

# Hon Dr David Clark

MP for Dunedin North

Minister of Health

Associate Minister of Finance



03 OCT 2018

Mayor Jim Boulton  
jim.boulton@qldc.govt.nz

Ref. C1802297

Dear Mayor Boulton

Thank you for your letter and attached petition of 6 August 2018 regarding a new hospital for the Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago districts. I appreciate you bringing the views of both local residents and overseas visitors to my attention.

I appreciate that there is a strong desire for further medical services in your district. As you are aware, the Southern District Health Board (DHB) is currently undertaking work to improve the quality of services at Lakes District Hospital. The hospital has seen increased demand for emergency services and faces issues around future capacity due to the rapid growth in visitor and the resident population in the Southern Lakes District area.

As you will be aware, the Lakes District Hospital Action Group is undertaking work focussed on the immediate needs to manage growth in the next five to seven years. This includes increasing outpatient services, telehealth options, patient transfers, a new whanau room and CT scanner, and the capacity of the facility to manage patient growth particularly in the emergency department; resulting in two additional beds.

A second stage of planning will focus on development of a longer-term vision and the provision of district wide services. This will take into consideration the newly released Southern DHB Primary and Community Strategy and Action Plan, and with that the delivery of both primary and community services. The viability of providing secondary services in the area will also be considered as part of the longer term vision.

I note with interest the progress towards development of an independent hospital, and I am glad to see that the DHB is engaging with this as a practical solution to some of the challenges facing your community. As we have discussed, the DHB is responsible for the long-term planning for the provision of health services for your District.

I want to assure you that I take note of the strong feeling within your community on this issue, and the number of sign-ups to the online petition. While the Coalition Government will be unable to achieve everything we would like to immediately, I can assure you that we are ambitious and absolutely committed to improving our public health system and the services New Zealanders are able to access.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Clark', enclosed in a circular scribble.

Hon Dr David Clark  
Minister of Health