

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The South Canterbury District Health Board has been advised by the Ministry of Health, that Oral Health Services – School Dental Services - as they exist need to change for a number of reasons.

The vision is for high quality oral health services that promote, improve, maintain and restore good oral health, and that are proactive in addressing the needs of those at greatest risk of poor oral health.

In South Canterbury we are fortunate that the current services provided by the Canterbury DHB have achieved very good rates of coverage and the service has been responsive to the treatment needs of children.

The SCDHB is being assisted in the process by contributions from an Education Reference Group with members representing all levels of education in South Canterbury.

To ensure staff at Early Childhood Centres, Primary and Secondary schools, parents and caregivers have a clear understanding of the planned changes for South Canterbury, a series of Consultation Meetings have been scheduled to be held in the first week of September this year. They will be held in Waimate, Timaru, Twizel, Tekapo, Fairlie, Pleasant Point and Temuka.

Your Early Childhood Centre, Primary or Secondary School has a copy of the schedule for these meetings. The schedule will also be advertised in local newspapers during August.

These meetings are to explain what is happening, why it is happening and why it is in the best interests of your child's oral health.

A copy of the Business Case giving proposed details will be forwarded to your Early Childhood Centre, Primary and Secondary school in the first week of August and you will also be able to access the Business Case on the SCDHB website www.scdhb.co.nz as from Monday 4th August.

We look forward your attendance at your local meeting in Waimate on **Monday 1 September at Centennial School 7.00pm to 8.30 pm.**

Syd Horgan
Chair – SCDHB Oral Health Children and Adolescent Services Education Reference Group.