

## Southland Hospital



Southland Hospital is a modern 181-bed secondary level base hospital, which opened in November 2004, in Invercargill City, New Zealand. It services a population of 108,000 throughout Invercargill, Rural Southland, Gore, Stewart Island and Queenstown. Southland Hospital is the ideal size in that staff see a wide variety of cases and have access to an impressive range of diagnostics, yet it is small enough that staff can still get to know their colleagues and also spend quality time with their patients.



## Maternity Service

The Obstetrics and Gynaecology department has excellent employment opportunities for medical staff who bring fresh ideas and initiatives and are keen to join a committed team, working in a pleasant, modern environment with good staff collegiality.



Approximately 1200-1300 births occur at Southland Hospital per year with a further 200-300 occurring in the rural areas. The Maternity Service at Southland Hospital provides a primary and secondary birthing and postnatal facility, along with a secondary care specialist consultative service.

The hospital department consists of four specialist obstetricians, a team of staff midwives, and junior doctors. The neonatal unit is managed by local specialist Paediatricians. A group of independent midwives work across the community and hospital and form an integral part of obstetric care. As a close-knit community, it is easy to get to know maternity care professionals and to become familiar with each other's skills, which naturally improves communication and the quality of care for women and babies.

## Teaching Hospital



Southland Hospital is a teaching hospital, supporting the University of Otago's Dunedin School of Medicine. Medical students in their final year, who have completed their theoretical training (trainee interns) from the Dunedin Medical School, rotate through the unit. Student midwives from Otago Polytechnic also access the facility either with LMCs or as part of their ward facility experience.

Student teaching and continuing professional development for clinical staff is a high priority within the service. Daily tutorials are provided by the obstetricians and various other regular sessions and forums attract interested practitioners from all areas. Our doctors in training are also able to complete the Diploma of O&G.

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## New Zealand Maternity System - A Primary Care Service

The New Zealand maternity system is considerably different from other countries in that it is based on a primary care service provided by Lead Maternity Carers (LMCs), who can be either midwives, general practitioners or obstetricians.

In Southland, the LMC is usually a midwife – either a self-employed independent midwife in the community, or a midwife who is employed by the hospital or primary maternity facility (eg rural trust).

Additional service is provided by secondary care services either on a consultation basis or assuming clinical responsibility, with the LMC continuing to provide primary care. There are clear and well established guidelines for the transfer of care between the midwife and specialist when this is required. The system works well and there is a high level of co-operation between the providers in our region.

## Hospital Facilities



The Southland Hospital maternity unit has 14 single rooms all with ensuites, and four birthing rooms – two with baths and two with deep water immersion pools. The unit has modern tools and equipment including new CTG machines, with two mobile, wireless units that can be used with mothers in the bath/pools. The maternity accommodation has been designed as an integrated unit that includes the antenatal unit and consultant offices.



The neonatal unit at Southland Hospital is a five cot, level two unit which provides care for babies over 30 weeks gestation and over 1000gms – this is co-located between the maternity ward and paediatric unit.

Our tertiary obstetrics provider is in Dunedin, with other specialist support from around the country, depending on the speciality.



Southland Hospital's theatre suite offers four spacious, modern and well equipped theatres.

State-of-the-art technology includes PACS digital radiology along with the recently commissioned i.PM electronic patient administration system. The radiology department has a modern 1.5T MRI scanner, 16-slice CT scanner alongside X-Ray, latest ultrasound technology and nuclear medicine capabilities.



The radiology department is close to the obstetric unit and specialist staff are readily available to discuss cases. The on-site pathology laboratory offers a full range of services in haematology, microbiology, biochemistry and histology. There is excellent support and very good cooperation amongst the departments.

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### Ante-natal Clinics

Most high-risk cases are referred to the Southland Hospital clinic, as there are few private providers in the region. This means that the consultants, together with the junior medical staff, see a wide range of interesting obstetric cases.

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### Nature of Work

This is a consultant-based service, where specialists provide a high proportion of obstetric care personally, and liaise directly with primary care and community providers to advise and manage care plans for women. Specialists keen to practice in a modern, multidisciplinary environment and to remain closely involved with active clinical care - whilst still being able to maintain a healthy work/life balance with a favourable specialist:birth rate ratio - will enjoy the opportunities offered by the Southland Hospital unit.

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### Primary Care Birthing Facilities

Over 50% of the SDHB catchment population lives rurally and there are primary birthing facilities located across the district, in Winton, Tuatapere, Gore, Lumsden and Frankton (based at Lakes District Hospital). The rural primary facilities are also used to transfer women post-

nally following secondary care. As some of these units (eg Frankton) are a considerable journey from Southland Hospital, good communication and close relationships are important between providers.

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### Gynaecology Service

O&G consultants see a wide range of gynaecological cases through the outpatient clinic and have the benefit of an on-site specialist urologist. Excellent relationships also exist with the Dunedin tertiary uro-gynaecology specialist and the Christchurch team delivering gynaecology services. The colposcopy service is supported by a dedicated colposcopy nurse who coordinates all aspects of the service. A national cervical screening programme is also in place.



Consultants can expect to hold one gynaecology outpatient clinic per week; one colposcopy outpatient clinic per week; and to have one-two gynaecology theatre sessions per week.

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### Private Practice Opportunities

There is significant opportunity for permanent consultants to establish a private service in Southland.



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### Professional Environment

New Zealand has a long history of no-fault compensation mediated through the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC). This results in a completely different medico-legal environment compared with most other countries and low medico-legal fees (\$1000 per annum).

## Southland Lifestyle



Southland offers a fantastic lifestyle with a low cost of living, excellent schools and a range of outdoors activities right on your doorstep. Southland District Health Board's affordable staff holiday homes in Queenstown, Te Anau and Arrowtown make it easy to get away for weekends with family and friends to explore the region.



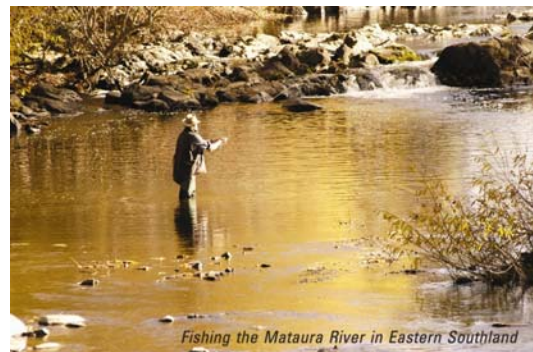
Invercargill City is a modern city with facilities including a brand new indoor cycling velodrome and sporting complex; the Splash Palace swimming centre; central Queens Park, Oreti Beach, golf courses, cafes, restaurants and shops to keep you entertained. Arts and cultural interests are catered for with the newly refurbished Civic Theatre hosting musicals and productions, museum, art galleries, a film society, chamber music society, and the popular Shakespeare in the Park annual performance in Queen's Park.



Queenstown is situated at the foot of the Remarkables Mountains where the majestic Lake Wakatipu sparkles. Known as the adventure capital of New Zealand with its Bungy Jumping, snowboarding and white water rafting pursuits, Queenstown is also home to fantastic wineries, stunning scenery, and a vibrant resort town atmosphere, especially during tourist peak times.



Excellent schools; free tertiary education at the Southern Institute of Technology; cheaper house prices and short commute times in a friendly, safe community, makes Invercargill the place where you really can enjoy the good life. Fly-fishing enthusiasts are well catered for; surfers enjoy the waves along the natural beauty of the rugged coastline of Colac Bay; whilst trampers and nature lovers have easy access to scenic walking tracks, including those on Stewart Island and in Fiordland National Park and the Catlins.



**We welcome you to find out more .**  
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