



Media Release

19 July 2010

Mobile Dental Unit to Provide Additional Clinics for Gore Adolescents

Southern DHB's Oral Health Service and Gore Health Ltd have teamed up to provide over 100 additional dental appointments for Gore teenagers during the next month.

The DHB's Mobile Dental Clinic will be based at Gore Hospital from 19 July and plans to examine and treat 120 adolescent patients over a four week period.

This service will run concurrently with the Gore district's permanent adolescent clinic, operated by the DHB, which is based at West Gore School.

Southern DHB Southland Oral Health Manager Chris Le Prou said both the DHB and Gore Health Ltd had been aware there was a growing need for more adolescent dental services in the Gore area.

"Therefore we were very pleased when the opportunity arose for us to base our mobile clinic at Gore Hospital," said Mr Le Prou.

"It allows us to temporarily double our clinic numbers, address any backlogs in treatment that may occur and allows us to make sure Gore teenagers continue to receive the very best dental care.

Gore Health Ltd CEO Karl Metzler said the arrangement also gives the Oral Health Service and Gore Hospital a chance to work together before the construction of a new dental clinic on the hospital site. Construction of the three chair clinic, which features two chairs funded and operated by the DHB and the other funded and operated by Gore Hospital, will commence within the next two months.

"It's definitely a win win situation for both organisations and the whole community," said Mr Metzler.

ENDS

More information on Southern DHB's Adolescent Dental Service in Southland

All adolescents aged under 18 years are eligible to visit a dental health professional for free. During school Year 8, students are provided with a transfer form from the school dental service to enrol with a Dental Provider. From Year 9 onwards, students are called in to the Dental Provider for an annual dental check up, free of charge, up until they turn 18 years of age.

Not all private dentists in Southland choose to provide this service, but those that do receive funding from Southern DHB (as part of a national contract with the Ministry of Health) to deliver the service free of charge for adolescents up until

their 18th birthday. The free care provided is for routine dental check ups and standard dental treatment (eg examinations, fillings etc).

In the Gore district, the majority of adolescent dental services are provided by **the DHB's fixed clinic at West Gore School. A new three chair clinic will also be** based at Gore Hospital in the near future.

Mobile Dental Clinic Open Day

Members of the Gore community are invited to view the mobile dental clinic (located at the front entrance of Gore Hospital, 9 Birch Lane, Gore) and meet the dental therapy team between 1-3pm on Wednesday, 28 July. Media are most welcome to attend.