain and recruit staff to a possibly lowly paid health facility with loss of penal rates, and conditions earned under the present employment agreements.
- Worry that doctors charges will rise from their current minimum level and the flow on effects to the Golden Bay community.
- District Nurses concerned there will be a charge for their services. Clients delaying care because of costs, compounds their initial problems. Early intervention is cost effective.
- A lack of consultation thus far re the design of a proposed facility with those who do the practical care and service work is of concern.
- Concern about the top heavy aspect and costs of the proposed management structure.
- Concern about poor communication skills shown by DHB management in this matter with staff at GBCH.
- Concern that the integration process communication is creating conflict between staff and employers which is highly undesirable. Staff would prefer to proceed amicably and are finding it difficult to work under a threatening environment i.e. being told by Rosie Wilson that if they refused to work under the DHB proposal, services would be withdrawn from Golden Bay. Staff do not feel this is conducive to goodwill.
- Concern re possible lack of training and up-skilling opportunities if they are no longer DHB employees.
- Concern there may be a conflict of interest with some IMC members. They are worried about the input of Jack Inglis on both the Friends of Motueka Trust Hospital Trust and IMC.
- Extreme concern that the general public of Golden Bay have not been kept fully informed of the proposal and what it may mean for the community in terms of financing the proposed integration facility. A mandate obtained in a survey seven years may have lost relevance.

We quote the public initiating voice of the proposed integration, Dr Struan Clark: "The Golden Bay community has long been averse to forming a trust to provide health services, due to the difficulties of management, budgeting, contracting for funds, priority setting etc. I believe that such a trust would be vulnerable despite DHB assertions that they will be supportive." (9-3-08)

Nelson Office

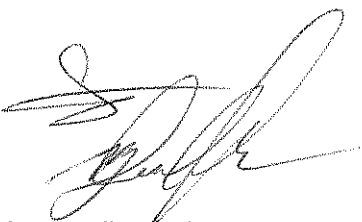
1st Floor, 47 Bridge Street, PO Box 1195, Nelson. Phone (03) 546 3552, Fax (03) 546 7214, www.nzno.org.nz

Staff want a free effective publicly funded health service in Golden Bay in both the short and long term. Already the people of Golden Bay are paying twice and three times over to prop up schools and the social services. There are also the community initiatives of clubs and societies that create good community spirit and mental health. A community can only give so much.

The PSA and NZNO members would appreciate a prompt response to their concerns. They do intend speaking out publicly as community and union members and want to be as well informed as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie McGrath, NZNO Organiser
Mike Cunliffe, PSA Organiser

Handwritten signatures of Jackie McGrath and Mike Cunliffe. The top signature is in dark ink and the bottom one is in blue ink.

cc Suzanne Winn Chair person Nelson Marlborough DHB