

David Clark MP Reports

Interview with David Brown

Chairman of the Dunedin
Night Shelter Trust Board

How did you come to be involved in the Dunedin Night Shelter?

My involvement began in 2003 when a small group of people shared a few lunch times to discuss the need for emergency accommodation amongst vulnerable people they knew. Eventually a public meeting was held, and a Trust formed. For nearly a decade now consistent emergency accommodation has been available in Dunedin and I am the third Chairman of this Trust.

Before I became the Chairman, I was involved in Church ministry in an inner-city Church, where we had a lot of contact with vulnerable people. The Church runs a Friday evening drop-in centre. Because of this involvement, I was invited to the initial group to set up the Night Shelter. Since I have now retired from Church ministry, I am able to spend a lot of my time on administration and fundraising activities. It has become “my job”, though, of course, it is unpaid.



Talking to constituents while fundraising for the Night Shelter at the Farmers Market: Dave Brown, David Clark, Sam Grainger, Tu Pini.

+ PUBLIC MEETING ON HEALTH CUTS

When: **12 noon, Monday 28th September**

Who: **Hon Annette King & other speakers**

Where: **Knox Church Hall, 449 George Street**
(Disabled access off Pitt Street)

Hospital update

People in the South deserve decent healthcare just as much as everyone else, but our DHB is struggling. It has tired buildings and funding that doesn't match what is received elsewhere in the country. Across the spectrum, politicians agree that it is Dunedin's turn for a hospital rebuild. On top of creating the health facilities our community should expect, the construction project also means a \$300 million boost for our city.

But after years of delays, the current health minister has made no progress. He tells us he is going to appoint an official group to decide what's needed. But he's been saying that for months.

I've taken a stand for healthcare in the South. Our healthcare workforce works harder and for less than other DHBs around New Zealand. They can't afford to do anything else. The Southern DHB ends up with less funding per person than almost any other in New Zealand, once funding transfers are counted.

Dunedin needs a modern hospital, just like every other major city in the country has. And we need our funding arrangements reviewed so that our healthcare can be properly funded.

The Health Minister must not be allowed to forget that we in the South value our healthcare, so I will keep challenging him to commit to starting construction on the rebuild before this term of Government is up. With your help and support, together we can ensure our city and region gets the desperately needed healthcare provided by well-paid staff in a well-resourced modern tertiary hospital.



What's involved in running the shelter?

The Night Shelter in Lees Street is open every night for men or women needing emergency accommodation. Last year 271 clients received an evening meal, guidance, laundry facilities, bed and breakfast, for a total of 648 bed-nights. Generous people and firms provide the food needed. To give full coverage, one full time supervisor, and two part time supervisors are employed. Trustees and other volunteers do the many other tasks involved.

We have a Trust Board of ten people with a variety of skills and experiences. It is very much a "Working Board" with Trust Board members having responsibility for various areas.

We are currently working on adding payment for a few hours of social work into what we offer in the Night Shelter, so that clients receive more help in moving on in their life. Our dedicated supervisors

sometimes do this in their own time.

On the same site in a seven-bedroom facility, there is also the Phoenix Lodge. Working with Prisoners Aid & Rehabilitation Society, we currently use the Lodge as transitional housing for men released from prison. Paying rent, they have a three-month stay to allow them to settle into life again and make progress.

How can people help?

One of those tasks is fundraising for ongoing operational costs. We apply to Trusts and the DCC for help, but our website gives details of a "Friends of the Night Shelter" discount card scheme where individuals can help. We are also urgently raising funds to purchase the buildings we use. \$80,000 is now required by October.

To find out more about how you can help, please visit: www.dunedinshelter.co.nz and go to the page called 'How can I help?'

Our focus is on raising the funds to purchase the building. Since running the shelter we have had to move three times because we were in rented accommodation. These buildings are ideal and our landlord is keen to sell to us. We have raised \$519,000 of the \$595,000 we need to purchase and are finding that Dunedin people are now "owning" the Shelter and are generous in their support.

Removal of emergency escape ladders

Recently I have been very concerned about the removal of fire escape ladders from Dunedin houses. I think it is inexcusable that Housing New Zealand (HNZ) is endangering lives by removing the emergency escape ladders from Dunedin homes. Families I have spoken to are appalled. These escape routes have been in place since time immemorial; they provide an easy exit for anyone caught upstairs during a fire.

HNZ says the ladders won't be replaced because newly installed smoke alarms preclude the need for them. If it wasn't such a serious matter it would be laughable. Smoke alarms might alert someone to a fire but you cannot climb down a smoke alarm to safety. All that removing these structures has done is to remove one of the options tenants have to save themselves in a fire.

The New Zealand Fire Service recommends retaining ladders as they provide an additional means of escape. Housing New Zealand says these

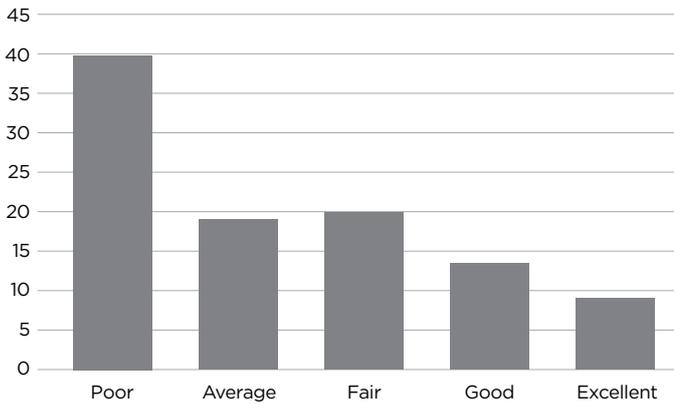
ladders are a security risk and encourage burglary, but in answers to official parliamentary questions the department admitted such security risks aren't even important enough to record.



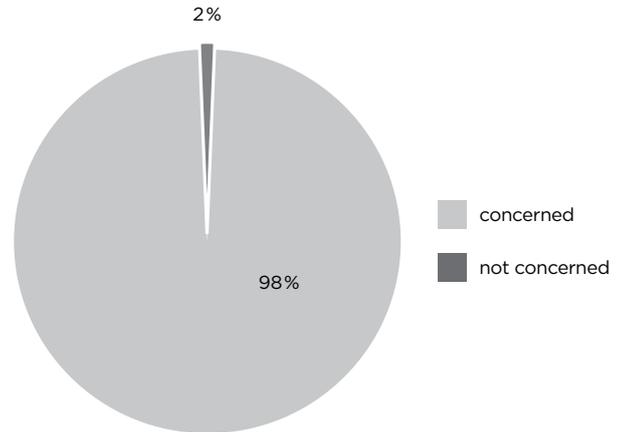
Health survey

Recently, a health survey was conducted amongst Dunedin residents. The Dunedin results for two of these questions appear below. They really speak for themselves. Many thanks to Ryan Jones for coordinating this survey.

Respondents give their rating of Southern District Health Board



Respondents are concerned about the appointment of a Commissioner



Visit to Contact Energy’s Dunedin call centre

On Monday 17th August I was hosted by Catherine Thompson (General Counsel) and Judith Stevich (Call Centre Manager) on a tour around the Contact Energy’s Dunedin call centre.

My colleague, Peeni Henare was in town, so it was great he was able to accompany me on this visit. This was an excellent opportunity to see one of Dunedin’s major employers in action. The site is purpose-built and has been operating since 2002. The call centre employs 160 people, full and part-time. The staff at the Dunedin call centre answer thousands of customers’ calls and emails from around the country per day.



David with Peeni Henare MP, General Counsel Catherine Thompson and Call Centre Manager, Judith Stevich.

Become Dunedin North’s next Youth MP, and represent your community in Parliament.

- ▶ **If you are Year, 11, 12 or 13 next year - Apply now!**
davidclark.org.nz/youthparliament
- ▶ **Any questions**
youthmp@davidclark.org.nz

Authorised by David Clark, 32 Albany Street, Dunedin





OUT & ABOUT in Dunedin



David addresses supporters of the Dunedin Night Shelter at the Sleepout in the Octagon



At the Waikouaiti School for the Tremendous School Makeover with Mazda Foundation Chairman Andrew Clearwater, Waikouaiti Principal Trudy Pankhurst, Ruud "the Bug Man" Kleinpaste, and Project Crimson Co-ordinators Caroline and Maria Tsao



Left: David with Oamaru Mayor Gary Kitchener and others rallying for Oamaru Hospital

Below left: David Clark and Annette King are shown around Queenstown hospital by SDHB Chief Executive Carole Heatley

Below: David pictured with new artwork by Fluke and Talia Carin going up on the Castle complex at Otago University



OFFICE CONTACTS

DAVID CLARK'S WEBSITE davidclark.org.nz
FACEBOOK facebook.com/DavidClarkMP
TWITTER twitter.com/DavidClarkNZ

PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE
Parliament Buildings, Wellington
Phone: 04 817 9389
Email: jo.crilly@parliament.govt.nz
Staff: Jo Crilly

ELECTORATE OFFICE
32 Albany Street, Dunedin North
Phone: 03 474-1973
Fax: 03 474-9913
Email: karen.dehn@parliament.govt.nz
Staff: Karen Dehn and Frances Griffiths