

Supplementary Material

New Zealand's rural hospitals in 2021: findings from an exploratory questionnaire survey

Katharina Blattner^{A,*} FRNZCGP (dist.), FDRHMNZ (dist.), MHealSc, *Lynne Clay*^B PhD, *Rory Miller*^C FDRHMNZ, FRNZCGP, *Garry Nixon*^D FRNZCGP (dist.), FDRHMNZ, MD, *Sue Crengle*^E FRNZCGP (dist.), PhD, *Lauralie Richard*^F PhD, *Ray Anton*^G MA (Management) and *Tim Stokes*^F FRNZCGP, PhD

^ADepartment of General Practice and Rural Health, University of Otago, Omāpere New Zealand

^BDepartment of General Practice and Rural Health, University of Otago, Hāwea, New Zealand

^CDepartment of General Practice and Rural Health, University of Otago, Whangamata, New Zealand

^DDepartment of General Practice and Rural Health, University of Otago, Clyde, New Zealand

^ENgāi Tahu Māori Health Research Unit, Division of Health Sciences, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

^FDepartment of General Practice and Rural Health, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

^GRural Hospital Network, Clutha Health First, 9-11 Charlotte Street, Balclutha, New Zealand

*Correspondence to: Email: katharina.blattner@otago.ac.nz

Supplementary File S1. Rural Hospital Leaders Survey

- 1) Which of the following terms are helpful in describing the role of your rural hospital? *Click all options that apply.*

Community Hospital	Regional Hospital
Emergency Department	Rural Hospital
GP Beds	Secondary care
Integrated Family Health Centre	Tier 1
Māori Health Provider	Tier 2
Primary care	Other: please state _____

- 2) Regarding your facility, which are your preferred terms? *Click all options that apply.*

Community Hospital	Regional Hospital
Emergency Department	Rural Hospital
GP Beds	Secondary care
Integrated Family Health Centre	Tier 1
Māori Health Provider	Tier 2
Primary care	Other: please state _____

- 3) Considering the size and health needs of your community and the distance to a base hospital, are the range of services your hospital provides:

Insufficient/ Limited							Appropriate/ Comprehensive			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comment:

- 4) In your opinion, how would your community react to the loss of **acute inpatient beds** (assuming all other services were attained)?

Completely Unacceptable							Completely acceptable			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comment:

- 5) How well do you think your rural hospital is addressing health equity for your community?

Not well/ Not addressed							Very well/ Fully addressed			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comment:

- 6) At your rural hospital, how accessible are the healthcare services to the community?

Access is difficult							Access is easy			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comment:

- 7) Regarding equitable access to health services for your community, how transparent and accountable is the process for allocating funds from the DHB to your rural hospital?

No transparency/ accountability							Complete transparency/ accountability			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comment:

8) The funding our rural hospital receives allows us to employ health professionals on terms and conditions that are:

Significantly inferior To urban				Same as urban			Better than urban e.g. rural bonus			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comment:

9) What arrangements do you have for acute transfer/retrieval?¹ *Click all options that apply.*

Fixed wing aircraft	St John
Helicopter	Transfer ambulance run by local health service
Private ambulance	Other: please state _____
Regular scheduled ambulance runs	

10) Arranging or coordinating acute transfers between our rural hospital and base/tertiary hospital is 1:

Always complicated				Runs smoothly 50% of the time			Never complicated			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

11) Arranging or coordinating acute retrievals between our rural hospital and base/tertiary hospital is¹

Always complicated				Runs smoothly 50% of the time			Never complicated			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comment:

12) How important are **national policies and a national rural hospital strategy** for the future of your hospital?

Not at all important							Crucially important			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comment:

13) How important are **local governance and control** for the future of your rural hospital?

Not at all important							Crucially important			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comment:

14) With the establishment of **Health New Zealand**, how optimistic are you about the future of your rural hospital?

Very pessimistic				Neutral			Very optimistic			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

15) With the establishment of a **Māori Health Authority**, how optimistic are you about the future of your rural hospital?

Very pessimistic				Neutral			Very optimistic			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comment:

¹ Survey questions 9,10,11 are not included in this paper. They will be reported separately