

Southland Hospital Paediatrics Department



Southland Hospital is a modern 181-bed secondary level base hospital, which opened in November 2004, in Invercargill City, New Zealand. A teaching facility, Southland Hospital-services a population of approximately 108,000.

The Paediatric Service is based from within the modern Children's Ward in Southland Hospital, and provides a comprehensive care service from birth to 16 years, and sometimes beyond. The service is seeking to expand its consultant team to a total of 4 Paediatricians, supported by the Registrar and Senior House Officer team, nursing team, play therapist, visiting school teacher, allied and support staff. The service prides itself on the way its multi-disciplinary team works together in partnership with children and families.



With around 750 new patients per annum, referrals to the paediatric service are accepted from general practitioners, rural nurse specialists, emergency department and other services within the hospital. Outpatient services are provided not only within Invercargill, but also in Queenstown

at Lakes District Hospital (2 hour drive away) and Gore Hospital (1 hour drive).

The Children's Ward is a family focused facility and includes a 4 bed assessment unit, 13 bed children's ward, 3 negative pressure rooms, and treatment room. Outpatient clinics, a family lounge, central staff station and a colourful play room are also located within this functional unit.



The neo-natal unit is a level-2, five bed unit which provides care for babies over 30 weeks gestation and over 1000gms.

There are around 1500 births per year in the Southland region – with 1,200 births at Southland Hospital.



The Paediatricians' offices are located at the front of the unit. A dedicated teaching room - with modern video-conferencing and access to digital radiology computers - facilitates liaison with tertiary specialist paediatric services at Auckland's Starship Hospital and the teaching of students from the Dunedin School of Medicine.

There is good liaison and collegiality with other departments throughout the hospital, where a relaxed and informal approach ensures easy access to clinical leaders and management.

The new hospital has a PACS digital radiology system (which is also live at Lakes District Hospital in Queenstown); and iSOFT patient administration system.

Radiology services are located close to the Children's Ward and provide MRI, CT, Ultrasound and Nuclear Medicine investigations. An on-site laboratory, together with access to echocardiography, lung function and other medical diagnostic procedures, complement the investigations available for the paediatric service.

Southland Hospital is a teaching hospital supporting the University of Otago's Dunedin School of Medicine. Our Paediatricians are clinical lecturers for the Dunedin School of Medicine and teach 5th and 6th year medical students and there is a regular teaching commitment for Paediatricians.

Junior doctors have the opportunity to undergo post-graduate training in paediatrics towards a diploma in Child Health (or equivalent) or further specialty training towards Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.



There are a variety of education opportunities within the hospital ranging from grand rounds to journal clubs and all staff have access to an on-site 24-hours health science library, on-line journal collection and the support of an experienced health science librarian.

Paediatric nursing staff are very experienced and proactive, with a strong focus on professional development in interest areas such as oncology, diabetes, respiratory, and cystic fibrosis. The Paediatric service also runs an effective Outreach and Outpatient Service, led by the paediatric outreach nurses. This service provides support for high needs patients, such as high-end cardiac

patients, haemophiliacs, oncology and cystic fibrosis patients. Our Outreach Nurses come to know these patients and their families well and quickly become the families' first point of reference for when their child's condition changes and they require consultation. The Outreach service also deals with children who have less acute problems and are involved in taking bloods and IV lines, etc. Good liaison and support is also provided by the Allied Health services team, whose facilities include an in-ground hydrotherapy pool with disability access accessories, child development room and gymnasium – all located together and on the same floor as the Children's Ward.

A recent SDHB Child and Youth Health review, undertaken by international consultant Dr Sue Jenkins, has seen the development of a comprehensive Child and Youth Health strategy for our Southland region that encompasses the wider network of health, education and social providers to this population group. The strategy sets out a number of positive initiatives and goals to further develop networks and collaboration amongst agencies to support the health and wellbeing of our region's children. The strategy is posted on our website www.sdhb.govt.nz.

Dr Paul Tomlinson

BSc, MBChB, MD, FRACP, FRCPC

Paul sits on the Government's Pharmacy Therapeutic Advisory Committee (PTAC). He is a member of the Paediatric Society of NZ and an Examiner for the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Paul's interests are in paediatric nephrology and endocrinology.

Dr Ian Shaw

Clinical Director, MBChB, FRACP

Ian is an APLS Instructor and sits on the PTAC's Respiratory and Pulmozyne Sub-Committees. He is a member of the Paediatric Society of NZ and is Paediatric Clinical Director for Southland Hospital. Ian's interests are in respiratory and oncology medicine.

Dr Viliame Sotutu

MbChB, FRACP

Viliame is a member of the Paediatric Society of NZ and has interests in paediatric infectious diseases and vaccinology.

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