Submission on Draft Waimakariri Residential Red Zone Recovery Plan

To: Waimakariri District Council

Submitter: Canterbury District Health Board
Attn: Jane Murray
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C/- Canterbury District Health Board
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Proposal: The Draft Recovery Plan identifies the intended long-term uses of the residential red zone in Waimakariri to facilitate recovery from the impacts of the Canterbury earthquakes. The plan also identifies the practical next steps (actions), for implementation of the plan.
Details of submitter

1. Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB).

2. The submitter is responsible for promoting the reduction of adverse environmental effects on the health of people and communities and to improve, promote and protect their health pursuant to the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956. These statutory obligations are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and, in the Canterbury District, are carried out under contract by Community and Public Health under Crown funding agreements on behalf of the Canterbury District Health Board.

3. The Ministry of Health requires the submitter to reduce potential health risks by such means as submissions to ensure the public health significance of potential adverse effects are adequately considered during policy development.

Details of submission

4. We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Draft Waimakariri Residential Red Zone Recovery Plan. The future health of our populations is not just reliant on hospitals, but on a responsive environment where all sectors work collaboratively.

5. While health care services are an important determinant of health, health is also influenced by a wide range of factors beyond the health sector. Health care services manage disease and trauma and are an important determinant of health outcomes. However health creation and wellbeing (overall quality of life) is influenced by a wide range of factors beyond the health sector.

6. These influences can be described as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and are impacted by environmental, social and behavioural factors. They are often referred to as the social determinants of health\(^1\). The diagram\(^2\) below shows how the various influences on health are complex and interlinked.

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7. The most effective way to maximise people’s wellbeing is to take these factors into account as early as possible during decision making and strategy development. Initiatives to improve health outcomes and overall quality of life must involve organisations and groups beyond the health sector, such as local government if they are to have a reasonable impact. 

General Comments

8. The CDHB supports the Draft Waimakariri Residential Red Zone Recovery Plan. The Recovery Plan has clearly been developed in close collaboration with the local community. It is positive to note that the Council is committed to continuing their engagement with the community. Participation and having a say in local issues is important for people’s sense of place and belonging, which can have an impact on people’s mental health and wellbeing.

9. The CDHB would like to thank the Waimakariri District Council for the opportunity to be involved in the Integrated Assessment process during the drafting of the Recovery Plan. The recommendations for improvement that came out of the Integrated Assessment process have resulted in a plan that is cognisant of social, economic, cultural and environmental issues affecting the Red Zones and also offers solutions on how to address these. In particular the CDHB was pleased to see the inclusion of the Integrated Assessment in the Supporting Information booklet. This is a good resource to help people understand the rationale behind some of the decision making in the Plan.

10. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Draft Waimakariri Residential Red Zone Recovery Plan

Person making the submission

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Date: 31/08/2016

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