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**Media Release**

**New Role to lead Southern DHB Finance and Planning and Funding Teams**

Southern DHB's Finance and Planning and Funding teams will soon be led by a single joint manager, following a review of the Chief Financial Officer and General Manager, Planning and Funding roles.

"Over the past few weeks, I have been conducting reviews of the roles of Chief Financial Officer (CFO), currently held by Robert Mackway-Jones, and General Manager, Planning and Funding (GMP&F), held by David Chrisp," said Southern DHB CEO Brian Rousseau.

"As a result of that review, these positions will be disestablished effective Friday, 28 May 2010. A new role, General Manager, Finance and Funding is to be established instead, to which I have appointed Robert Mackway-Jones".

Mr Rousseau said it was with deep regret that David Chrisp would be leaving the DHB at the end of the month.

"The government has recommended that structural changes take place within DHBs to ensure they run as effectively and efficiently as possible.

"Southern DHB is facing a forecasted deficit of \$15.2 million for 2010/2011 and the Minister of Health has made it clear any deficit is unacceptable and we must live within our means. Given the current climate the DHB has to take every opportunity to reduce expenditure. Unfortunately the reality of this means we will lose some highly valued members of our team," said Mr Rousseau.

Mr Rousseau acknowledged Mr Chrisp's contribution to the Southland, Otago and Southern DHBs over the past two years.

"I wish David all the very best for his future career."

Mr Mackway Jones will take up the position of General Manager, Finance and Funding, on Monday 31 May 2010.

"I wish Robert well in this challenging new role," Mr Rousseau said.

**Media Queries:**

Contact Jo Harvey, Southern DHB Regional Communications Officer on 027 674 1758.