



MEDIA RELEASE

INVERCARGILL AND DUNEDIN HIKOI FOR OUR HEALTH

Sunday November 2

Media are advised that the Invercargill and Dunedin “Hikoi for our Health” are tomorrow (Monday November 3). The Invercargill Hikoi commences at 10:00 am from the Southern Charity Hospital and ends at Southland Hospital. The Dunedin Hikoi commences at 3:30 pm from the Dunedin Dental School and ends at the Octagon.

Mulholland understands that the most recent issues involving understaffing at Southland Hospital includes:

- Being terribly short of resident medical officers in General Medicine
- An inability to attract senior medical officers
- Mental health services being under severe strain

Regarding Dunedin Hospital, issues include:

- Radiology being dreadfully undermanned
- Vast waiting lists for a cardiology appointment
- Neurology being woefully staffed
- No increase in the number of senior medical officers in mental health for years
- Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit about to become so short staffed that a plan is underway to only see acute cases

States Mulholland “The understaffing of our hospitals remains a critical issue for patients, not only in Invercargill and Dunedin, but also for the rest of the country. That is why over 60,000 people and counting have signed the Buller Declaration on the State of the New Zealand Health System that is being exhibited as part of the hikoi.

“Sadly, for patients and the public of the south, this is not the only vital healthcare issue they are being confronted with. Patient Voice Aotearoa continues to field calls from unhappy southerners about the hospital rebuild not being fit for purpose. The scaled-back design will mean that fewer beds are being provided in the new hospital than what currently exists in the current hospital.

For more information, please contact Malcolm Mulholland on 022 097 5899.

The first leg of the hikoi for our health is as follows:

Saturday November 1

Westport

10:00 am Patterson Park (Westport Trotting Club) to the Westport Click Tower via Te Rau Kawakawa (Buller Hospital) COMPLETED

Monday November 2

Invercargill

10:00 am Southland Charity Hospital to Southland Hospital

Dunedin

3:30 pm Dunedin Dental School to the Octagon

Tuesday November 3

Timaru

11:00 am Caledonian Park to Timaru Hospital

Christchurch

3:30 pm Christchurch Botanical Garden Carpark to Christchurch Hospital

Wednesday November 4

Nelson

9:00 am Wigzell Park to Nelson Hospital

Thursday November 5

Masterton

10:00 am Henley Lake Carpark to Wairarapa Hospital

Hastings

3:30 pm Frimley Park to Hawkes Bay Hospital

Friday November 6

Gisborne

10:00 am Mangapapa Reserve to Gisborne Hospital

Whakatane

3:30 pm Rex Morpeth Park to Whakatane Hospital

ENDS