



Helen Mason

Healthy, thriving communities, Kia Momoho Te Hāpori Ōranga.

Professor Peter Gilling

Professor Peter Gilling talks about a groundbreaking research project underway in Tauranga.

Here in Tauranga we're currently conducting research into a new device which could lead to real benefits for men with Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). BPH is a urinary outflow obstruction suffered by many men as they age and our 24-month study is testing ways to relieve it.



It's important for us, as we're the first in the world to be trialling it. If it does prove successful over the long term, and we have no reason to believe it won't, it will be groundbreaking.

The Zenflow spring system when implanted, helps relieve the growth pushing in on the urethra restricting the urinary flow. So far 30 stents have been implanted and another 40-50 patients will be involved in the Zest EU study altogether.

The goal is that we will be able to do this procedure here in the clinic, rather than have it be a hospital-based procedure. That it would be under light sedation rather than anaesthetic.

People with this issue will commonly see their GP and be put on medication, which may have side effects. Many want a non-invasive, non-surgical option and this is it. Medications can have side effects as can surgery. This does not. It staves off the need for surgery in the short-term. It replaces older stents such as the UroLift and TIND devices.

The study runs for two years and then there's a further year to get FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approval in the United States. So it will be late 2020 to early 2021 before it is market ready. Then any urologist in the world could perform the procedure in their practise.

Long-term investment plan (LTIP) – planning our future facilities

One of the drivers for us developing the Strategic Health Services [Plan](#) (click on the link to the plan here) was to support capital investment into the future. This is now a focus area for our executive team, with a few of the team currently developing the Long-term investment plan (LTIP) which looks at planning our future facilities.

The first step is to understand the growth and changes in population

we'll see into the future. Now that we have that, thinking about our facilities across the broader Bay, we've been putting our minds to what our priorities are in terms of the long-term needs of our communities. There are some immediate pressures that we've got and some longer term ones.

As we think about our priorities for further capital investment, we are also thinking about what the future will look like in terms of service delivery and new models of care.

We won't be planning on the basis of the status quo and then simply adding in population growth to our current position. We're thinking about the facilities we're likely to need in the future, and making sure they will be flexible enough to care for our populations and deliver services in different ways. It's an exercise in future-proofing our healthcare facilities and we will keep you updated as this work progresses.....

Healthcare – one system

In recent years, we've have been placing an ever greater emphasis on integration across the healthcare system and everyone involved in healthcare working more closely together.

As part of this ongoing focus, we have invited one of our PHO Chief Executives, Michelle Murray, to join the DHB executive team. Michelle is Chief Executive of the Eastern Bay Primary Health Alliance (EBPHA). She is joining the executive team as a representative of all three of our PHOs – Western Bay of Plenty Primary Health Organisation (WBOPPHO), Ngā Mataapuna Oranga (NMO) and EBPHA.

Michelle has been EBPHA Chief Executive for six years. Prior to that, she was a portfolio manager with the BOPDHB Planning and Funding (both mainstream and Māori Health) for six years.

The intent behind this move is to make the links between hospital-based and community services ever closer, and to ensure that the work that we're doing is focused on the whole of the health system. It is also in keeping with the first two objectives of our Strategic Health Services Plan which are:

- Strategic objective 1: empower our populations to live healthy lives
- Strategic objective 2: develop a smart, fully integrated system to provide care close to where people live, learn, work and play.

It is early days in this process, with Michelle having attended her first meeting just recently. We are feeling very positive about the move. We're looking forward to the ongoing exchange of information that will take place as a result of this and the deepening of understanding of all parts of the health system.

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“Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning.”

– Thomas Edison (1847 – 1931) American inventor and businessman.

Superb care recognised

One of the things I most like hearing about, and receiving on behalf of our wonderful staff, are messages of thanks and gratitude for a job well done. I would like to share with you one received recently from a lady who was cared for in Tauranga and who wanted to thank those who had supported her.

These messages are a constant reminder of why we all do what we do, whatever role we're in. We should never lose sight of what it is ultimately all about, our patients.

I have included the thank you message below in its entirety as it speaks for itself.

Hello Everyone,

Several weeks ago I spent all of up to 16 days in Ward 4B at the (Tauranga) hospital. I write to express my sincere gratitude for the superb attention I received during my stay in 4B and cannot sing my praises high enough.

Everyone, doctors, nurses, aides, catering services, even the "trolliologists" were all so professional, caring and friendly and my thoughts have been reiterated by friends, neighbours, etc, who have also experienced time in Tauranga Hospital.

As the lady from the USA said so many times to us during her stay in the bed opposite me, "You don't know how lucky you are" – what she experienced in hospital and in New Zealand. "You would not get any of this attention back home in the States." She and her husband were blown away by it.

We know how lucky we are and we are truly blessed. On behalf of my husband, thank you again, everyone.

Sincere best wishes to you all.

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On behalf of my husband Ron, thank you again, everyone.

Sincere best wishes to you all.

To the CEO Tauranga Hospital & Staff of Ward 4B

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