

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ward Advisory Board takes action on home help cuts

At last Wednesday's meeting of the Rangiora Ward Advisory Board, board members expressed their disquiet about Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) cuts in home help care and in the assessment methods being used.

The Board was unanimous in their condemnation of the 'telephone assessments' of elderly people to determine eligibility for home help services, requesting that any assessments which have already been made and have resulted in no care or a lesser level of care should be set aside until a proper assessment can be made, allowing for the presence of a patient advocate.

In addition the Board was of the view that, if only 10% of those assessed as "no further care required" resulted in those people being admitted to hospital or into residential care then not only would any supposed savings be nullified, but a great deal of pain and worry amongst those patients would be generated.

The Board also expressed support for the retention of a separate Rural Canterbury Primary Health Organisation (PHO) where the primary care needs of rural people are subject to community advice and consultation on health needs and where equity of service is a high priority.

The Board has also forwarded its concerns to Waimakariri Mayor Ron Keating and District MPs Clayton Cosgrove and Kate Wilkinson.

For more information contact:

Murray Clarke
Rangiora Ward Advisory Board Chairman

Phone: 03 313 7678
Email: ma.clarke@xtra.co.nz