



## FAQs: Reefton Health Services Community Engagement

**Thursday 21 August 2014**

### **1. What is the Reefton Health engagement process about?**

This is a conversation with the Reefton community about the provision of health services in Reefton and how we might best plan ahead to meet the needs of the population into the future.

### **2. What are you trying to achieve?**

We need to identify the range of options and choices for the ways in which health services, including aged residential care services, are organised into the future. There are a number of constraints that we need to bear in mind, including:

- Facilities in a poor state of repair
- \$70M plus of crown capital already committed to the Coast for Grey and Buller facilities
- Health services in Reefton must be clinically and financially sustainable, and able to be consistently relied upon
- Long term view around sustainable services needed
- Reefton Health Services need to be connected to Grey and Buller, as they anchor services for the whole of the Coast

### **3. How will this community engagement process work?**

We start on 21 August 2014 with a public meeting in Reefton. Following this, a stakeholder group of community representatives and other interested parties will be convened to develop up options. These options will be brought back to the community for further consideration. We intend to hold further community meetings.

### **4. Why are you having the conversation now?**

We met with the Inangahua Community Board in April 2013 to discuss the future of health services in Reefton. At that meeting we explained that the DHB's focus has always been on securing sustainable primary and community care services for the community.

Over the past 12 months our focus has been on ensuring the stability of locally-available GP and Rural Nurse Specialist [RNS] services for the people of Reefton. Our efforts have delivered results. We have increased access to GP services for Reefton, with the GPs being professionally connected to the Rural Academic General Practice [based at Grey Base Hospital] and who'll

deliver services both in Reefton and in Grey. A fourth RNS was appointed to build the capacity of the team delivering services in Reefton, with a particular focus on meeting increased demand for home-based care. Evening clinics were also introduced to improve access to services and these are being well utilised.

In March 2014 we held a public meeting where West Coast DHB Chief Executive David Meates assured the community that the DHB would re-engage with the Reefton community once the facilities development for Grey Hospital and Buller had been confirmed by the government. In May this year, the government approved the building of a new hospital and IFHC in Grey and an IFHC in Buller. With certainty about these important facilities developments [from which health services across the Coast can be anchored], we can now deliver on the commitment we made earlier in the year to engage with the Reefton community about its health services.

**5. What services are currently delivered locally for the Reefton community?**

- General practice / practice nursing
- Rural Specialist Nurses
- Specialist clinics [ie, diabetes]
- Home-based support services
- District nursing
- Aged residential care [in Reefton there are 12 aged residential care beds]

**6. What if this engagement process identifies that changes are needed to current services and support?**

As this is an open conversation and no decisions have been made, we genuinely want to understand all views on how best to provide sustainable health care services in Reefton. This will help us plan, with staff and stakeholders' involvement, and if there are any future major changes proposed, we will consult with staff and the public.

**7. When are your further meetings taking place?**

Further community meetings will take place in early October and November, with the dates for the stakeholder group confirmed upon the formation of the community stakeholder group.