

## LAKES DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD AND ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Plans for shared child health and library services facility**

A vibrant new hub incorporating a child health centre and future-focused library services is proposed for Rotorua's inner city.

The proposed project is a partnership between the Lakes District Health Board and Rotorua Lakes Council. The vision is to develop facilities that meet the needs of children, families and the wider community through co-located services in a shared environment, incorporating children's play areas and a public plaza.

It's proposed the children's centre and library be co-located within Rotorua's existing public library building on Haupapa Street with the building retrofitted to meet the needs of both services. The building is in need of updating, repairs and earthquake-proofing and initial concept design work is expected to be done in the coming months.

Plans for a one-stop Rotorua child health centre, separate from hospital services and incorporating paediatrics, child development, public health, child protection, mental health, oral health and parenting services were announced last August.

Meanwhile, a Rotorua Lakes Council team has been working on a review of library services to establish a strategic plan for future services that meet the needs of modern library users.

In recent months Lakes District Health Board and Rotorua Lakes Council have joined forces to explore the potential for a shared facility in the inner city with Lakes DHB Board members and councillors on the Rotorua Lakes Council approving the concept.

The proposed new health centre will allow for different health professionals to be available on site, instead of children and their family members having to go to separate appointments at different locations. The centre will enable health professionals and other government agencies meet the needs of patients and their families more efficiently, in the one place.

Rotorua Lakes Council Strategy and Partnerships group manager Jean-Paul Gaston says the concept would contribute to goals included in Rotorua's shared 2030 Vision, including resilient communities, outstanding places to play, a vibrant city heart, business innovation, employment opportunities and enhanced environment.

"There is a need to do things differently now, to collaborate and form innovative partnerships to meet the needs of the community," Mr Gaston says.

The Haupapa Street location is considered easily accessible, being in the central city and with ample parking and bus stops in the vicinity. Support for the concept is also being sought from other government agencies and local entities.

The proposed project is included in Rotorua Lakes Council's Long-term Plan discussion document which will shortly go out for public consultation and will be finalised at the end of June. The public can provide feedback on the proposed project through this consultation process before a final decision is made.

### **Project goals**

- Establish a one-stop centre for child services
- Convenient, centrally located services that are accessible to all
- Child-related services that meet the needs of children and their families/whanau
- Contribute to creating a vibrant city heart and resilient communities by working innovatively through community partnerships

### **Project features**

- Refit of existing library building to create a shared facility
- A children's playground area
- Redevelopment of Jean Batten Square
- Access to public transport via relocated bus stop to opposite library – part of planned changes to Rotorua's inner city bus route
- Rear site access for disabled access, loading and unloading, and library book drop
- Gateway features from Fenton Street

### **Having your say**

You can have your say about the proposed shared facility as part of the submissions process for the Rotorua Lakes Council's Long-term Plan, which sets out challenges, priorities and major projects for the district between now and 2025.

You can view the Long-term Plan consultation document and further details about the proposed child health and library hub project on Council's website ([www.rotorualakescouncil.nz](http://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz)) when submissions open.

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