

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Submission from Canterbury District Health Board

July 2012

Environment Canterbury's

Draft Bus Network Structure 2012

Yes No We wish to be heard on this submission

Person Making Submission

Dr Daniel Williams
Clinical Director, Community and Public Health
Canterbury District Health Board

Signed:



Date: 6th August, 2012.

Postal Address

Community and Public Health
Healthy Physical Environments
PO Box 1475
Christchurch 8140

Phone 03 364 1777

Fax 03 379 6125

Contact Person for this application

Jane Murray

DDI 03 378 6858

Email: jane.murray@cdhb.govt.nz

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Draft Bus Network Structure. We have also submitted on Canterbury Regional Public Transport Plan and we suggest that you refer to this submission if you require any further details.

CDHB strongly affirms the need for an affordable, accessible high quality public transport network in the Canterbury region. The impressive record of Environment Canterbury in working towards such a system over the past two decades is noted. The current especially challenging circumstances are also noted and that if anything these serve to confirm the need for a high quality PT system.

CDHB has provided with this submission a copy of the findings from a survey of our CPH Christchurch office staff as to their level of bus use and barriers/enablers to bus use now and once the proposed network changes are in place. CDHB staff have discussed these results in person with ECan transport planners, Len Fleet and Edward Wright.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on such an important piece of regional policy which will have significant impacts on the health and wellbeing of the Canterbury population. Canterbury District Health Board is committed to working in a 'Health in all Policies'¹ way and we have staff available to assist with such work, including health impact assessments on policy and project work. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr Anna Stevenson or Jane Murray if we can help in any way.

¹ <http://www.cph.co.nz/About%2DUUs/Health%2Din%2Dall%2DPolicies/>

Draft Bus Network Structure 2012 Reviewer: Community and Public Health, Canterbury District Health Board.
Date: 31 July 2012

Submission point	Discussion:	CDHB's recommendations/ proposed amendments to the Plan:
1	<p>Given the enormous amount of new suburban and rural township housing that is being planned post earthquakes the suggestion that 'PT services should be planned to support the evolving pattern of urban development, with an emphasis on providing good alternatives in areas of urban consolidation, and the provision of services to new areas of development' is very timely.</p> <p>A special focus on enabling transport disadvantaged to get where they need to be in a timely fashion will increase the acceptability of PT to all and is strongly supported by CDHB.</p> <p>CDHB is acutely aware of the already high proportion of elderly in Canterbury and projections that our community will become increasingly 'top heavy' in terms of age structure. Addressing the needs of elderly passengers has considerable overlap with the needs of other transport disadvantaged groups</p>	<p>We recommend that you refer to the guide 'Transit-oriented developments...through a health lens'² when considering network changes.</p>
2	<p>The rationale outlined in Chapter six for the changes in the Network structure is clear. The comment that 'a key to the success of the new model will be the provision of suitable interchange facilities to enable those transfers to be as seamless as possible' is strongly supported by the results of the recent survey of CPH staff into public transport.</p>	<p>CPH recommends that a universal design approach is taken to designing PT infrastructure and the services that surround it. Such measures will make PT use more attractive for all users and are likely to have positive spin offs for patronage.</p>
3	<p>The rationale outlined in Chapter six for the changes in the Network structure is clear. The comment that 'a key to the success of the new model will be the provision of suitable interchange facilities to enable those transfers to be as seamless as possible' is strongly supported by the results of the recent survey of CPH staff into public transport.</p>	<p>We strongly support the provision of suitable interchange facilities. Please refer to the central city interchange recommendations on the Whānau Ora Health Impact Assessment attached. Many recommendations remain very applicable for smaller suburban interchanges.</p>
4	<p>CPH is one of the first medium sized businesses to set up within the four avenues, and as such CPH surveyed its staff on their level of bus use and barriers/enablers to bus use now and once the proposed network changes are in place.</p> <p>To promote the use of public transport for commuters across Christchurch, we feel it is important the ECan work closely with medium and large size businesses to ascertain their public transport and active transport needs so then ECan can be more responsive to the future demand of PT users.</p>	<p>We recommend that ECan advocates that any medium size business applying for a resource consent for a new building needs to submit a Travel Demand Management Plan and that ECan be responsive to those plans in their network planning.</p>

² <http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public/content/sa+health+internet/resources/plans/strategic+plans/transit-oriented+developments+through+a+health+lens>

