

# Good News for Proposed Geraldine Health Centre

The trustees of the Geraldine District Foundation, James Wallace, Rosie Morten, and Wayne O'Donnell are delighted to announce a proposed partnership with the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury, which heralds a significant development for the Foundation's Geraldine Health Centre project.

Subject to due diligence, the Community Trust will become an equal partner in the Health Centre, to be established at the Foundation-owned property at 190 Talbot Street.

Following an application by the Geraldine District Foundation for project funding, the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury trustees became attracted by the community nature of the planned project and initiated discussions which eventually resulted in a proposed joint venture/partnership arrangement between the two community-based organisations.

Mr Wallace states "the Foundation considers that it is extremely fortunate to have secured such a suitable partner and we look forward to jointly progressing the project."

In another significant development, the project group has decided, based on professional advice, to demolish the existing building and erect a new fit-for-purpose building to house the Health Centre.

The new building will retain a similar footprint and layout to the previous proposal, the Foundation is now moving on to make construction arrangements.

There remain a number of matters still to be put in place, but the involvement of the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury will ensure the completion of the project that the Foundation trustees have been working on for the past two years.

Community Trust Chairman Nathan Mills expressed his organisation's strong commitment to the project saying, "the Community Trust is excited to join with the Geraldine District Foundation to enable this worthy community project, which will have a considerable impact on the range and level of medical and wellness services available to the residents of Geraldine into the future."

The operating model of the Health Centre will see the Foundation and Trust act as property owners and landlords to the Health Centre tenants. Neither organisation will be directly involved in delivering health and wellness services to the community.

The vision is to facilitate the creation of a modern fit-for-purpose building, properly equipped for the delivery of medical services, which will provide space for a range of medical and wellness professionals to deliver their services in Geraldine.

The project is a long-term investment, owned by and held on behalf of the Geraldine community by the Foundation and the Community Trust.

Rapidly rising building costs in particular had been a major concern with the overall cost of a figure approaching \$3m. It is anticipated that construction will commence in August 2022.

In addition to health professional occupants, the new Health Centre will provide rooms and facilities for local groups and people engaged in health and care services of all kinds, as well as visiting health services, all aimed at serving the Geraldine community.

The Foundation acknowledges the substantial backing it has received from the Geraldine Licensing Trust to bring a long-awaited facility of this nature to our district.