



Hamish Walker

Member of Parliament for Clutha-Southland

9 May 2019

Hon David Clark
Minister for Health
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Minister

I am writing to you to express my grave concern for the safety of rural women and babies in Southland with the recent downgrade of the Lumsden Maternity Hospital.

Right now, the risk to the rural community is incredibly high as the Maternal and Child Hubs in Te Anau and Lumsden are not operational. I have been approached by numerous members of the community who are incredibly concerned for the safety of women and babies in their communities.

In Te Anau, the Maternal and Child Hub is not operational as promised. This hub was promised to be up and running one month ago prior to the downgrade of Lumsden Maternity Hospital. This poses high risks for the community as they are left in limbo until the hub is set up, whether it be in two months, four months or even a year's time.

I find it incredibly disappointing Minister that you have not listened to the community before the downgrade decision has been made. Should a baby be born on the side of the road, or even the unimaginable happens, it will be blood on this Government's hands.

Dr Clark the proposed Maternal and Child Hubs which are supposedly operational in Te Anau and Lumsden are non-existent and the community is sick of hearing otherwise. This is about their safety and they do not deserve to be treated like second-class citizens. If the Associate Health Minister can ride her push bike to give birth, the least these women deserve is to be able to give birth in their community.

Minister, I am requesting you to take urgent action.

Yours sincerely

Hamish Walker
MP for Clutha-Southland

Parliament

Parliament Buildings, Wellington, 6160
04 817 6913
hamish.walkermp@parliament.govt.nz

Gore

15 Main St, Gore 8025
03 203 3000
gore.eo@parliament.govt.nz



Queenstown

1085 Frankton Rd, Queenstown 9300
03 441 4093
queenstown.eo@parliament.govt.nz

Balclutha

40B Clyde St, Balclutha 9230
03 418 4288
balclutha.eo@parliament.govt.nz