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### Vision:

To be recognised as a leading provider of rural health services in New Zealand.

### From the General Manager

Welcome to this sixth issue of our community newsletter. We have decided to use this opportunity to inform you of our situation as we move into our new financial year. No doubt you have read much in the news media of the financial difficulties the Otago and Southland District Health Boards are facing. These, in turn, impact on Dunstan Hospital. The chairman of our Board has prepared the following bulletin for your information.

On the positive side, COHSL celebrated 10 years of service to Central Otago and Wanaka residents in July this year. We continue to be grateful for the support and generosity of our community in the form of gifts, donations and lovely letters of thanks.

I wish to also advise that we are not immune to the flu pandemic that has been getting so much media attention. As a hospital, we are well prepared for patients with flu symptoms, and will isolate those patients from our other patients who don't have the flu. We ask that visitors who have flu symptoms please stay away until you are symptom free to restrict the spread of flu to vulnerable patients.

*Dr Carol Horgan*

General Manager

## DUNSTAN HOSPITAL FACING FUNDING SHORTFALL

Dunstan Hospital is facing a funding shortfall as a result of the Government's Health policies that require the Otago District Health Board (ODHB) to eliminate its operating deficit over the next two years. The Government contends that health services in Otago are "over delivered" in comparison with other parts of New Zealand, and as a consequence, the ODHB is required to reduce its spending on health in Otago. One of the cost cutting measures adopted by the ODHB is to cap the funding for rural hospitals in Otago at last year's funding level.

This is particularly difficult for Dunstan, as we service an area that has experienced a high population growth rate (22% between censuses), where other areas in the province have experienced little or no growth. Although the population based funding allocated to ODHB by the Ministry of Health reflects the overall population characteristics of Otago (population growth, age, gender, ethnicity etc), the ODHB has failed to recognise the differences and the changes in these characteristics in parts of the province such as Central Otago. In the last four years Central Otago has only received inflation adjustments to our funding, during which time our population has continued to grow substantially (estimated by 13%).

As a result of our population growth, our high proportion of senior citizens and our remoteness from Dunedin, Dunstan Hospital experiences high occupancy and service utilisation levels.

Over the last four years we have fully utilised our funding to meet the health services demands in our region and the mismatch of funding vs population growth.

As a result, we expect to report a deficit in our financial results for the financial year just ended.

With our funding now to be capped in the new financial year, we project a significant deficit that will be unsustainable on a "business as usual" basis. We accordingly must make cuts to our services to maintain the financial viability of the Hospital.

Compounding our difficulties, the ODHB has recently advised of significant increases to their charges to rural hospitals for the Medical Specialists who conduct the outpatient clinics at the rural hospitals. These charges will have increased by 29% over the last year, and by 50% over the last two years. Paying these charges within the current funding will require a 20% reduction in outpatient clinics at Dunstan. We are exploring all possible avenues to avoid paying the ODHB's charges, and to maintain the outpatient clinics as closely as possible to their current level. In our view the outpatient clinics are an essential service for a rural population.

The Board and Management of COHSL are very reluctant to reduce the services provided by Dunstan Hospital, but we must safeguard the financial viability of the organisation to continue to provide health services in Central Otago.

*Russell McGeorge*

Chairman

## Mission:

To provide an integrated health service that is client / patient focused, clinically competent, efficiently delivered, well coordinated, culturally appropriate and meets the changing needs of the COHSL service areas.

### NEW ARTWORK

COHSL is very fortunate to have accumulated a varied selection of art works over the years. Displayed throughout the facility, the collection has been made possible through the generosity of families, individuals and various groups in our local community. They provide an interesting and lively variation to the wall space.

A new art work has recently been added to the COHSL collection. Mr Graeme Bell from Cromwell has donated a painting by local artist Graeme Brinsley. Mr Bell, who originally comes from Central Otago, has recently returned to Cromwell after many years in North America. The painting, in memory of Mr Bell's parents Stanley and Athole Bell, has been generously donated for the enjoyment of others. In thanking Mr Bell, Carol Horgan, GM said his generosity was humbly appreciated.

The painting is displayed in the atrium of the hospital providing a lovely splash of colour for visitors and staff to enjoy.



### 10th Birthday Milestone

1st July 2009 was the 10th anniversary of the formation of Central Otago Health Services Limited (COHSL) - the community owned not-for-profit company which is responsible for providing health services out of Dunstan Hospital. Board, Management and staff have worked hard and successfully to optimise the services able to be provided with the available resources. A major event in the 10 years since July 1999 has been the redevelopment of the hospital, which we are very pleased to have been able to accomplish. COHSL acknowledges the many service groups and members of the wider community who have contributed enormously to the development of the facility and grounds.



The milestone was recognised on the day by current staff and contractors with an informal morning tea.

**In an Emergency Dial 111**  
Dunstan Hospital does not provide a  
'casual' Emergency Service

### Hospital Equipment Amnesty



### Do you have any equipment from Dunstan Hospital that is no longer in use ?

- ♦ bathroom equipment
- ♦ chairs
- ♦ mattresses etc.

Please return it to the hospital so someone else can use it  
or Phone 03 440 4302 to arrange pickup.

## Stop the spread of flu germs

Cover your mouth and  
nose with a tissue when  
you cough or sneeze



Put your used tissue in a lined  
rubbish bin or in a plastic bag



Wash and dry your hands often,  
especially after coughing or  
sneezing - use soap or hand gel



Stay away  
from others  
if you're sick



[www.moh.govt.nz/pandemicinfluenza](http://www.moh.govt.nz/pandemicinfluenza)

Protect your family/whānau from **inFLUenza**

The Ministry of Health is a department of the Government of New Zealand. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the health and well-being of New Zealanders. For more information, visit [www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz)

MINISTERS OF HEALTH  
DAVID SHEPPARD  
JANET SHAW  
Source: WHO, September 2009. Last updated: 10/10/09

### Vincent Ward Visiting Hours

11 am—8 pm (or by arrangement)

Visitors are welcome to the ward. We ask however if you or a family member have recently had a respiratory infection, diarrhoea or vomiting that you do not visit until symptom free for 48 hours.