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BAXTER AND SOUTH ISLAND DHBS SIGN LANDMARK HEALTH AGREEMENT

A reception is being held today at the Crowne Plaza to recognise the significance of all six South Island District Health Boards (DHBs) joint signing a public/private agreement with Baxter Healthcare Pty Ltd for the provision of aseptic compounded products including chemotherapy for cancer patients.

This agreement represents strong collaboration between all the DHBs who have worked together to facilitate a joint procurement service with Baxter that will benefit all six DHBs collectively.

Baxter will invest in excess of NZ\$3 million to create a purpose built facility in Christchurch, due for completion early next year. This will allow all the South Island DHBs to access patient specific aseptic medications from a Medsafe accredited, state-of-the-art facility with leading technology and quality assurance.

David Akeroyd, ANZ Managing Director says: "This significant 10 year agreement represents Baxter's ongoing commitment to partnerships in the New Zealand Healthcare sector. We expect that there will be an opportunity to create over 20 new jobs, on top of the economic stimulus the infrastructure investment will bring to the local economy."

The Mayor of Christchurch, Bob Parker was invited to the reception that recognised the work undertaken by all parties including Canterbury DHB, Otago DHB, Nelson Marlborough DHB, West Coast DHB, South Canterbury DHB, Southland DHB and Baxter.

Mayor Parker says: "I congratulate everyone for being able to work together with the aim of providing critical health services to the population of the South Island. Christchurch is well placed to provide adjacent services to support the facility and welcomes the significant investment Baxter has committed to our economy."

Baxter has over 20 years experience in the delivery of aseptic compounded medications to patients across Australia and New Zealand, with nine pharmacy compounding operations existing, including in Auckland and Hamilton, and two new facilities being built.

Otago DHB Group Manager Sonja Dillion says, from Dunedin: "The agreement, including development of a South Island based aseptic medication manufacturing facility, will mean we will have the capacity to meet the growing need for these medications for our patients and will have certainty of supply in the South Island."

“It has been satisfying to be part of a joint DHB initiative which will benefit our patients,” Ms Dillion concluded.

Canterbury DHB Pharmacy Manager Paul Barrett welcomed plans for the new facility.

Paul Barrett says: “We are pleased that this will future proof capacity in the South Island to manufacture vital pharmaceuticals for patients. We are also pleased that this will free up our staff who, until now, have been involved in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals to instead concentrate on important clinical work.”

Aseptic compounded products include intravenous chemotherapy, intravenous nutrition and antibiotic medications.

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About Baxter International Inc.

Baxter International Inc., through its subsidiaries, develops, manufactures and markets products that save and sustain the lives of people with haemophilia, immune disorders, infectious diseases, kidney disease, trauma, and other chronic and acute medical conditions. As a global, diversified healthcare company, Baxter applies a unique combination of expertise in medical devices, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology to create products that advance patient care worldwide.