

West Coast Health Community Voice Meeting

Wednesday 22 April 2026 1.30 pm – 3pm*

**Meeting started later to accommodate webinar*

Community Voice

Health and Wellbeing Advocates Te Tai Poutini West Coast

Members	Gaye Coates (GC), Lynnette Beirne (LB) (Deputy Chair), Neil Stevenson (NS), Andrew Wellsford (AW), Melanie Wilson (MW), Eleanor Harrington (Student Voice) Pam Sutherland (PS)
Group allies / support	Cathy Blincoe (Te Whatu Ora, minutes), Jo Tiller (Te Whatu Ora), Caro Findlay (CF_WCH), Steph Blackman (WCH)
Guests	
Apologies	Carolina Salazar, Steph Newburry (SN) (Chair), Teri-anne Bell (T-AB), Maggi Forsyth

Opening Karakia:

*Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tihei mauri ora!*

*Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a
sharpened air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*

Item	Discussion
<p>1:30pm</p> <p>In-Committee / Members only time</p> <p><i>(10 minutes)</i></p>	<p>(Not minuted)</p>
<p>1:40pm</p> <p>Administration</p> <p><i>(5 minutes)</i></p>	<p>Full meeting opened with Karakia</p> <p>Whakawhanaungatanga – connecting, introducing, and welcoming new members to the group.</p> <p>Apologies noted</p> <p>Previous meeting minutes accepted and confirmed (AW / NS)</p>
<p>1:45pm</p> <p>Group feedback</p> <p><i>(60 minutes)</i></p>	<p>Round table discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of high fuel costs causing people to restrict use of vehicles and decreased access to health services. • Query if some physio appointments are available via telehealth? • Information about physio appointment options available for people in South Westland? • Podiatrist appointments for people south of Hokitika difficult for people to access. There is a shortage of podiatrists in the region • People coming for a medical from Northern Buller area not able to get prescription filled at Buller pharmacy if their appointment later in the day • Te Rau Kawakawa currently trialling urgent primary care appointments • The Group has received several positive feedback compliments for the staff at Te Nikau Hospital. This is supported by Te Whatu Ora / HNZ receiving a number of positive feedback reports.
<p>2:45pm</p> <p>Action Register & Programme of Work update</p> <p><i>(10 minutes)</i></p>	<p>N/a – Action register and process currently under revision (SN). Update at next meeting</p>
<p>3.00pm</p>	<p>Meeting closed with Karakia – shared kai after</p>

Next meeting: Wednesday 27 May 1pm – 3pm

Venue: West Coast Health Boardroom