

Appendix 1 – Response to the Petition

J.22

Minister of Health's response to the Petition of the Sheralyn Tipene-Weepers Charitable Trust: Fund full 24/7 access to the Catheterisation Laboratory at the Dunedin Hospital for patients

**Presented to the House of Representatives
In accordance with Standing Order 380**

Minister of Health's response to the Petition of the Sheralyn Tipene-Weepers Charitable Trust: Fund full 24/7 access to the Catheterisation Laboratory at the Dunedin Hospital for patients

Introduction

1. I have considered the petition of the Sheralyn Tipene-Weepers Charitable Trust to fund full 24/7 access to the Catheterisation Laboratory at the Dunedin Hospital for patients.
2. I am responding to the petition in accordance with Standing Order 380.

Petitioners' concerns

Availability of 24/7 Catheterisation Laboratory at the Dunedin Hospital

3. Dunedin Hospital's Catheterisation Laboratory is the region's specialist cardiac catheterisation facility. Routine procedures are generally performed during normal weekday operating hours. Emergency cases have access to 24/7 access to these services. Patients assessed as stable or not meeting emergency criteria are typically managed medically, monitored, and scheduled for angiography during routine operating periods.

4. I am advised that patients who are clinically stable and do not meet criteria for urgent intervention are typically managed with appropriate medical treatment, monitoring and specialist review, and are scheduled for angiography or other catheterisation procedures during routine operating periods.
5. I am advised that this model of care is consistent with standard clinical practice in New Zealand and internationally, where after-hours catheterisation services are available for patients with acute, life-threatening cardiac conditions. Emergency access to catheterisation services was available at the time and continues to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for patients requiring urgent treatment. Health NZ does not consider a fully staffed 24/7 service for routine and elective catheterisation procedures to be clinically or operationally necessary.
6. The Final Detailed Business Case for the New Dunedin Hospital was approved by Cabinet in 2021 and formed the basis for the redevelopment project. Key elements included:
 - Construction of a modern tertiary hospital to replace ageing facilities that were no longer fit for purpose.
 - A planned capacity of 421 inpatient beds, expandable in future as demand increases.
 - 16 operating theatres, with capacity to expand to 20.
 - 30 intensive care beds, expandable to 40.
 - Increased ambulatory and outpatient capacity to support modern models of care and growing demand.
 - Improved seismic resilience, clinical functionality, accessibility and flexibility compared with the existing hospital estate.
7. The new hospital will expand acute and tertiary services within a modern hospital configuration designed to support future service growth and changing models of care.
8. The approved budget in the Final Detailed Business Case increased from the earlier estimate of approximately \$1.4 billion to \$1.47 billion at the time Cabinet considered the proposal.
9. The New Dunedin Hospital provides for continued tertiary cardiology services within a significantly expanded and modernised hospital, including enhanced inpatient, ICU and ambulatory capacity. Two Catheterisation Laboratories will operate in New Dunedin Hospital which will operate on the same model as in the existing hospital. Routine procedures are generally performed during normal weekday operating hours. Emergency cases have access to 24/7 access to these services.
10. I am advised that establishing a fully staffed 24/7 service for routine and elective catheterisation procedures is not clinically or operationally required, and 24/7 access is and will remain available for emergency cases.