

## *Outcomes of the conversation:*

# **BULLER OLDER PERSONS' HEALTH**



11 June 2015

The vision that our community has for their health service is an integrated health system that wraps care around people to help them stay well in their own homes.

Over the last nine months the District Health Board has been talking with you, the local community and other stakeholders about older persons' health services in Buller in order to understand the range of views about how best to care for and support Buller's older population.

Throughout this engagement process, we've been clear about the opportunities and realities that we collectively face. We're supporting a greater number of people to remain well and supported, living in their own homes. As a consequence, total DHB-owned rest home occupancy is dropping and older people tell us they want to remain in their own homes for as long as they possibly can. Our DHB aged care facilities are in a poor state of repair and there's no further government funding available to fix them or build new facilities. We also know that O'Conor Home plans to progressively expand its capacity into the future.

It's in this context that it's not viable to maintain the DHB's Kynnersley Home or Dunsford Ward. Therefore, our intention is to consult with staff on a proposed closure of Kynnersley Home and the further strengthening of our community-based services. It is expected that this formal consultation will begin in July, with decisions in mid-August 2015.

Following this, and as O'Conor Home expands its capacity, we expect to undertake a further formal consultation process on the proposed closure of Dunsford Ward. We'll be engaging closely with residents and their families, and staff over the coming weeks and months.

Our aim is to respond to the needs and priorities of the community, continuing to increase the range of community-delivered services that enable people to be supported to live well in their own homes. We want to continue to improve after-hours services, as well as working with other organisations to tackle the key issues that have been identified through the community engagement process of the last nine months, including housing, transport and social isolation.

Please be assured that it is a priority for us to ensure that there are sufficient beds and appropriate services to meet the needs of all current residents of DHB-owned facilities and those requiring care and support into the future.

David Meates  
Chief Executive