

On July 29th, **HiNZ came to Dunedin** and hosted their first major event here. Alex, Rebecca and Georgie from HiNZ once again put together a packed and impressive programme.

The town hall was packed with people from throughout New Zealand (and some international travellers) and from across all sectors. There were delegates from education, research, game development, clinicians, industry, software developers, computer scientists and healthcare management. As usual with a HiNZ event, **the networking was fantastic** and many connections were made over the day.

The first speaker was **Anna Barham** from **Balancing Monkey Games**. Dunedin holds significant space in game development through the Centre of Digital Excellence ([CODE](#)). She spoke about purpose and access. She also talked a lot about accessibility.

This was reiterated in the talk from **Phil Baskerville**, Digital Project Director, who also spoke about the **accessibility** considerations in the new Dunedin Hospital projects.

A highlight of the first panel was **Amberley Thomson**, CNM Coordinator for the **New Dunedin Hospital** team. It was great to see nursing represented and to hear Amberley's thoughts on this substantial project here in Dunedin. The new outpatient building and Dunedin hospital is **a digital first hospital**. Amberley stated that having clinicians involved from the beginning is essential as they can tell the stories about what is happening in the real world.

**Sonya Morice** (Clinical Informatics Director, HNZ) talked about what the **Health Digital Investment Plan (HDIP)** will look like for Te Waipounamu. One of the plans in the roadmap is to leverage the work that Dunedin is doing with the new Dunedin Hospital build, especially in the Lakes and Central Otago region. They also have digital observations and charts for all districts, improvement in patient flow and improvement in patient communication included in the roadmap.

The rest of the day included a panel about **workforce development, digital enablement in primary care, and telehealth** from a SLT perspective. The day concluded with a **pitch fest** – 5 people pitched their product to the audience and sought feedback. Once 'pitch' was from Southern CNS Blair Tonkin who is working to improve **MDRO surveillance and contact tracing**.

Overall it was an **inspiring day** and a lot of new connections were made. We hope to have HiNZ back in Dunedin sometime soon.

**Emma Collins**