

Supplementary Material

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

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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 is1:

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