

**Opportunities in Health Precinct**

Today's announcement of development progress on Christchurch Health Precinct's new Health Research Education Facility (HREF) sends a strong signal to the business community that future development and investment opportunities are gaining momentum in this innovative Christchurch anchor project.

Canterbury District Health Board, Ara Institute of Canterbury and New Urban Group have agreed on development plans for the state-of-the-art flagship facility. Dr Ian Town, Chair of the Health Precinct Advisory Council said the HREF project represents a fundamental system shift which opens up opportunities for health related industries and businesses to be accommodated within the Precinct.

"This is great news. The HREF is an essential component of the Precinct co-locating health education and research activities in Te Papa Hauora/ Health Precinct to help meet the Precinct's vision of achieving excellence through innovation, education and collaboration", said Dr Town.

"The opportunities around commercialisation of health technology, products and services are significant and we are inviting dialogue with the business community on how they can be involved in making these opportunities a reality. Te Papa Hauora/Health Precinct will be a world-class hub for health education, research and innovation within walking distance of Christchurch Hospital."

Te Papa Hauora/Health Precinct is a Christchurch Central Recovery Plan anchor project led by the Health Precinct Advisory Council. The Council's role is to strengthen collaborative relationships and innovation, enable new ways of working and ensure a more strategic approach contributes to improved health outcomes.

"We are also working in partnership with Ōtākaro to attract investment in the Precinct. This investment will contribute towards the economic growth and social wellbeing of greater Christchurch, Canterbury and beyond", said Dr Town.

In addition to co-locating partners within the Precinct and enabling the sharing of ideas, research and resource, key outcomes include addressing workforce issues through innovative training and education, improving access to clinical simulation training, showcasing leading research activity, supporting the growth of clinical trials in Canterbury and promoting advances in health IT.

The Health Precinct Advisory Council comprises senior leaders from the partner institutions: Canterbury District Health Board, Ara Institute of Canterbury, University of Canterbury and University of Otago, Christchurch; together with representatives from the Crown and Matapopore.

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Notes

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Health Precinct Advisory Council Executive Officer Sue Rogers, sue@healthprecinct.org.nz or 027 395 0939. **Related links** www.healthprecinct.org.nz