

KHAG Questions and Responses from KCDC Councillor and Community Board Candidates :

Responses (in order received)

Liz Koh (Candidate for Mayor and District Wide Councillor KCDC)

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

Yes, absolutely. Our community services need to keep pace with our housing growth

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

Yes. We need to make more progress in this area.

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate for needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

Yes. It would be nice to find financial support as well as volunteers shouldn't be required to put in so many hours without remuneration.

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

Absolutely, and thank you for the progress you have made in this area.

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use of vaccinations?

No, definitely not.

Nigel Wilson (Candidate for Waikanae General Ward KCDC)

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

Yes I do. Council has an important role in advocacy to central government to deal with the significant health services deficit we have here.

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

Yes. I would like to see this completed as a priority.

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate for needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

Yes, very much.

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

Yes, this is an absolute necessity. Any sane government would have provided these services long ago. Our population actually justifies a 150 bed hospital... in the meanwhile a Polyclinic is a must.

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use of vaccinations?

No. Such groups that spread misinformation pose a serious health risk.

Lawrence Kirby (Candidate for District Wide Councillor KCDC)

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

Absolutely!

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

Yes, this is vital work as it provides clear guidance on where Council can and will advocate, facilitate and partner.

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate for needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

Yes, this is important work but Council can't use rates to do it internally.

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

Yes, as part of the wider work identified in the Health Strategy.

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use of vaccinations?

No.

Kim Hobson (Candidate for Mayor KCDC)

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

KCDC does have a role in advising the local MP and LGNZ of the government shortfalls. When elected I will advocate that if government want to treat KCDC as a tier 1 housing region the social services including health and education should also be a tier 1 requirement. (Health and Education are currently Tier 3)

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

As above this is not a role for council. It is a government funding, resource and allocation issue. This should be followed through by LGNZ and our MP. (Seeking re-election)

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate or needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

The voluntary community based advisory group does have a KCDC paid members according to Martin Halliday. Support yes however, this remains a government issue.

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

No: Both government and KCDC need to refer to the ODEC documents published around health services. Kapiti Coast Region is entitled to a 146 Bed hospital with 24/7 Emergency care and 3 operating theatres.

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use of vaccinations?

No: This is of zero relevance to any candidate and is actually a potential breach of privacy.

Grant Bartlett (Candidate for District Wide Councillor KCDC)

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

Yes

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

Yes

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate or needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

Yes

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

Yes

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use of vaccinations?

No

Chris McLean (Candidate for Waikanae General Ward KCDC)

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

Yes, I agree that the KCDC should advocate and facilitate for health services for our district.

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

Yes, I support the KCDC developing a Health Strategy

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate or needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

Yes, I agree that the Council should support a voluntary community based advisory group

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

Yes, I endorse the concept of a Polyclinic for Kapiti, developed in partnership with HealthNZ

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use of vaccinations?

No, I have no alignment whatsoever with groups opposed to public health measures such as vaccinations.

Deanna Rudd (Candidate for Kapiti Coast Maori Ward)

Tēnā rā koutou katoa

Thank you for your questionnaire. As a Māori Ward Candidate, I do not have the mandate to answer this. The mandate lies with each of the hapū of our three mana whenua iwi. Council has a 30 year partnership with them through Te Whakaminenga o Kapiti.

Nāku iti nei

Gavin Welsh (Candidate for District Wide Councillor KCDC)

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

Yes, definitely.

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

I think Council can get wrapped up in strategies to be honest. There is sometimes more effort goes in to build the strategy, than to execute its content. I think the greatest strength that Council can do is answered in the first question, that being advocacy, especially when that is targeted. If a strategy helps to give structure to that advocacy, then yes, I support its development.

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate for needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

In principle, yes, although within the current economic climate, Council needs to significantly reduce its financial commitments. We therefore must be mindful about how many resources we can commit to operations which fall outside core function.

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

As per question 3

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use of vaccinations?

Definitely not!

Bernie Randall (Candidate for Paraparaumu Community Board)

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

YES

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

YES it should have been finished by now.

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate for needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

YES

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

YES

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use vaccinations?

NO

Joanne Welch (Candidate for District Wide Councillor KCDC)

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

Successive governments have underfunded public health, leaving a backlog of capital projects and a shortage of doctors and nurses. While four public hospitals lie within an hour's drive of Kāpiti, the likelihood of securing funding and staffing for new infrastructure locally in the immediate future remains low.

KHAG's proposal for a Kāpiti hospital is strong and deserves long-term recognition in the Ministry of Health's planning. Council must press our local MP for direct engagement with the Minister to ensure this need is formally acknowledged and planning for this is prioritised.

In the short term, Council should focus on supporting and enabling:

- *Expanding local health provider services*
- *Improving emergency response times*
- *Allocating resources realistically while continuing to advocate for long-term solutions*

Without Ministry recognition, there's little foundation for future progress—but we must keep pushing.

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

Despite references in the Long-Term Plan, Annual Report, and a May 2025 news release, KCDC has done little beyond supporting KHAG and sending letters to officials. There's no sign of a meaningful Health Strategy in action.

With an election approaching, Council must do more to show the Government that ignoring Kāpiti's hospital needs and the stress on the community with inadequate numbers of health providers and first responders to serve a growing population with an above average older demographic could cost votes. Advocacy must be visible, strategic, and relentless.

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate for needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

Community organisations are at the coalface with dealing with community needs and therefore have the best insights. When community organisations and Council collaborate the community feels heard and often the best solutions are found. Without KHAG, Council wouldn't have a hospital proposal to stand on. But now that the groundwork is done, the next step is crucial: securing central government's formal acceptance of the need. Without it, Council and KHAG risk spending money without moving the cause forward.

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

I agree that KCDC should work with HealthNZ to expand services at the Kapiti Health Centre to meet the current demands but before there is any commitment to build, we need the Ministry of Health or Health NZ to formally acknowledge the need and agree on a conceptual hospital plan and location. This creates a foundation for staged development as circumstances allow.

A piecemeal polyclinic risks evolving in ways that don't align with a future hospital. Planning now ensures we build towards the right outcome—not around it.

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use of vaccinations?

No I am not aligned with any health groups – I do have an open mind to all forms of health services that provide a benefit and are legitimate forms of therapy that can relieve any suffering that a person chooses to undertake.

Brent Frogley (Candidate Otaki General Ward Councillor KCDC)

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

The underfunding of the public health sector by successive Governments has resulted in a large backlog of capital projects and a chronic shortage of health professionals, particularly doctors and nurses. There are four public hospitals within a one hour drive of Kapiti. Given all of this the probability of the Government (Ministry of Health) agreeing to fund and staff new medical infrastructure is low. This does not mean we should give up trying but Council financial resources allocated to this objective need to reflect the reality of achieving a desired outcome.

KHAG has produced an excellent proposal paper justifying additional health services including a hospital in Kapiti. The Council now needs to strenuously pressure our local MP, for an introduction to the Minister of Health to convince him to instruct his Ministry to at least acknowledge there is a demonstrated need, and get this recognised in the Ministry's long term planning. Without this there is little to build on going forward.

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

Based on the Council's Long Term Plan, 2023/24 Annual Report, and a May 2025 KCDC news release, it does not appear that the council is actually doing meaningful work on developing a Health Strategy. All KCDC appears to have done is support KHAG and write a letter to our local MP, the Minister and Health New Zealand. The Council needs to do more so that the current Government knows, that coming up to an election, there are votes at stake.

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate for needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

Yes. Without KHAG the Council would not have a proposal with which to argue a case why additional health services, including a hospital, is justified for Kapiti. However now that this work has been done the next step is to get central government acceptance of this. Without central government acceptance of the need, the Council and KHAG will be spending money, without actually progressing the cause.

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

I would prefer to see the need acknowledged and a conceptual hospital/hub plan and location agreed with the Ministry of Health or Health NZ first, even if the commitment to build is not initially in place. Then parts can be built as circumstances allow. The hospital will at some future time have to be built and an evolved polyclinic risks a facility that evolves in a way that does not compliment the eventual hospital build.

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use vaccinations?

No. I am as strong believer in orthodox medicine, and believe any group that spreads false information against vaccination should be stopped. I know there are freedom of speech issues, but these need to be balanced against the public good.

Zelda Edwards : Candidate for Paekākāriki-Raumati Ward Councillor

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

Yes, I am aware that while there are 14 GP clinics on the Kāpiti Coast, 9 are not accepting new patients. Visits can be costly for people on fixed or lower incomes. Council plays a key role in bridging connections between local and central government. There is strong and growing support for improved hospital-level care, and initiatives like Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki, led by Henity Buick, show the positive impact of community-led health solutions.

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

A balanced approach to health is vital — advocating for community needs while aligning with national reforms. Councils influence health through local services and environments, making a health strategy important for guiding plans and promoting wellbeing, even if the Council doesn't directly provide services.

For communities to thrive, we need people to be as healthy as possible:

- *Integrated services: Help for many needs in one place.*
- *Innovative services: Support remotely — by phone, online, or other flexible ways.*
- *Holistic wellbeing: Housing, food, social support, and connection to what matters most.*

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate for needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

Yes, absolutely — advisory groups are crucial for three reasons:

- **Community voice:** *They ensure patients and communities influence health services, policies, and research.*
- **Equity and inclusion:** *They help address the needs of underrepresented or vulnerable groups.*
- **Better outcomes:** *Their input improves quality, safety, and trust in the health system.*

On a side note, in my previous role as a Senior Communications Advisor for Te Tahu Hauora, working in the Consumer and Whānau Engagement team, I worked closely with all advisory groups and helped set up the Consumer Health Forum Aotearoa.

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

Partnerships with both the central government and our local community are essential to support these projects. We need to think ahead and plan for future growth. Anything we can do to ease pressure on our stretched health system is a positive step for our community.

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use vaccinations?

No I am not.

Himiona Grace : Candidate for Paekakariki Community Board

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

Yes

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

Yes

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate for needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

Yes

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

Yes

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use vaccinations?

*No. I am affiliated with Te Pāti Māori. Our health 2026 Health Policy is still being drafted, but it is focused on ensuring equitable access to high quality health care, and removing financial, cultural, and location based barriers in our health system.
Ngā mihi*

Bede Laracy : Candidate for Paekākāriki-Raumati General Ward

1. KCDC will not provide health services or be financially involved in doing so, but do you believe Council has a role to play in ensuring that this growing community has the health services it needs by advocating, facilitating and partnering with groups working to this end?

Yes

2. Do you support the work being done by the Council to develop a Health Strategy?

Yes

3. Do you believe KCDC should support a voluntary community based advisory group helping to identify and advocate for needs and opportunities for health services in Kapiti?

Yes

4. Do you support KCDC working with HealthNZ (in accordance with their respective statutory roles) to incrementally expand services at the Kāpiti Health Centre in order for it to evolve into the Kāpiti Polyclinic providing an integrated health service covering community (including primary), 24/7 urgent care, non-acute hospital diagnosis and treatment, and other support including telehealth?

Yes

5. Are you aligned to groups opposed to public health measures such as the use vaccinations?

No