

# REGIONAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

**SDHB Meeting Date:** 29 October 2009

**Report Prepared By:** Mr Brian Rousseau, Regional Chief Executive Officer (RCEO)

**Date Prepared:** 26 October 2009

## 1. Options for delivering Primary Health Care in the future

### **Recommendations:**

**That the Board:**

- a. Notes that without General Practice owner support, establishment of a separate Southland PHO cannot proceed.
- b. Rescinds the decisions taken at the 08 October 2009 Board meeting associated with the agenda item "Options for delivering Primary Health Care in the future".
- c. Approves the policy decision for one PHO across the Otago DHB and Southland DHB regions.
- d. Notes that the DHB is following the legal advice from Buddle Findlay to mitigate risks in relation to the Commerce Act 1986.
- e. Approves the appointment of a PHO Transitional Board to provide governance for the establishment of a new single PHO.
- f. Approves notices of exit to all PHOs in Otago and Southland once a timeline for establishment of the new PHO is confirmed.
- g. Declines all current and new proposals and expressions of interest to establish new PHOs, including:
  - i. Network PHO from South Link Health.
  - ii. Southland PHO from the existing four Southland PHOs.
  - iii. New Rural PHO from three existing rural PHOs.

Following the decision by the Southland DHB Board to proceed with establishment of a separate Southland PHO, the Rural GP Network contacted the DHB and raised concerns by their members at the process to reach that decision and the implications thereof, and invited Board Members to a meeting with rural GPs to discuss the matter.

Accordingly, a meeting was arranged by the Rural GP Network at the Lumsden Medical Centre on 20 October 2009, attended by the following:

- Mr Paul Menzies, Board Chairman
- Mrs Susie Johnstone, Deputy Board Chair
- Mrs Katie O'Connor, Board Member and Chair, Hospital Advisory Committee
- Mr Stuart McLauchlan, Crown Monitor
- Mr Brian Rousseau, RCEO

Following this meeting, the Chairman of the Board arranged a teleconference attended by Board members to inform them of the meeting. The minutes of the teleconference

are attached as Section 2, and provide an overview of the discussion and resolution by GP practice owners who attended the Rural GP Network meeting.

Government considers it vital that any future structure for PHOs has the support of the currently contracted providers, namely the GP practice owners.<sup>1</sup>

It is now clear, based on the Rural GP Network meeting and the prior South Link Health survey that a significant majority of practice owners across Otago and Southland support the concept of a single PHO across the Otago Southland region.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Board reconsiders its decisions taken at the 08 October 2009 meeting and adopts the recommendations above.

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<sup>1</sup> *Towards Better, Sooner, More Convenient Primary Care, Oct 2008, page 31*