

Golden Bay Community Health - Te Hauora o Mohua

Strong interest shown at Open Days

About 150 people came to learn more about the proposed integrated health project at Takaka and Collingwood last week.

The meetings, from 12 to 7 pm each day, gave people the chance to view the concept plans for the facility and see how the current community hospital could be expanded to incorporate primary health (doctors' surgery and other ancillary services) and rest home services. A less developed concept plan showed an alternative at either of the two alternative sites, at Rototai Rd or Park Ave.

Members of the interim management group of the integration project were on hand to answer questions and hear people's ideas and concerns, as were some of the people who have expressed concerns about the project. This meant all those attending were able to hear a variety of views and a good airing of the main issues.

Successful meetings:

The group was delighted with the level of interest shown by Golden Bay people and sincerely appreciates the effort people made to attend. We believe it was a better way of finding out people's interests and concerns than a more formal public meeting. The Open Days let people ask the things they want to know one-on-one, without having to stand up in a public hall. They could also follow up on questions if they are not quite clear on some point without feeling intimidated. With a variety of views represented, people were able to get a lot of information.

Money the big question:

Uppermost concerns for people are issues relating to funding – who pays both the capital cost and the ongoing running costs of any facility. The integration group is obviously very focused on this and is proceeding with planning on the basis of what its current business planning shows; that it is a financially viable proposition.

The group is not making the business plans public at this stage both because they are commercially sensitive and because they are still under development, and may change considerably, as planning advances.

Feedback important

The two key things we focused on last week were what people thought of the idea of integration and which site they most preferred. Based on the views of people attending and once we have received the feedback forms, we will report back to the community on their views.

On the back of this page is a copy of the feedback form that was available at the Open Days. If you want to have your say or find out more, fill it out and either drop it back or post it to one of the places noted on the form by **18 December**. Also check out the website www.gbhealth.org.nz for more information, including a wide range of questions and answers that have been raised so far. More, asked at the Open Days, will appear soon.

Site options

Finally a comment about potential sites for the facility. We've made clear our current preference for a site is the community hospital, because it looks like being cheaper and also quicker to develop.

However we have not ruled out any option. We will make a final decision based on the best long-term health needs of the community.

Interim Management Group