

Morgan Weathington - Evidence Summary to supplement Ian Greaves. Upper Clutha Maternity Trust (3403)

1. My full name is Morgan Elizabeth Weathington, Registered Midwife.
2. I am the chair of the Upper Clutha Maternity Charitable Trust, and we are submitting for community activities to be included in 101 Ballantyne Road.
3. Since the submission in May, there have been a number of maternity related developments both at the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Southern District Health Board (SDHB). The submission for community activities to be permitted at 101 Ballantyne Rd remains valid with the new health developments.
4. The issue of poor funding for rural maternity care has led us to the situation where Wanaka had 8 midwives offering full care in 2012 to only 3 midwives offering care today. This is a modest improvement from 2018 when there was only one midwife in the area, however we need 6-8 midwives for a robust on-call maternity service. Despite recent improvements in funding for rural midwives (See MOH <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2020-go2803>) we are still at a shortfall of midwives in the region due to lack of funding and infrastructure.
5. The SDHB is currently rolling out its Integrated Primary Maternity System of Care (See <https://www.southernhealth.nz/sites/default/files/2019-06/FAQs%20SDHB%20Integrated%20Primary%20Maternity%20System%20of%20Care.pdf>). Part of this strategy is to determine the best location for a primary birthing unit (planned birth and postnatal stay) in the Central Otago/Wanaka region. The four options currently being debated have a primary unit in Wanaka or a maternity hub, which is a space for antenatal care and fast unplanned birth, but not postnatal stay. Whether Wanaka has a primary birthing unit or a hub, the Upper Clutha Maternity Charitable Trust facility can be leased to the SDHB and other allied services such as Well Child Providers, to generate additional revenue to expand the maternity service.
6. Publicly funded community services such as maternity care are the heart of a community. Please consider our Charitable Trust submission as a reason to expand the accepted activities at 101 Ballantyne Rd.