

Burwood Hospital visit – Thursday 20 March

Due to MO:	18 March 2025	Reference	HNZ00081809
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
From:	Martin Keogh, Deputy Chief Executive, Te Waipounamu		
Copy to:	N/A		
Security level:	In Confidence	Priority	Routine
Consulted	N/A		

Contact for phone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Martin Keogh	Deputy Chief Executive, Te Waipounamu	9(2)(a)	x
Phil Wheble	Interim Group Director Operations, Canterbury		

Attachments

Appendix 1: Runsheet

Appendix 2: Location Map

About the event

Purpose	A visit to Burwood Hospital, to meet with clinical leadership and gain an overview of the progress being made to increase elective surgery
Date	Thursday, March 20, 2025
Time	8.30am-9.10am
Venue	Burwood Hospital, Burwood Road, Christchurch
Expected attendees	Tory Crowder, Acting General Manager, Burwood Campus Caroline McCullough, Burwood Expansion of Surgical Services Lead and Acting Director Nursing Kris Dalzell, Clinical Director, Orthopaedics Richard Seinge, Director of Surgery Angelina Taylor, Perioperative Service Manager
Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora representatives	Martin Keogh, Deputy Chief Executive, Te Waipounamu Philip Wheble, Interim Group Director Operations, Canterbury Paul Darcy, Programme Support, Office of the Chief Executive Dr Rob Ojala, Regional Head of Infrastructure, Te Waipounamu Infrastructure and Investment
Media	No media are expected
Discussion points	We recommend you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commend the hospital on taking progress toward the health target of shorter wait times for elective treatment for patients within our communities. • Ask the Hospital about the challenges they face to increase flow and elective surgery provision and the steps that have been implemented to address these challenges. • Acknowledge the staff who provide a strong, integrated health service and how you are looking forward to seeing the surgical work and other features enhance this.

Background

1. Burwood is a 330-bed hospital located in east Christchurch. It specialises in care and rehabilitation of older people and is home to one of only two specialist spinal units in New Zealand. It is not an acute hospital and does not have an emergency department.
2. Burwood Hospital has four operating theatres as well as a minor procedure room. Surgery carried out at Burwood Hospital includes low complexity orthopaedic surgery and plastic surgical services.
3. Burwood Hospital is one of New Zealand's centres of excellence for the provision of

rehabilitation and elective orthopaedic surgical services.

4. The hospital provides older adults assessment and treatment wards, a specialist stroke ward, an adult rehabilitation ward catering for brain injury and two psychiatric services for the elderly catering for those with dementia and other mental health conditions.
5. In 2016, the hospital was extensively redeveloped, increasing in size by 32,000 square-metres encompassing 230 new inpatient beds, a new radiology department, a new outpatient and procedural area, and expansive clinical administration and community teams areas.
6. The hospital redevelopment was meticulously designed to harmonise existing infrastructure while introducing state-of-the-art facilities that enhance patient care and operational efficiency.
7. As per the yet to be announced Health Infrastructure Plan, the proposed addition of two linacs on-site at a radiation oncology satellite service will be of huge benefit to Te Waipounamu and will help achieve the health target for Faster Cancer Treatment.

Discussion

Benefits of Separating Emergency and Planned Care

8. There is clear international evidence on the benefits of separating emergency and planned care patient flows. It helps drive greater productivity, patient throughput, reduces waiting times and provides a better patient and surgical workforce experience.
9. Separating emergency and planned surgery is better for patients and better for the surgical workforce who can plan and provide surgery in a timely and efficient way, making the most of the available operating theatre capacity.
10. One of the benefits of boosting surgery at Burwood is that the focus will be solely on planned care – with no emergency care disrupting a patient's pre-booked planned surgery. All acute surgery, due to accidents or sudden illness, will still take place across town at Christchurch Hospital.

Investment in Elective Surgery at Burwood Hospital

11. An additional \$12 million will be invested annually in planned elective surgery and procedures to be carried out at Burwood Hospital in Christchurch. This will help reduce the length of time people wait for surgery. It will fund 58 theatre sessions per four-week cycle (696 per annum).
12. Burwood has operating theatre capacity and this funding will enable additional staff to provide an extra 1,670 procedures a year. This expansion also includes the addition of much-needed new equipment.

Burwood as a Regional Centre of Excellence

13. This funding is the first step towards establishing Burwood Hospital as a dedicated Regional Planned Care Surgical and Procedural Centre of Excellence. Establishing Burwood Hospital as the site for high-volume, short-stay, elective surgery will help free up capacity in hospitals across Te Waipounamu to undertake acute and more

complex/tertiary-level procedures.

14. As we look to the future, the wider facilities master plan supports the vision of the Burwood elective surgical centre. This includes the addition of four theatres and three wards.
15. Initially, Burwood will focus on patients waiting for orthopaedic, plastic, and ear nose and throat surgery. These specialties are already provided at Burwood Hospital and can be scaled up relatively quickly.
16. The plan is to expand the range of surgeries carried out at Burwood over time and provide care for people in Canterbury and the wider Te Waipounamu region. Over time, it is expected that general surgery and gynaecological surgeries will take place at Burwood.

Reducing Waitlists and Expanding Capacity

17. Te Waipounamu currently has 8,288 patients waiting over 120 days for procedures. Of these, 49% are from Canterbury or within districts that, due to proximity, can be more easily supported by Canterbury (Canterbury Catchment).
18. The flow-on effect will be freeing up theatre capacity at Christchurch Hospital, which in turn, will reduce the time people have to wait in ED or in a hospital ward for complex, acute surgery, also contributing to the Government's health targets.

Workforce Expansion and Equipment Upgrades

19. Staffing up will include recruiting new anaesthetists, anaesthetic technicians, allied health professionals, nursing and senior doctors/surgeons. New and upgraded equipment to be purchased will assist in expediting expansion of services which we plan to deliver.

Improving Patient Outcomes and Healthcare Efficiency

20. By specialising available facilities and streamlining resource allocation, this model aims to improve patient outcomes, operational efficiency, and financial performance.
21. It is expected that the first additional patients will be having surgery at Burwood Hospital by the end of March. Importantly, this funding boost means more Kiwis will be able to get the surgery they need, sooner.

Potential Health Target impacts

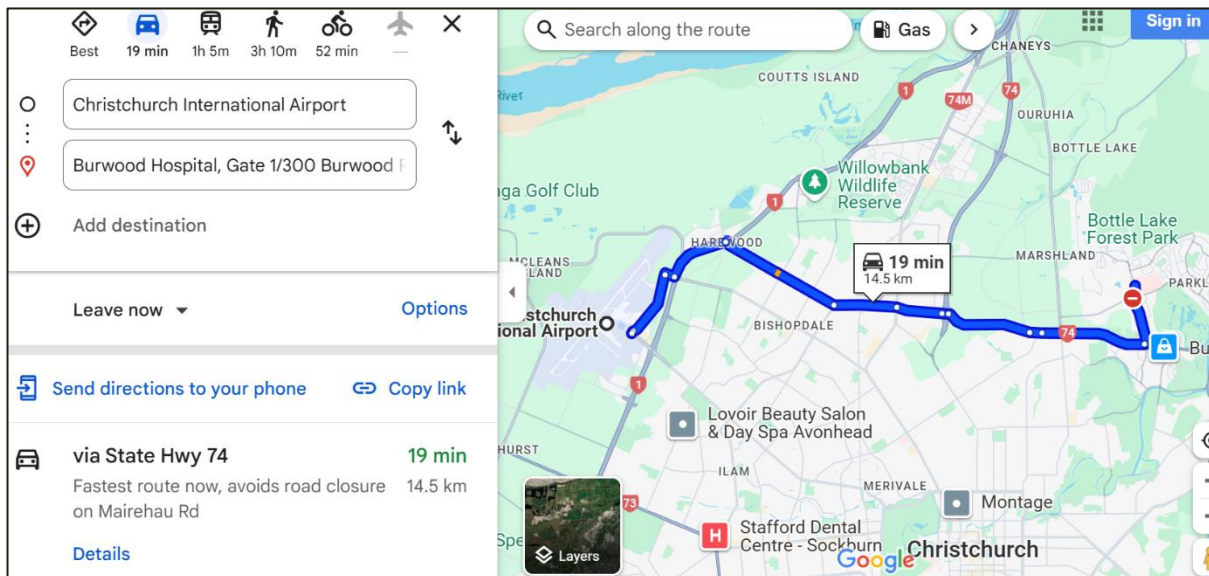
22. **Shorter Stays in ED** – as theatres at Christchurch Hospital will become freer, due to more surgery taking place at Burwood Hospital.
23. **Waiting for Treatment** – more people receiving planned surgery and procedures at Burwood Hospital will help reduce the length of time some people are waiting for surgery. It will also help reduce the overall number of people waiting.
24. ^{s 9(2)(j)}

Appendix 1: Runsheet

Time	Details	Minister's Office notes
8.30am	<p>Minister arrives, car to be parked in allocated space by the main entrance. Welcomed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tory Crowder, Acting General Manager, Burwood Campus Caroline McCullough, Burwood Expansion of Surgical Services lead and Acting Director Nursing Martin Keogh, Regional Deputy Chief Executive Te Waipounamu Phil Wheble, Interim GDO West Coast and Canterbury <p>Followed by a Mihi whakatau.</p> <p>There will be a marked off parking space for the Minister to park in. Please note, proposed route from Airport to Burwood in Appendix 2.</p>	
8.35am	<p>Minister is taken on a tour of the hospital, with a focus on the surgical unit.</p> <p>Attendees for this tour will include those who welcomed Minister Brown, plus the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kris Dalzell, Clinical Director, Orthopaedics Angelina Taylor, Perioperative Service Manager 	
8.50am	<p>Minister is brought to Admin Room 2.3a, on Level 2, to have a 15-minute closed session with Martin Keogh Regional DCE, Phil Wheble, GDO Canterbury and West Coast, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Seinge, Director of Surgery Tory Crowder, Acting General Manager, Burwood Campus Caroline McCullough, Burwood Expansion of Surgical Services lead and Acting Director Nursing Paul Darcy, Programme Support Dr Rob Ojala, Regional Head of Infrastructure, Te Waipounamu Infrastructure and Investment 	
9.10am	<p>Minister Brown is farewelled and departs for his visit to Pegasus Health.</p>	

Appendix 2: Location map

Proposed route to take from the Airport to Burwood Hospital below. There is significant roadworks around Burwood Hospital.



Map of the Hospital below, a carpark reserved for you at the Main Entrance.

