

Hi Monique

On behalf of Miles Anderson MP for Waitaki, thank you for sending through the survey and for the ongoing advocacy work that Health Action Wanaka undertakes on behalf of the Upper Clutha community.

Miles has carefully considered the survey; however, he does not intend to complete it in its current form. While Miles acknowledges the importance of the issues raised, he feels the questions are framed too narrowly and largely support a single narrative within what is overall, a complex and evolving review of health services across the region.

As Health Action Wanaka will be aware, Miles has worked constructively with the organisation in the past and has appreciated its apolitical approach to advocating for improved local health services. In this instance, however, Miles believes the survey does not adequately reflect the breadth of work currently underway or the wider range of considerations being assessed by Health New Zealand.

The Government has committed \$180 million to health infrastructure and services across the Otago Central Lakes region during this term, alongside a range of service improvements already delivered, such as free blood testing in Wanaka and additional local x-ray services. That investment has been made with the expectation that Health New Zealand will undertake comprehensive planning to determine how best to improve health outcomes across the region and investigate all avenues to providing the best path to equitable healthcare outcomes, including working with trust hospitals, GP practices and considering public-private partnerships.

This work includes assessing future needs in areas such as maternity and obstetrics, mental health and addiction services, diagnostics, treatment services, and reducing the need for residents to travel for care. It also includes investigating all available options relating to future hospital infrastructure for the region.

Miles is also aware that negotiations regarding after-hours and urgent care service contracts in Wanaka remain ongoing and believes it is important that these processes are allowed to conclude before drawing firm conclusions about future service provision.

Miles will continue to advocate strongly for increased healthcare in the region, along with his colleagues Joseph Mooney MP, and Todd Stephenson MP.

Thank you again for reaching out and for keeping us informed of your work, Miles is always available to catch up as things develop in the health space.

Kind regards,
Rob Thorp

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