

David Clark MP Reports

► SPECIAL EDITION ◀

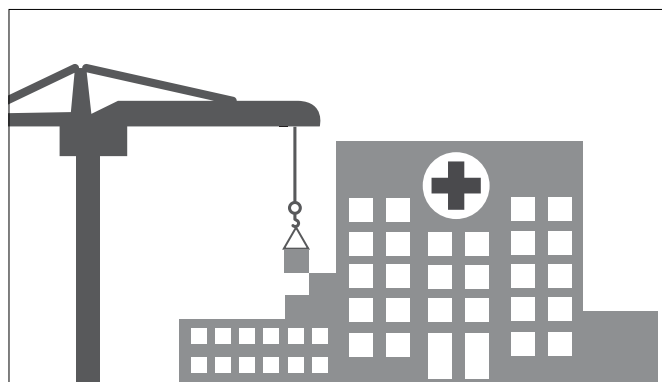
SAVE DUNEDIN HOSPITAL

Recently David has been speaking out about the problems associated with Dunedin's hospital buildings, and the urgent need for the Government to commit to an upgrade. The state of repair of Dunedin Hospital has deteriorated so much that cancellation of surgery occurs because operating theatres leak when it rains. Intensive care training accreditation has been withdrawn because of the buildings' state of repair.

Tired buildings have serious implications for the responsiveness of the hospital to the needs of the Dunedin community. Further: it is also clear that if the hospital facilities continue to deteriorate, Dunedin's ability to attract and retain excellent medical staff and students will suffer.

A major rebuild of Dunedin Hospital is long overdue. In New Zealand, every other major metropolitan centre has already had a hospital upgrade.

To give different perspectives on the hospital situation, in this edition of the Informer we have interviewed two people: a medical student, and the man behind the Facebook page "Stop Dunedin Hospital from being downgraded".



Tell the Government it's time to rebuild Dunedin Hospital.

Sign the petition: action-davidclarkmp.nationbuilder.com

Authorised by David Clark, 32 Albany Street, Dunedin

Labour



Labour Leader to visit Dunedin

Andrew Little will visit Dunedin on Monday 11th May. During his visit he will deliver a talk at Otago University, and inspect tiring buildings at Dunedin hospital. If you'd like to learn more about the programme for Andrew's visit, please phone or email the office (contact details are below).

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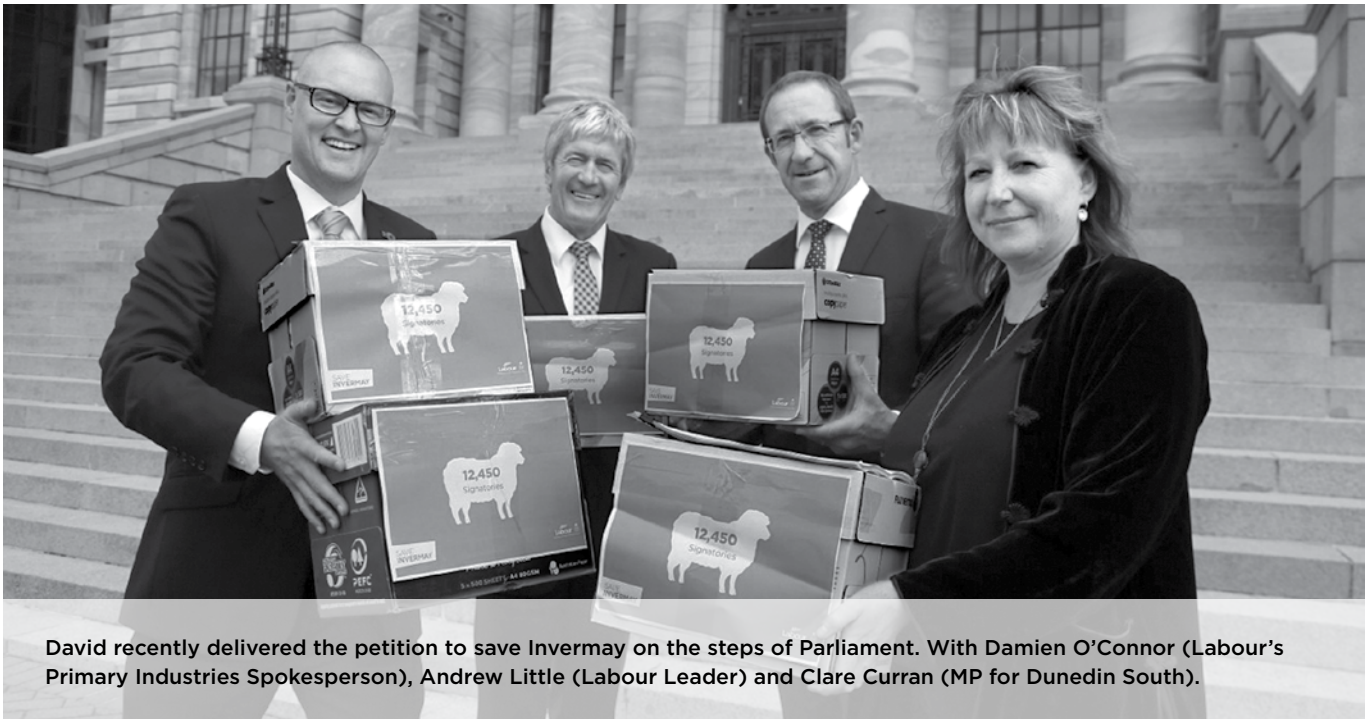
Save Invermay petition

On Tuesday 24th March I took great pride in presenting to Parliament the petition to save the Invermay research centre. It has been signed by over 12,000 people. The petition will now be referred to select committee for a decision and report.

My thanks to all of you who signed the petition to save Invermay. Watch this space!

A quick re-cap on the Invermay issue: In September 2013, the government approved a major AgResearch restructuring proposal that proposes the highly-successful research centre at Invermay shift scientists to Lincoln in 2017 at a cost of 100

million taxpayer dollars. Not only is the move to Lincoln a huge waste of taxpayer money, when there is already an excellent facility at Invermay, but the top scientists who have been part of the incredibly successful centre don't want to shift to Lincoln. Invermay is a success story primarily because of the strong connections between business, science staff and the University that have been forged over years. The scientists' expertise, academic and business connections will take years to replace, if it is possible at all.



David recently delivered the petition to save Invermay on the steps of Parliament. With Damien O'Connor (Labour's Primary Industries Spokesperson), Andrew Little (Labour Leader) and Clare Curran (MP for Dunedin South).

Portfolio update



Since the last edition, David has been promoted to the front bench and been given the portfolio of **Spokesperson for Economic Development**. This has meant that David has spoken out about matters such as the SkyCity deal to build an international convention centre in Auckland. The economic development portfolio has seen David travel to Auckland a lot.

A key focus has been the government's failure to meet its target of growing exports. David has been developing policy to ensure a more diversified economy which isn't lurching from one price bubble to the next, and to address the growing disparity between rich and poor. David also retains his portfolios of **Associate Spokesperson for Finance** and **Associate Spokesperson for Mental Health**. David's role as Mental Health spokesperson allows him to support our most vulnerable members of the community.



INTERVIEW WITH

Simon

Simon set up the Facebook page 'Stop Dunedin Hospital from being downgraded'.

What concerns you most about Dunedin hospital being downgraded?

I think it's vital Dunedin Hospital is saved from being downgraded. Downgrading would mean losing the close relationship the hospital has with the university. That would be suicidal for Dunedin as a city and I am pretty sure we don't have to go into details about the knock on financial loss Dunedin will suffer as a city!

A lot of people don't realise downgrading has been happening for the last 2 years if not longer. It is being done slowly and quietly. Sending out patients to other districts just proves just that is happening already! Once the centralising and the downgrading of the hospital are complete then the Government will give the go ahead and build Dunedin a smaller and downgraded hospital. That is what we are fighting against.

Every hospital in the country has had a refit or rebuild apart from Dunedin.

Dunedin will get a new hospital one day, we have no doubt about that, what the powers that be are slowly

doing is centralising and farming out the services (downgrading) so that the whole country works as one hospital, that is fine if you and your family can afford to travel so far away but the reality of it is.....not everyone can!

What is the aim of your Facebook page?

The main aim is to raise awareness amongst the people of the Lower South Island, regardless of who they vote for, so that they don't lose their grade 6 hospital because they were not given the chance to fight for it.

The main aim in setting up the Facebook page is to get everyone who is concerned about this issue in one place so that people who join the page are able to get updates in their news feed or comment on issues and to share frustrations and experiences of the downgrading of the hospital. Once there is a core base, then the audience can grow, the bigger the audience the bigger the voice we will have. As you can see, there are plenty following the page and it is growing daily, there are 12,500 likes but statistics show 256,000 are closely watching.

You're obviously really passionate about this issue.

Why is that in particular?

Why am I so passionate about this issue? My only answer is: somebody has got to be. It's a Kiwi thing I guess!



INTERVIEW WITH

Sabrina Grogan

Sabrina is a medical student.

What is your occupation?

I am a second year medical student at the University of Otago and also a residential assistant at Cumberland College.

What is your involvement with Dunedin Hospital (both day to day and any experience you have had of the facilities)?

While I do not directly use the facilities for my studies at present, I will use them in the future for my training and I want to know that they are of the highest standard. I also want to know that should I (or anyone I know) need the facilities, that their care would not be negatively affected by a lack of equipment or space.

What concerns you most about the current state of Dunedin Hospital?

The fact that the health of our community is being negatively affected by lack of space and facilities.

Why do you think it's important to stop the downgrading of the hospital?

First and foremost the people of Dunedin deserve to have their health concerns addressed in a timely manner, to the same level as they would anywhere in New Zealand. I don't think the fact the Southern DHB is in debt should be allowed to diminish the level of care we offer.

Secondly, Dunedin is the hub of one of only two medical schools in New Zealand. How can Dunedin expect to continue to attract a high level of students to study at a hospital which does not compare favourably to the facilities available in Auckland?

Out and about across the electorate



David filming a video to draw attention to the urgent need for the Government to commit to upgrading Dunedin Hospital.



David Clark with local coppers queuing in the Octagon for 'decent' haircuts. All in support of 'Relay for Life'.



Blowing up balloons with volunteers for the Thieves Alley Octagon Market Day.



David is pictured with Mal Law and his crew at the top of Flagstaff, having run the first of the four Dunedin summits. Mal is doing an outstanding job raising both funds and awareness for mental health. Mal aims to raise at least \$500,000 as part of the High Five-O Challenge for the Mental Health Foundation of NZ.



David congratulating graduates as he attends the Otago Polytechnic graduation.



Age
test

Do you know the connection between these two objects?