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**Waitai**  
**Coastal-Burwood Community Board**  
**ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER**

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**Date:** Tuesday 4 June 2019  
**Time:** 4.30pm  
**Venue:** Boardroom, Corner Beresford and Union Streets,  
New Brighton

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TO: CCC Community Board Chair - Kim Money

CC: *Community Governance Manager - Jo Wells. Community Board Advisor - Peter Croucher. CCC Councillor - Glenn Livingstone*

Dear Kim,

I am writing to you in support of a piece of work that Glenn Livingstone is engaged in with the NZ Spinal Trust.

Our Senior Peer Support Coordinator Brett Ladbrook has raised concerns about the roundabout at Burwood Rd and Mairehau Rd adjacent to the Burwood Hospital and Spinal Unit. They can be seen [here in this video](#).

I believe there may be a visit to this site by some Community Board members and this communication is to further inform you prior to observing the hazard first hand.

In a nutshell, the development of Burwood Hospital (absorbing The Princess Margaret Hospital) and the dramatic increase of housing at the two Preston's subdivisions has seen a substantial increase in motor vehicle traffic at this intersection currently controlled by a roundabout.

As a consequence there is a large steady flow of traffic which pedestrians now have to negotiate should they wish to cross the road.

There are a good number of shops across the intersection that patients of the hospital and their visitors will often frequent. Many of the patients we work with use wheelchairs and because they have a new spinal cord injury, they have little or no experience using this piece of equipment. The newly spinal injured patient are unsure and slow in their wheelchair and as a consequence can find the roundabout very intimidating and unsafe. Earlier this year one new patient fell out of her chair and broke her foot attempting to cross the road. It is difficult to propel a wheelchair quickly and confidently and takes a lot of experience to do so. The small front wheels on modern wheelchairs make them easier to control but also make them much more susceptible to getting jammed in uneven surfaces or curbs making it very easy to get tipped out.

Because there is so much traffic at this intersection now, in order to be safe pedestrians need to be able to cross the road quickly. This is very challenging even for an experienced wheelchair user. Some courteous drivers will stop in the intersection to let a wheelchair user across and although as very kind as this is, it can cause a hazard in itself (I myself saw a near accident as a result yesterday). In addition to the vehicle hazards there are numerous little concrete lips that are also a hazard. Also the gradient at the intersection is steep and can cause the front of wheelchairs to dig into the road with people that have little experience in negotiating this type of terrain. When added to the need to zip across quickly, the dangers are compounded.

The ideal solution would of course be traffic lights where the traffic comes to a stop and pedestrians can cross with complete confidence and safety in their own time.

We would like to see this intersection added to an upgrade schedule please before there is any serious accident.

I look forward to meeting you all when you visit and am grateful to be able to bring this to your attention.

Thank you for hearing our concerns and considering our request.

Your sincerely

Hans



Hans Wouters  
CEO