

Opening of the Rutherford Clinic

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To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
From:	Rachel Haggerty, Director, Funding – Hospitals		
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Consulted:	Southern Cross Healthcare		
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Contact for phone discussion (if required)

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Jamie Duncan	Group Director Operations, Capital Coast and Hutt Valley District		
Rachel Haggerty	Director, Funding – Hospitals		X

Attachments

Appendix 1: Run Sheet for Event

Appendix 2 has been withheld in full.

Appendix 3: Biography of attendees

About the event

Purpose	You are officially opening the Wellington site of The Rutherford Clinic with a short speech (approximately three minutes), ribbon cutting, photos and a VIP tour of the clinic.
Date	Thursday 14 August 2025
Time	6:00 – 7:00pm
Venue	The Rutherford Clinic, 167 Thorndon Quay, Wellington
Expected attendees	<p>Southern Cross Healthcare Executive representatives, Health NZ representatives, health advocates, medical specialists, local government, and key consultants involved in the development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephen Inns, Rutherford Clinic Gastroenterologist and General Physician*• Mark Stewart, Board Chair and Group Chief Operating Officer, Southern Cross Healthcare*• Dr Malcolm Mulholland, Chair of Patient Voice Aotearoa* <p>* Biographies are attached as Appendix 1.</p>
Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora representatives	Jamie Duncan, Group Director Operations, Capital Coast and Hutt Valley District
Media	The Post and Radio New Zealand have been invited to this event.

Background

1. This event briefing provides you with information to support your attendance at the opening of the new Rutherford Clinic in Wellington city. This clinic is additional to the existing Rutherford Clinic site in Lower Hutt, which means the Rutherford Clinic will now provide specialist services across two sites.
2. The Rutherford Clinic was established in Lower Hutt in July 2018 as a joint venture between Southern Cross Healthcare and a team of local endoscopic specialists. You are opening the first central Wellington-based Rutherford Clinic, which is a new state-of-the-art facility that will perform services to support reducing waitlists.
3. The Rutherford Clinic provides gastroenterology and endoscopy services to patients in the Wellington sub-region and wider community. Gastroenterology is the speciality of medicine that covers the diseases affecting the digestive tract, including the oesophagus, stomach, small bowel, liver, pancreas, gallbladder, bile ducts and large bowel.
4. Rutherford Clinic physicians and surgeons include experts in the fields of inflammatory bowel disease, colon cancer, gastrointestinal bleeding and endoscopy. Its specialists work in both public and private hospitals and have expert knowledge and clinical experience in gastroenterology and surgical fields.

Discussion

5. The Rutherford Clinic is a key provider of endoscopy procedures in the lower part of the Central Region. This new Rutherford Clinic, opening in central Wellington, offers patients a range of specialist gastroenterology and endoscopy services in a modern purpose-built facility.
6. [REDACTED]
7. The additional diagnostic and treatment capacity will support the Central Region in meeting health targets while improving access for Wellington-based patients.
8. Patients will now have the choice of accessing their care from the Lower Hutt or central Wellington locations of the Rutherford Clinic.

Features of the new facility

9. The new facility staffs 23 specialists, 25 clinical staff, six administrators, and three scope technicians. It has the capacity for 4,800 procedures annually, using modern cutting-edge equipment. Sustainability was built into the Rutherford Clinic from the ground up. This is the next-generation healthcare infrastructure that is faster, safer, cleaner and smarter.
10. The clinic's Cubro Opritech modular theatres are manufactured offsite, reducing waste, noise and carbon emissions during installation. The materials were selected for their durability, recyclability and low environmental impact, including energy-efficient lighting and systems that help achieve long-term energy savings.

Clinical team and services

11. The clinic's medical team includes gastroenterologists and surgeons with deep expertise in bowel disease, gastrointestinal bleeding, cancer detection, and advanced endoscopy. These clinicians bringing a wealth of clinical knowledge to each patient encounter.
12. The Rutherford Clinic offers a full suite of endoscopy services, including:
 - a) Comprehensive bowel screening and colonoscopies;
 - b) Gastrosopies for diagnosing reflux and coeliac disease;
 - c) Flexi-sigmoidoscope;
 - d) Capsule endoscopy, a non-invasive technique using a tiny camera capsule to examine the gastrointestinal tract.

Appendix 1: Runsheet, opening of the Rutherford Clinic on 14 August

Time	Details	Minister's Office notes
5.45pm	Arrival at Rutherford Clinic, 147 Thorndon Quay, Wellington from 5.45pm	
6.00pm	Start of event	
6.20pm	Speech by Dr Stephen Inns, Rutherford Clinic Gastroenterologist and General Physician	
6.25pm	Speech by Mark Stewart, Board Chair and Group Chief Operating Officer, Southern Cross Healthcare	
6.30pm	Speech by Hon Simron Brown, Minister of Health	
6.35pm	Minister to cut ribbon and officially open Rutherford Clinic in Wellington, followed by photos.	
6.40pm	Tour of facility	
7.00pm	End of event	

Appendix 2 has been withheld in full

Appendix 3: Biographies

Dr Stephen Inns, Rutherford Clinic Gastroenterologist and General Physician

Dr Stephen Inns is a Gastroenterologist and General Physician who works at both Health NZ Hutt Valley and The Rutherford Clinic.

Stephen's doctoral thesis work was regarding dietary interventions in inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome. He has completed a three-year fellowship in luminal gastroenterology and endoscopy at University College Hospital, London.

Stephen is an accredited Southern Cross provider for upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy, capsule endoscopy, balloon enteroscopy and Bravo 48-hour wireless oesophageal pH telemetry.



Mark Stewart, Board Chair and Group Chief Operations Officer, Southern Cross Healthcare

Mark is an accomplished executive leader with a wealth of experience in driving innovative market-led strategies within complex environments. His leadership has been instrumental in guiding large national teams towards operational and strategic excellence.

Before joining Southern Cross Healthcare, Mark made significant contributions at PwC, where he managed the firm's engagement with New Zealand's national telehealth service, Whakarongorau Aotearoa. His efforts were pivotal in supporting the country's Covid response.



As Group COO at Southern Cross Healthcare, Mark leads the nationwide network of wholly-owned hospitals and is the executive responsible for comprehensive supervision of its Joint Venture partnerships, ensuring Southern Cross Healthcare effectively supports its joint ventures - empowering their Boards, CEOs and GMs to maximise success.

Dr Malcolm Mulholland, Patient Advocate

Dr Malcolm Mulholland (Ngāti Kahungunu) is a senior researcher at the School of Māori Studies, Massey University, and chair of Patient Voice Aotearoa, a patient advocacy group that Dr Mulholland co-founded in 2019. In July 2025, Malcolm was also appointed chair of Pharmac's Consumer and Patient Working Group. In March 2025, he was named a 'Kiwibank Local Hero' for his work campaigning for better access to drugs for cancer patients. Malcolm's wife, Wiki, died from breast cancer in 2021, following a campaign for the Government to fund drugs for cancer treatment.



Dr Mulholland has also been diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer. He had surgery in the private system because of the delays in the diagnosis and treatment that he says he experienced within the public health system. After undergoing surgery, he is now cancer free.

In September 2024, Dr Mulholland's father George presented a petition to Labour's health spokesperson Ayesha Verrall, calling on the Government to urgently fix staffing shortages at Buller Hospital.

Earlier this year he published an open letter to you, as the new Minister of Health. The letter outlines his poor experiences of the public health system and those of his wife, his daughter, and his father. Dr Malcolm seeks better access to quality and timely healthcare.