

Golden Bay Pharmacy Services Decision Document

The proposal put out for consultation:

Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH) proposed establishing a dispensary in Golden Bay Community Health Centre. The proposal included opening the dispensary from Monday to noon Saturday. As well as dispensing medicines and providing the usual advice and services a customer would expect from a pharmacy dispensing service, the dispensary would have been expected to provide extended pharmacy services that would improve and build on the current community pharmacy services available to people in the Golden Bay area.

A consultation took place over 7 weeks, ending on the 30 July 2016.

Feedback received:

Feedback from the consultation demonstrated that the majority of submitters wanted to keep a community pharmacy (including associated retail services and products) in the Takaka town centre. The reason most cited was difficulty in accessing the Golden Bay Community Health Centre. There was strong opposition to any change that would reduce foot traffic, jobs and social vitality in the Takaka town centre. There was also major concern about a loss of the retail goods and services provided at the current pharmacy.

The community has mixed views on opening hours. A number would appreciate the pharmacy being open on Saturday, particularly for tourists. There was concern expressed about current charges for pharmacy services. In general there was a desire for utilising the skills of the pharmacists further, but not at the expense of the current retail service in central Takaka.

NMH would like to thank those who submitted on the consultation or attended the meeting in Takaka. The number of interested parties demonstrates the importance of pharmacy services to the population and the issues raised have very much shaped how NMH is proceeding.

The future approach by Nelson Marlborough Health

Based on the submissions about the proposal, Nelson Marlborough Health has decided not to proceed with establishing a dispensary at the Golden Bay Community Health Centre. The submitters raised valid concerns about the ease of access to the Centre among other issues. NMH cannot find sustainable ways of mitigating these concerns and therefore will continue to support a community pharmacy in central Takaka.

Nelson Marlborough Health is still looking to expand the clinical pharmacy services provided in Golden Bay by providing medicine use reviews (personalised education and support to patients) and looking at ways of providing more support to the clinicians at the Golden Bay Community Health Centre around medicine issues.

NMH will work with the current provider over the coming weeks to see if there are ways of restructuring the existing service provision and contract to enable these extended services to be provided in a fiscally prudent way. NMH will not be pursuing extended hours as the focus of funding will be on extended services.

Further to the issues of access to the Golden Bay Community Health Centre, NMH will be writing to the New Zealand Transport Agency and the Tasman District Council to advocate for the development of a walking/cycling path to the Centre.