

## Buller Older Persons Health Conversation: An update and an invitation to take part

The current community conversation about Buller Older Persons' Health is progressing well. In the first public meeting on 1 August 2014 and two subsequent stakeholder group meetings on 20 August and 4 September, Buller people have shown lots of energy and great ideas for supporting the growing older population.

Key themes from the conversation so far include: Maximising the quality of community and residential care services; Enhancing health system staff recruitment and retention; improving the effectiveness of health professional communications with consumers and families and between various health services; having the appropriate information system to support communications; linking up the full range of stakeholders who can enable older persons' health and well-being in the community.

The conversation has also highlighted challenges including the DHB's aging buildings which currently house two aged residential care units Kynnersley and Dunsford; the need to manage within the funding available to the DHB which does not include funding for building improvements; and making sure resources are targeted well to avoid duplication and waste. Generally speaking, the conversation has noted that health can do much but cannot do it alone and there are wider issues to do with the quality and appropriateness of dwellings for older people who can be supported at home.

At 16.7% the Buller District has the highest West Coast proportion of people aged over 65 years. The older population will double by 2021. At present about 93% of the Buller older population lives in the community and about 7% live in aged residential care. We have the opportunity now to identify how the Buller community can connect providers, relationships and processes to best serve older people as this population grows. Older people have much to offer and can also help be a key part of the voluntary and paid workforce to help their peers.

### Questions we'd like our community to ponder:

- What do you think is working well about our older persons' health services at the moment?
- Who should be providing service, and where?
- What do we need to support our older population?
- What role should the community play in supporting the older population?

### How you can contribute to this conversation

Attend the next public meetings: List dates and times

Complete the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BullerHOP>

- Email your thoughts to [bulleroph@westcoastdhb.health.nz](mailto:bulleroph@westcoastdhb.health.nz)
- Phone your ideas to:  
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