



## **The Place of Rural Hospitals in New Zealand's Health System: an exploratory study**

Dr Kati Blattner of the Department of General Practice & Rural Health, based at Hauora Hokianga, is the Principal Investigator of this exploratory study. Otago University Co-Investigators are Prof Tim Stokes, Associate Prof Garry Nixon, Prof Sue Crengle, Dr Rory Miller & Dr Lauralie Richard. Ray Anton from Clutha Health First is our external health sector collaborator.

Currently there are no comprehensive descriptions of rural hospital services in NZ and little published research regarding their role or value. We hope our findings will lay a foundation for understanding the role of rural hospitals in NZ including the context and communities in which they operate, models of care and service delivery, and the identification of current and future priorities in ensuring good health outcomes for our rural population.

We will be inviting leaders from our rural hospitals and key stakeholder organisations to contribute to this research through face-to-face interviews (via zoom) and an online survey between April and September 2021. We would really appreciate & value your involvement into this project and will be in contacting potential participants soon with more information. In the meantime if you have any questions/comments please email Lynne Clay, ARF [lynne.clay@otago.ac.nz](mailto:lynne.clay@otago.ac.nz).